

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad: the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and the Petőfi Sándor Program attract great interest

According to a statement of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (KCSP) aimed to support Hungarian communities living in the diaspora and the Petőfi Sándor Program (PSP) focusing on dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, attract great interest. This year, 692 people have applied for the two programs, 92 of them applied for the Petőfi Sándor Program exclusively, while 202 of them submitted their applications for both of the programs. The majority of the applicants preferred the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program. 80 of the applicants have already taken part in some of the programs, while 67 of them are still in some of the target countries under the KCSP or the PSP. The representatives of the state secretariat noted in their statement that during the selection of the interns, they pay particular attention to the demands of host organizations, adding that the interns who travel to Hungarian communities abroad perform a wide range of tasks and activities: they teach Hungarian language, organize dance houses and summer camps, edit websites, newspapers and volumes, make oral histories, and participate in the organization of different events.



## The RMDSZ presents the main conclusions of its shadow report

On Thursday, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen presented the main conclusions of the his party's shadow report, prepared on the Romanian government report on the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection of Minorities of the Council of Europe. According to the RMDSZ' shadow report which focuses on the period between 2010 and 2016, the number of anti-Hungarian incidents has grown in Romania over the past six years, and there is a relapse in the enforcement of minority rights. The shadow report states that the Romanian government's report "gives a false picture" about how Romania respects its duties undertaken in the Framework Convention. The 72-pages document underlines that the Hungarian community living in Romania cannot exercise its basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. Mr. Kelemen said that he asks the Romanian Government and the representatives of Romanian parties to continue a dialogue on the reported violations of rights, and to find a solution to this problem.

## The Marosvásárhely police is accused for fining the participants of the Szekler Freedom Day

The Siculitas Association which was one of the organizers of the Szekler Freedom Day march in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş has accused the town's police commander, Iulius Cenan and his six employees at the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA). The lawyer of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) Előd Kincses highlighted that the



police commander can be accused of abuse of office. He also drew attention to falsifications which can be observed in the criminal record. It was revealed previously that the police also fined people who were not even present at the demonstration, moreover, they were not even in the county on the day of the event. The SZNT rejects the legal basis for the criminal record which states that people who were fined took part in an illegally organized street demonstration. The president of the SZNT Balázs Izsák stressed that the march held on the Day of the Szekler Freedom was a legally organized event, which was announced in time, and was not banned by an administrative decision within 48 hours of the event.

As was reported in the press, the Romanian police fined a large number of people who organized the demonstration held on the Day of the Szekler Freedom on 10 March in Marosvásárhely, as well as many of those who took part in it.

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### Péter Szijjártó: A strong and well-respected Serbia is also in the interests of Hungary

On Tuesday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó attended an election event of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) in Pancsova/Pančevo, western Banat. At the event he stressed that “in recent years Serbia’s government has achieved economic successes which are acknowledged Europe-wide; with its governmental achievements Serbia has gained a strong and respected position for itself, and this is precisely in the interests of Hungary and of Hungarians living in Serbia.” The Minister greeted attendants at the event in Serbian, and he guaranteed his support to Serbian prime minister Aleksandar Vučić, his party and its Hungarian coalition party in Vojvodina, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). Mr. Szijjártó stressed that Hungary appreciates Serbia’s efforts and supports the country’s soonest possible European integration. He added that Hungary will therefore not allow anyone to boycott or slow down the process. Talking about the good relationship between the two countries, Mr. Szijjártó said that in recent times the two governments have agreed to a number of compromises, and have shown an example to Europe: they have established a friendship which every Hungarian and every Serb can be proud of.

### The Carpathian Basin tour of the “2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program arrives in Szabadka

Last week, the Carpathian Basin tour of the “2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program arrived in Vojvodina’s Szabadka/Subotica. During the tour which will consist of 14 venues, the organizers – the State Secretariat for Hungarian communities and the Design Terminal – give presentations, hold lectures and consultations for young entrepreneurs and young people interested in the field. In addition, young entrepreneurs under 40 living in neighboring countries can also apply for non-refundable aid. The tour in Vojvodina started in Szabadka/Subotica, and continued in Nagybecskerek/Zrenjanin. The event was addressed by Deputy



State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi. Mr. Szilágyi recalled that at the plenary session of the Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért), on 3 December 2015, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán announced the launch of the "2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad" program which was dedicated to be a tool for the Hungarian Government to enhance Hungarians' prosperity in their homeland. The event was also addressed by the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor who praised the commitment of young entrepreneurs, and expressed his gratitude to the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad for its support and the large-scale regional and economic development program the kin-state launched recently to help Hungarians living in Vojvodina.

The next stop of the Carpathian Basin tour of the thematic year will be Slovakia's Kassa/Košice.



### Transcarpathia's municipality asks for a broader self-regulation for the county

On Tuesday, the Transcarpathian County Council (assembly) adopted a call addressed to the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, the Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk and the speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Volodymyr Hrojsman, asking them to amend the Constitution of Ukraine and to expand the sphere of competence of local governments in the field of public administration and finance. In the document, the representatives of the county council recall that during the referendum held on 1 December 1991 in Transcarpathia, 78.6 percent of Transcarpathians voted for a "special municipal status" for the county. The document also recalls that in 1992, the representatives of the county council asked the Ukrainian Parliament to adopt the results of the referendum, but the issue has not been on the agenda so far. The document adds that "In the current difficult situation, the last chance for Ukraine is to ensure immediate – and not declaratory – financial and administrative independence for the country's local governments."

