

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Árpád János Potápi: the cooperation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia has led to success

Addressing a conference on the evaluation of the results of the recent municipal elections in Ukraine held in the Magyarság Háza in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the cooperation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia during the Ukrainian municipal elections has led to success. At the conference, which was organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI), the state secretary stressed that the municipal elections held on 25 October were extremely important. He added that it was an excellent example which proved that if a community unites its forces, it is able to show its strength in spite of every difficulty. The state secretary recalled that it was on 5 September 2015 when the two most important Hungarian advocacy organizations in Transcarpathia, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ) signed an agreement of cooperation during the Ukrainian municipal elections. Speaking at the event, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMSKZ) László Brenzovics said that the most important message of the recent elections was that the hope for Hungarians in Transcarpathia remained. The head of the KMKSZ highlighted that Hungarians in Ukraine showed that they are not willing to give up their fight for the permanence of their community. Mr. Brenzovics added that this huge success could not have been reached without the “strong and sincere support of Hungary”, the educational aid, support provided for teachers and the cooperation between the municipalities.



## The RMDSZ and the MPP discuss the opportunities of political cooperation

On 26 October, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) held a meeting in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca during which they discussed the opportunities of a possible political cooperation. Among other issues, the two organizations discussed the possibilities of strengthening the advocacy capability of the Hungarian community in Romania, the rights of the two organizations to sovereignty and identity, the positive results of the protocol before the 2014 European Parliament elections and the opportunities of strengthening the Hungarian community’s representation. The parties agreed that they must seek opportunities for cooperation during the two approaching elections – municipal and parliamentary elections – scheduled to take place next year in Romania. The two organizations also agreed that the establishment of a joint working group would be useful, which would be responsible for the preparation of the election program.



## Hungarian children studying in their mother tongue perform better than those studying in Romanian-language schools

The Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) and the Duna Media Service Non-Profit Ltd. organized a joint conference in Transylvania's Torockó entitled "The values and challenges of minority education." According to the results of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad presented at the conference, Hungarian children studying in their mother tongue in Transylvania perform better than those Hungarian students who study in Romanian-language schools. The head of the NPKI Zoltán Kántor said after the conference that the issue of minority education is both an issue of education policy and the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Kántor added that the most important challenge for Hungarian-language education in Transylvania is to improve its quality. Opening the conference, ministerial commissioner responsible for cross-border investments at the Prime Minister's Office Dr. István Grezsa said that event is extremely important because "the next two or three years will show whether we, Hungarians will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Peace Treaty of Trianon as a prospering nation, or as a nation which is unable to overcome its losses and accepts the negative process."

## Political attaché of the US Embassy in Bucharest is informed about the negative measures affecting Hungarians in Transylvania

Hungarian leaders of Háromszék (a territorial-administrative unit of the historical Szeklerland) have informed the political attaché of the Embassy of the United States in Bucharest about measures affecting the Hungarian community in Transylvania negatively, including the problems in the use of Szekler symbols and the Hungarian language, the issue of Szeklerland's autonomy, the situation of restitution and the economic situation of the region. The head of the Háromszék council Sándor Tamás and the mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe Árpád Antal received the political attaché of the Embassy of the United States in Bucharest Matthew B. Jones in the county hall on Tuesday. Mr. Tamás and Mr. Antal informed the attaché that since the change of regime which took place in Romania 25 years ago, there have been no measures aimed at improving the situation of the Hungarian community in the country, except for the enforcement of linguistic rights. The leaders of the Hungarian community in Háromszék requested the support of the United States of America in establishing an effective Romanian-Hungarian dialogue, which could promote the settling of Hungarian issues in Transylvania.



## The Ordinary People party would restore deprived citizenship

The members of the party Ordinary People (OLaNO) would amend the current Act on Citizenship in Slovakia which states that citizens who acquire the citizenship of another country are deprived of their Slovak citizenship. The party would restore



Slovak citizenship to those who have lost it as a result of an amendment adopted under Prime Minister Robert Fico's Government, but only if the citizens concerned have "real ties" with the state the citizenship of which they have acquired. The planned amendment would affect the period between the 17 July 2010 (when the current Act on Citizenship entered into force) and 29 February 2016 (the date when the OĽaNO party's amendment would enter into force). The amendment would also determine those conditions under which citizens who acquire the citizenship of another country are not deprived of their Slovak citizenship. Since 2010 almost 1,200 people have lost their citizenship as a result of the current act.



### Hungarian massacre in Vojvodina is commemorated in Újvidék and Temerin

On 1 November, Deputy State Secretary for priority social affairs at the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Csaba Latorcai participated in a commemoration held in Serbia's Újvidék/Novi Sad and Temerin/Temerin, marking the anniversary of the 1944-1945 massacre in Vojvodina when masses of Hungarians were executed. Speaking at the event, Mr. Latorcai said that today Hungary is strong, and the Hungarian Government is committed to international issues. The deputy state secretary added that Hungary is ready to protect its nation and communities against any kind of threat. Mr. Latorcai also expressed the sympathy and condolences of the kin-state, the Hungarian communities of the Carpathian Basin and the Hungarian Government to the participants of the commemoration.



### Miklós Soltész: Hungarian unity has brought success in Transcarpathia

Speaking in Ukraine's Ungvár/Uzhhorod on Thursday, State Secretary for Churches, Minorities and Civil Affairs Miklós Soltész said that last week's municipality elections in the Transcarpathian region were a success to the Hungarian minority living there, due to the cooperation of the two most important Hungarian organizations coupled with the support of churches, NGOs and the Government of Hungary. Mr. Soltész was the first high-ranking Hungarian official to visit the Ukrainian region after the elections. On the first day of his visit, he met the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics and other leaders of the organization in Ungvár, the head of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) and of the II. Rákóczi Ferenc Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Beregszász/Berehove Ildikó Orosz. During the meeting, the hosts informed the Minister about the situation of the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia with emphasis on the electoral success that reinforced their stance, and they discussing issues which required the help of Hungary and the Government of Hungary.



## Árpád János Potápi calls on Hungarians in Croatia to participate in the approaching parliamentary elections

Speaking after the inauguration ceremony of a new Hungarian country house in Croatia's Várdaróc/Vardarac, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi called on Hungarians living in Croatia to participate in the approaching Croatian parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 8 November, and to vote for Hungarian lists and the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK). The state secretary said the Hungarian Government hopes that Hungarian-Croatian relations will strengthen after the elections, and the HMDK – which is a strategic partner of the Hungarian Government – will play an active part in this process.

The purpose of the Hungarian country house which was inaugurated on Friday is to promote the culture and traditions of Hungarians living in Várdaróc and its region. Várdaróc is a six hundred-strong town, inhabited mainly by Hungarians, situated 8 kilometers from Eszék/Osijek. The house was established by the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK). The organization renovated an old school building erected in the 18th century which had not been used over the past 25 years. The Hungarian Government supported the project with half million Croatian Kuna (20 million HUF).

