

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Viktor Orbán: the legacy of the Hungarian Reformed Church must be a continuous resource

In a letter addressing congregations celebrating the Day of Hungarian Reformed Unity, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that, on the threshold of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, it is important to recall how strong the relation was in past centuries between the issue of religious revival, the preservation of the Hungarian language and the strengthening of our national identity. In his message, the Prime Minister said that “We are grateful that, despite the vicissitudes of our history, Hungarian Calvinists still live and work.” Mr. Orbán added that he wished this to continue in the future as well, and that the legacy of the Reformed Church which is so important for Hungarians continues to be a resource for all of us. The Prime Minister wished the members of the Hungarian Reformed Church the strength and stamina to serve their homeland in the spirit of its 500-year-old heritage.

## László Kövér: our shared destiny with nationalities must be taken more seriously

Speaking on Sunday on the Day of Nationalities’ Cultures, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that “with nationalities we are in the same boat, whom various powers are trying to sink, and therefore we should take this shared destiny more seriously”. The House Speaker highlighted that both the Hungarian and the Romanian community in Transylvania are threatened by “forgetting their roots”. He added that “the strengthening of the European roots of nationalities living in Hungary – as well as those of Hungarian communities in Romania and Slovakia – will be more important when we have to protect these minority cultures from greater attacks.”



## Minister for National Economy holds talks on the expansion of economic relations between Hungary and Transylvania

In his office in Budapest on Tuesday, Hungary’s Minister for National Economy Mihály Varga received the head of Hargita County Council Csaba Borboly and the head of Kovászna County Council László János Henning. The parties held talks on the expansion of economic relations between Hungary and Transylvania. According to the statement of the Ministry for National Economy, the talks focused on cooperation opportunities in the field of vocational education, the use of EU resources in border regions, support for the spread of Transylvanian products in Hungary and enterprise development. During the talks, the Minister for National Economy presented the results of the transformation of the Hungarian vocational education system. The parties also discussed opportunities for integration of young Transylvanian people in the kin-state’s vocational education system. The Minister reiterated that the Hungarian government supports the distribution and popularization of



Transylvanian products in Hungary, and is making every effort – through the economic strengthening of the region – to help Transylvanian Hungarians remain and prosper in their homeland.

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### State Secretary Árpád János Potápi on official visit to Transylvania

At the weekend State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi made an official visit to Transylvania.

At a roundtable discussion in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures on Friday, the State Secretary stressed the importance of participation in the Romanian municipal elections on 5 June. Mr. Potápi encouraged attendees at the discussion to vote in the election, and also to mobilize their family members and relatives. He added that the permanence and strengthening of the Hungarian community in Marosvásárhely is a national interest, and it is only possible with the help of a committed Hungarian mayor. The State Secretary added that they are considering the possibilities for launching a program similar to the family homebuilding allowance (CSOK), in order to encourage young Hungarians abroad to have children.

Also at the weekend, the State Secretary took part in the inauguration ceremony of three new workshops at the Kós Károly Vocational School in Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc, which were renovated under the “2015 – Year of Vocational Education Abroad” program. The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office allocated LEU 196,000 (EUR 43,000) for the renovation of the school workshops. The inauguration ceremony was held on Saturday in the ceremonial hall of the school. Speaking at the event, Mr. Potápi said that “After the adoption of symbolic laws, we have to pay attention to the permanence of Hungarian communities in their homeland; therefore we have to make every effort to reduce emigration and help these communities prosper in the place where they live.”

In Transylvania’s Tusnádfürdő/Băile Tuşnad on Sunday, a bust of Bishop Áron Márton was unveiled in the garden of the Nativity of Mary church as part of the Áron Márton Memorial Year, which was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The event was addressed by State Secretary Árpád János Potápi who said that with the memorial year, the aim of the State Secretariat was to make the heritage of the late bishop widely known. He also expressed his pleasure that a lot of people and organizations have declared the intention to join the initiative and will organize different commemorations and events as part of the memorial year.

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### Hungarian elementary schools in Slovakia are in danger

From September, elementary school classes in Slovakia which have a low number of students can only remain if the maintainer of the school (the municipality, church etc.) pays the costs which exceed normative financing. However, this rule does not apply to classes from fifth to ninth grades, and therefore primary schools with a low



number of students are still in real danger. In regions inhabited by Hungarians there are a lot of schools in which the total number of students is near or less than the minimum number (one hundred), and the current Slovak draft law will not improve the situation of elementary schools in the country. The president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) has drawn attention to the fact that financial assistance from Hungary will also be necessary after the adoption of the current draft law.



### The Holy Trinity statue group in Szabadka is unveiled

On Sunday, the Holy Trinity statue group was re-inaugurated in its original place, in the center of Vojvodina Szabadka/Subotica. The original statues were erected two hundred years ago, but were removed by the Yugoslav political regime in 1964. On Sunday the statues were officially re-inaugurated. The ceremony was addressed by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Péter Szilágyi, the president of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal and the mayor of Szabadka Jenő Maglai. Speaking at the event, the Deputy State Secretary welcomed the attendees at the ceremony on behalf of the Hungarian government and the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the statues can be considered a symbol of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina. He added that in recent years this community has served as a role model for other national minorities in the region and has shown that, with combined effort, huge results can be achieved. Mr. Szilágyi highlighted that Hungarians in Vojvodina "have come the longest way on the road to autonomy". He also said that this is the region where the first economic development program began, which might help launch major projects and development which has never been seen before.