

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## State Secretary Árpád János Potápi: HUF 525 million for young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad

On Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi officially announced a call for applications for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living outside Hungary, in which they can apply for non-refundable grants under the “2016 – Year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program. Young entrepreneurs can submit their applications until 15 July 2016. The total amount of funding available is HUF 525 million (EUR 1.6 million). The state secretary said that the aim is to support the enterprises of young Hungarians living abroad, or the purchase of equipment for these enterprises. Mr. Potápi added that the aim is to strengthen Hungarian start-ups and micro-enterprises abroad and help them prosper in their homeland. He added that people who can apply for the fund must be legal entities engaged in economic activity or natural persons engaged in economic activity as individual entrepreneurs. Applicants must also be Hungarian citizens under 40, with the exception of applicants from Slovakia and Ukraine, in which case Hungarian citizenship is not a condition for application (in these countries it is enough to have a Certificate of Hungarian Nationality). The state secretary added that applicants engaged in agricultural activity can win HUF 3–4.5 million (EUR 9,500–14,300), while people in other types of business can win between HUF 3–6 million (EUR 9,500–19,000). Mr. Potápi said that with this fund the Hungarian government can support about 110–130 young entrepreneurs living abroad.

## Exhibition pays tribute to Catholic Bishop Áron Márton at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

On Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi opened an exhibition at the Ministry of foreign Affairs and Trade, paying tribute to Catholic Bishop Áron Márton. Speaking at the event, Mr. Potápi said that “Bishop Áron Márton, accepting the fate of minorities, stood up against the communist dictatorship and fought for the assertion of Hungarians’ rights, even when he knew that the punishment for speaking the truth is persecution and imprisonment.” The exhibition at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was part of the Áron Márton Memorial Year 2016 and presented the Bishop’s essays and letters of diplomatic significance. The state secretary said that “Áron Márton cared not only about the issue of the Hungarian nation, but also stood up against the persecution of Greek Catholics and the deportation of Jews, and supported victims sent to forced labor camps.

## MTVA concludes broadcast agreement for Olympics

Hungary’s public media fund MTVA has concluded an agreement for public media to broadcast the summer and winter Olympics between 2018 and 2024. The MTVA called the agreement “historic” in significance, stating that “between 2018 and 2024, both of the summer Olympics and the winter Olympics will be broadcast by Hungary’s public media.” The MTVA also expressed the hope that “the 2024 Olympic Games will



be broadcast from Budapest.” The statement underlines that this will be the first time that the Games are aired in the Hungarian language throughout the Carpathian Basin, and that therefore Hungarians living in Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia will be able to watch the games in Hungarian. In its statement the MTVA highlighted that “Hungarians, regardless of where they live in the Carpathian Basin, will have an opportunity to watch the Games in their mother tongue between 2018 and 2024, and will be able to cheer for Hungarian athletes together with their compatriots living in the kin-state.”

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### Hungarian organizations in Transylvania will not argue about the realization of autonomy

On Friday, at the initiative of Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili, the Transylvanian Hungarian Consultative Roundtable on Autonomy held a meeting in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. At the meeting, Transylvanian Hungarian parties and political organizations agreed that during the campaign of the approaching parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in the fall, they will express their unanimous agreement concerning the necessity of autonomy for Szeklerland, but will not engage in disputes about the details of its realization. According to the joint statement sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Transylvania Hungarian People’s Party (EMNP), the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP), the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council (EMNT) and the Szekler National Council (SZNT), autonomy is a common issue for every Hungarian organization, therefore they are not willing to argue about the details of its realization during the election campaign.

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### Minority schools in Slovakia will be saved

Contrary to earlier plans, the Slovakian parliament has adopted an amendment to the Act on Education, as a result of which primary schools with a low number of children will not be closed down. The legislative amendment was voted for by 108 members of the Slovakian parliament. The amendment concerns both elementary schools (grades 1–4) and primary schools (grades 1–9) which have a low number of students. As a result of this, minority schools – including Hungarian-language schools – will be “saved.” According to calculations by the Slovak Ministry of Education, at least 60 schools would have been closed down as a result of the Act. The amendment to the Act on Education was initiated by a member of the Hungarian-Slovak mixed party Most-Híd (Bridge), Péter Vörös.



## The Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad – developments in Magyarkanizsa and Ada

As part of the Hungarian government's "2015 – the Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad" program, several developments have been realized in Vojvodina. At the Beszédes József Agricultural and Technical School Center in Magyarkanizsa/Kanjiža, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi inaugurated a hydroponic workshop and a model apple orchard, which were also part of the program. New developments were inaugurated in Ada as well. A renovated workshop and new developments were officially inaugurated at the Technical School of Ada. The "2015 – the Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad" program was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad last year with the aim of promoting economic development in the Carpathian Basin. One of the elements of this aim is to provide opportunities for young people to receive high-level theoretical and practical education. The year of vocational education is continuing in 2016 as well. The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is allocating HUF 500 million (EUR 1.5 million) for this program, and HUF 364 million (EUR 1.1 million) from the total sum will be spent on school developments.



## The KMKSZ discusses the situation of Transcarpathian Hungarians in Huszt

On Saturday, the largest Hungarian organization in Ukraine, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) held a meeting in Huszt/Hust. Addressing the event, the president of the KMKSZ and member of the Ukrainian parliament László Brenzovics stressed that "thanks should go to the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, since it is able to survive the current extremely difficult situation in Ukraine peacefully and in an organized manner." Mr. Brenzovics added that there is still a significant lack of security in Ukraine, as the goals drawn up during the revolution in 2013–2014 have not been realized and Ukraine has not got closer to Europe. Speaking about relations between Ukraine and Hungary, the head of the KMKSZ expressed his gratitude to Hungary, because it has stood up for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, and he thanked the Hungarian government and society for its different kinds of support and solidarity, adding that every Hungarian in Transcarpathia can feel it. Mr. Brenzovics also spoke about the results of the municipal elections held at the end 2015 in Ukraine, saying that the Hungarians' participation was successful. He added that Hungarians who managed to win seats in different municipalities are making all efforts to assert the interests of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.