

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### László Tőkés urges national cooperation on the issue of autonomy

The president of the Council of Autonomy for Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin (KMAT) and Member of the European Parliament László Tőkés said that the self-determination of Hungarian communities abroad should be the basis for policy for Hungarian communities living outside Hungary, and national cooperation in this issue is essential. At a press conference held after the meeting of the KMAT on Friday, Mr. Tőkés said that they had a cordial meeting, which was opened by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi. The event was also addressed by Prime-ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili. Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Tőkés quoted Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's words, saying that "it is high time to put an end to unproductive internal conflicts." He added that it is especially important "on the issue of autonomy", therefore "we should rise above party politics." Mr. Tőkés stressed that the self-determination of Hungarian communities abroad is the political institution and value which serves the interest of "the rise of the nation" and should serve as a basis for policy for Hungarian communities abroad, adding that national cooperation is essential in this issue. The head of the KMAT said that they would like to continue their work for Hungarians' self-determination.

### Conference on the questions of higher education in Economics in the Carpathian Basin starts in Budapest

On Thursday, a two-day conference – the second Conference of Economists in the Carpathian Basin – started at the Corvinus University of Budapest. The conference focused on the education of Hungarian students of economic studies living abroad, the opportunities for cooperation between universities in Hungary and those in neighboring countries, and the deepening of the economic integration of the Carpathian Basin region. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that the strengthening of social and economic status is a basic condition for Hungarians' permanence in their homeland. Mr. Szilágyi said that, according to a recent survey, the state language skills of Hungarian students in vocational schools in Vojvodina and Transylvania is under 50 percent, while in Slovakia this number is around 50 percent. He added that these data prove that Hungarian-language vocational education is of crucial importance. The Deputy State Secretary added that 2016 will be the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad and the Hungarian government has allocated HUF 750 million (EUR 2.4 million) for this program. He added that this financial support enhances their vision, helps them to create values and jobs, and contributes to their prosperity in their homeland.

### House Speaker László Kövér: We must not forget Hungarians living in Transcarpathia

In the recent period, Hungary's major cities have collected HUF 115 million (EUR 370,000) in aid for the Hungarian community of Ukraine's Transcarpathia. On



Tuesday, the Association of Major cities (MJVSZ) held a meeting in Parliament, during which they concluded a cooperation agreement with two contributing organizations on the use of the funds. The patron of the fundraising action was the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér, who said that “Although the migrant crisis has diverted global attention from the plight of those in need in Ukraine, we should not forget about the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.” The House Speaker expressed his gratitude to the municipalities for their responsibility and solidarity, and stressed that further financial support from the kin-state is necessary. Mr. Kövér added that financial and spiritual support can help the permanence of Transcarpathian Hungarians’ in their homeland during these times of Ukrainian financial collapse, economic decline, social insecurity and crisis.



### Potápi Árpád János: Áron Márton would raise his voice for the Hungarian community in Transylvania

On Friday the events of the Márton Áron Memorial Year started officially in Transylvania’s Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc, marking the 77th anniversary of the consecration of Roman Catholic Bishop Áron Márton. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the Bishop’s birth in 2016, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad declared 2016 the Memorial Year of Márton Áron. The chief patrons of the series of events organized during the memorial year is President of Hungary János Áder and György Jakubinyi, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Gyulafehérvár. At the event held at the Márton Áron High School in Csíkszereda, Mr. Potápi said that the Bishop was a person who “borne the fate of not only the Gyulafehérvár archdiocese , but that of the Transylvanian Hungarian community and the whole Hungarian nation.”

### The number of Romanian-Hungarian border crossing points could double

In Bucharest State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar announced that the representatives from the Hungarian government have concluded an agreement with the new technocratic Romanian government on the promotion of Hungarian-Romanian energy and transport development projects. Mr. Magyar added that the new Romanian government’s attitude towards joint projects is “more open and pragmatic”. Speaking as the Hungarian deputy-chairman of the Hungarian-Romanian economic joint committee, the State Secretary said after the meeting that the number of border crossing points between Romania and Hungary could double in the near future. The parties agreed to prepare a schedule on the opening of ten border crossing points, planned to be built from EU funding, which currently cannot be used due to the delay in Romania’s accession to the Schengen area.



### László Kövér: The countries of the region must cooperate

Speaking to the Hungarian-language Slovakian newspaper Szabad Újság, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that cooperation between the Visegrád Four and other countries in the region is extremely important. In an interview published on Wednesday, the House Speaker said that current Hungarian-Slovakian relations are particularly good. Mr. Kövér stressed that the efforts made by the Visegrád Four to contain illegal migration show that a deeper strategic system of bilateral or multilateral relations would be necessary. Concerning the planned educational reforms in Slovakia which endanger Hungarian-language schools, the House Speaker said that Hungarians living in Slovakia should be the first to stand up for their schools. He added that teachers, municipalities and the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) have organized several protests on this issue, but Hungarian parents are those, first of all, who are able to save Hungarian-language education if they enroll their children in Hungarian schools. Mr. Kövér stressed that the Hungarian government has already expressed its willingness to help maintain the schools concerned.



### The Prosperitati Foundation opens offices in Vojvodina

On Monday, the Prosperitati Foundation officially opened its office in Vojvodina's Nagybecskerek/Zrenjanin. The opening ceremony was attended by the vice-president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) Elvira Kovács, the president of the board of the Prosperitati Foundation Imre Nagy and economic expert of the foundation Fejsztámer Róbert. During the week, a further two offices of the foundation were opened in Magyarkanizsa/Opština Kanjiža and Zombor/Sombor, where every working day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. people who are interested in the Hungarian government's economic development program for enhancement of economic development in Vojvodina – worth HUF 50 billion (EUR 160 million) – can access information in connection with the program.



### Ministerial commissioner Ferenc András Kalmár pays an official visit to Transcarpathia

On 10 February ministerial commissioner for the development of Hungary's neighborhood policy Ferenc András Kalmár paid an official visit to the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Berehove/Beregszász, where he met the president of the institute Dr. Ildikó Orosz. Mr. Kalmár visited the halls of the vocational institute (which operates as part of the higher educational institution), the atrium of the institute and the dormitory building. During his stay in Transcarpathia



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Mr. Kalmár also visited Ungvár/Uzhhorod, where he met the representatives of local Hungarian communities, including the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics, and the head the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ) László Zubánics.



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