

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

38/2016



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Árpád János Potápi: Hungarians beyond the borders should also vote in referendum

Speaking at a press conference in the House of Hungarians (Magyarság Háza) in Budapest on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi urged the Hungarians living abroad to vote against forced resettlement in the referendum on 2 October. The state secretary stressed that the main message of the referendum is the same for the entire Hungarian nation, wherever they may live: forced resettlement is a threat to Hungary, and to the future of the entire Hungarian nation. Mr. Potápi said that the pressure of migration – which Hungary itself experienced last year – is particularly perceivable for the Hungarian communities living in Vojvodina and in the Lendva region. The state secretary drew attention to the fact that Hungarians beyond the borders may register to vote in one of two ways: by mail or online. At the same time, due to shortage of time, he recommended online registration to everyone who has not yet done so and intends to vote. He added that the deadline for the submission of requests for entry in the electoral register of Hungarian nationals with no registered residence in Hungary is 17 September, while for Hungarians beyond the borders the deadline for casting postal votes is 11.59 p.m. on 1 October.



## 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.

On Friday the state secretary inaugurated a Hungarian-language high school for dispersed Hungarian communities in Szamosújvár/Gherla. The Hungarian government allocated HUF 730 million (EUR 2.3 million) for the building of the school. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Potápi said that the kin-state believes in the revival of dispersed Hungarian communities. He stressed that “the Hungarian nation cannot be complete without Hungarians living in Mezőség/Câmpia Transilvanie, since the cultural legacy of these communities is an essential pillar of the Hungarian national identity.”

Also on Friday it was announced in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca that due to the “Pure Software Program” supported by Hungary, more than 43,000 students from 107 Hungarian schools in Transylvania became eligible to use 3,600 pieces of software. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the Government Information Technology Development Agency and Microsoft have allocated HUF 27 million (EUR 87,000) for the project, which was realized in cooperation with the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Romania (RMPSZ). The state secretary added that there is a huge lack of IT specialists, therefore it is important to lay greater emphasis on their education.



Mr. Potápi took part in several other events in Transylvania. He delivered a speech at the 8th International Onion Festival in Madéfalva/Siculeni, which was attended by more than 3,000 local residents and several foreign visitors; he also laid a wreath at the Áron Márton statue group in Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc. After that he travelled to Csíkszentsimon/Sânsimion where he made a speech at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of a new building for the Saint Ladislaus Agricultural Vocational School.

### The renovated building of the Bethlen Gábor High School in Nagyenyed is inaugurated

On Saturday the almost 400-year-old building of the Bethlen Gábor High School in Nagyenyed/Aiud was officially inaugurated. The school renovation was realized from EU funds, as a result of an exemplary cooperation between the owner of the school, the Transylvanian Reformed Church District and the municipality of Nagyenyed/Aiud (in which Romanians are in the majority). As part of the inauguration ceremony, a church service was held in the school's court, led by Reformed bishop Béla Kató, who said that the "secret of the Bethlen Gábor High School's long life is that it was built on the basis of strong faith." Speaking at the ceremony and referring to Hungarian-Romanian relations, Hungary's Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that "a hard period might come for Europe", and in these circumstances it is extremely important for neighboring countries to unite their forces and find joint solutions to problems.

### US Ambassador to Romania: We support Szeklers' rights to express their dissatisfaction

During his visit to Szeklerland's Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, US Ambassador to Romania Hans Klemm said that Szeklers have the right to demonstrate, protest and submit petitions, seeking settlement of their problems. The ambassador arrived in Szeklerland at the invitation of local Hungarian leaders. On Monday he met the leaders of Hargita/Harghita County, while on Tuesday he had talks with the mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy Árpád Antal, the chairman of the county's local government Sándor Tamás and the bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church Béla Kató. After the talks, the ambassador was featured in a photograph holding the Szeklerland flag, together with the leaders of the region. Since Tuesday the photograph has been widely criticized in the Romanian press. Romanian news sites highlighted that the use of the Szekler flag is a "very sensitive issue" in Romania. Moreover, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs drew the attention of the US Embassy in Bucharest to the fact that "existing sensitivities" in the region need to be taken into account during official visits. According to review articles published on Thursday by Transylvanian Hungarian newspapers, through criticizing the photograph the US Ambassador to Bucharest was featured in, Romania clearly showed its intolerance towards the Szekler community.



### Marianum school center in Komárom is expanded

On Monday, a new building of the Marianum Hungarian-language Church School Center in Komárom/Komárno was officially opened. From the beginning of the new academic year, junior elementary school children will study in this building, which consists of four classrooms. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that “everyone who is present at the ceremony know and proclaim that only Hungarian-language institutions are able to keep our rich Hungarian language and culture alive.” The deputy state secretary added that “state language institutions can hardly offer such an opportunity.” Speaking after a holy mass held in the Saint Andrew Church as part of the ceremony, Mr. Szilágyi said that it was a pleasure for the Hungarian Government to support the renovation of the school’s gym and the building of its new pavilion. The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office allocated HUF 30 million (EUR 96,000) for the Marianum school center.



### Educational aid for Hungarian school children in Vojvodina is handed over

Six Hungarian families in Vojvodina have already received the educational aid for the 2015/2016 academic year the Hungarian Government ensures for children studying in Hungarian-language schools outside Hungary. Hungary provides 55 EUR annually for every child studying in Hungarian-language kindergarten, primary or secondary school, and 10 EUR for students of Hungarian-language universities and colleges in Vojvodina. The aim of the program is to promote Hungarian-language education in Serbia and other neighboring countries. The aid was handed over by Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi in Szabadka/Subotica. Mr. Szilágyi said that the amount of the aid is likely to increase in the future.



### Zoltán Balog: the prosperity of Transcarpathian Hungarians is important for the Hungarian Government

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new gym, dormitory and swimming pool of the Sándor Sztojka Greek Catholic High School in Transcarpathia’s Karácsfalva/Karachin, Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that “the prosperity of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community in its homeland is important for Hungary, therefore, the Hungarian Government is ready to provide every necessary help for this community.” Hungary allocated HUF 291 million (EUR 940,000) for the Hungarian Greek Catholic high school in Karácsfalva. Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that “cohesion is good if it is based on faith, and the school in Karácsfalva is a place where people can celebrate and work, relax and pray



together.” Mr. Balog stressed that the aim of his visit was to ensure the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia that they can always rely on Hungary’s help.



### 14th Kufstein Meeting in Felsőpulya

At the weekend, the 14th Kufstein Meeting was held in Austria’s Felsőpulya/Oberpullendorf. In the closing declaration of the meeting which was made public on Sunday, the participants agreed that the preservation of the Hungarian language is an essential condition of the Hungarian national minority’s permanence. The meeting was attended by more than 300 participants from 17 countries who discussed the main challenges in the field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad caused by Hungarians’ emigration, the sociological dimension of this phenomenon, the issue of integration and the situation of Hungarian organizations in Austria. The parties underlined in the closing declaration that in order to preserve the Hungarian community in Austria, Hungarian-German bilingual kindergartens and schools must be opened, where the new generations can acquire Hungarian language and traditions.

The name of the conference – Kufstein Meeting – comes from the first meeting which was held in the museum of the Kufstein oubliette in Austria. The meeting was organized by the Central Association of Hungarian Organizations in Austria in cooperation with the Western European Association of Hungarian County Organizations (NYEOMSZSZ), the Hungarian Cultural Association of Central Burgenland and the municipality of Felsőpulya.

