

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

38/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## The Mikes Kelemen Program is expanded

On Wednesday State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced in Budapest that the Mikes Kelemen Program which aims to collect the Hungarian diaspora's material heritage will be expanded with research activity. The state secretary said that ten researchers will be sent to the program's collection points in Australia, and North and South America. Mr. Potápi recalled that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad established the Mikes Kelemen Program in 2013, and in the same year the idea of the program was approved by the Hungarian Diaspora Council. The aim of the program is to preserve the Hungarian diaspora's material heritage, collecting its elements in a systematic manner and transferring them to Hungary, since in many cases the libraries and churches where these documents are found no longer belong to Hungarian communities. Mr. Potápi highlighted that due to the selfless donations, a huge amount of material (100 cubic meter of documents) equal to 100,000 volumes of books has been collected. He added that seventy percent of the documents has already been transferred to Hungary and has been placed at the National Széchényi Library (OSZK). The systematization of documents is still in progress. The state secretary said that a part of the collected material heritage will be added to the stock of the National Széchényi Library, while the rest of it will be distributed to Hungarian-language schools in neighboring countries.



## László Kövér: Those who threaten school education, attempt an assassination off rights

House Speaker László Kövér gave an address in Transylvania's Háromkút/ Trei Fântâni, an isolated 180-strong village inhabited by Gyimes Csángós and located in the county of Neamt. Mr. Kövér said that those who attack people's right to use their mother tongue destroy our family, religious and national community, threaten school education and community knowledge which could be augmented and passed on, "destroy national identity and attempt an assassination of rights". The house speaker visited the school of Háromszék, which was rebuilt from public contributions after the former building burned down in 2012. Mr. Kövér emphasized that the European Union (EU) was founded on the basis of the values of Christianity and the cooperation of European nations, but today the EU cannot handle either its Christian legacy, or the question of national identity. The house speaker stressed that every national community must improve its cultural and economic performance in order to ensure a livable European future. He added that Hungarians and Romanians must unite their strength in a way not offending each other's interests.

## Hunor Kelemen: Romania is on the wrong track

Informing the news agency Mediafax, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that Romania is on the wrong



track considering national minority rights. As a result, the head of the RMDSZ made a proposal to the president of Romania Klaus Iohannis and the Romanian parliamentary parties to enter into an interethnic pact. Mr. Kelemen recalled that he had made this proposal at the beginning of the year and no one voted against convening a consultation on it. The president of the RMDSZ said that according to his experience, "since 2007, Romania has been and still is on the wrong track considering national minority rights. There is a need to enter into such a pact now". He added that it must be laid down in the pact that the parties agree that the acquired rights will not be abolished, and no party will hinder the implementation of the laws in force (like the Law on Education) in practice. Mr. Kelemen added that the parties must also agree that they will only apply democratic, parliamentary means and dialogue while trying to find the legal and institutional means with the help of which every national minority can develop and strengthen its national, lingual and cultural identity.



### Humiliating decision in Szepesi: the regulation on language use is abolished

On 16 September, the municipality of Slovakia's Szepesi/Moldava nad Bodvou abolished the regulation of general application adopted in 1996 which stated that the residents of the town whose nationality is Hungarian, are entitled to use their mother tongue in the town officially. While the representatives of the Most-Híd party voted in favor of the abolition of the law, the members of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) expressed their indignation. The regulation which was once considered exemplary, went beyond the language law which allowed the official use of minority languages only if the rate of the minority concerned reached the 20-threshold in the given town. Despite this, the regulation applied in Szepesi stated that Hungarians living in the town (whose number is significant) not only "might use their mother tongue", but are "entitled to use their mother tongue" officially. In connection with the abolition of the law, member of the town's council and the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) László Köteles said that he finds the results of the voting revolting and humiliating, considering it a step backwards.



### Academic year opening ceremony at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute

Speaking at the academic year opening ceremony of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Beregszász/Berehove on Friday, the head of the foreign affairs committee of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh said that it is the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia which gives sense to the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, since the institute is the intellectual center of this community. The ceremony was held at the Reformed church of the town. The head of the foreign affairs committee stressed in his speech that in addition to Hungarian-language education, the institute also gives home to civil, church,



cultural and political activities. Mr. Németh added that in the current chaotic political situation in Ukraine which characterized the past two years, the role of the Hungarian institute in Beregszász is more important than ever. He said that the institute can serve as a safe basis for the future of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.

