

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Zsolt Semjén: Hungary is the country of every Hungarian

On Saturday, speaking at a conference held in Ópusztaszer entitled “National Solidarity and Responsibility in light of the Fundamental Law”, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and President of the Christian Democratic People’s Party Zsolt Semjén said that “the Fundamental Law adopted five years ago is the constitution of every Hungarian, and Hungary is the country of every Hungarian.” At the closing event of a series of events organized to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the new Constitution, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed that “the Constitution and the relating Act on Simplified Naturalization gave an opportunity to unify the nation under public law which is the only possible answer to the tragedy of Trianon”. Mr. Semjén emphasized that “every Hungarian – no matter where they live in the world, whether in one of the successor states or in the diaspora – can be a full citizen, because there is one Hungarian nation”. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the essence of the Hungarian state is the survival of the Hungarian nation, and the Constitution is not just about determining how the state operates, but is also an expression of the nation’s politics.

Speaking at the conference, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that the diaspora is Hungary’s ambassador and representation in neighboring countries and throughout the world. The state secretary stressed that “the Government recognized that Hungarians living outside the kin-state are part of the nation and an asset we must preserve, because they are our representatives in both neighboring countries and far-away parts of the world”. Mr. Potápi said that in recent years the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has been one of the Cabinet’s most successful activities, and he demonstrated his statement by the presentation of several successful programs for Hungarians living abroad.

## Hungarians living abroad vote in a Hungarian referendum for the first time

The National Election Office (NVI) finalized the number of postal votes for Hungary’s referendum on EU migrant quotas held on 2 October. This was the first time that Hungarian citizens living abroad had an opportunity to take part in a Hungarian referendum. Hungarian citizens without a permanent residence in Hungary could cast their vote by post. The votes had to arrive to the National Election Office by 11.59 p.m. on 1 October. According to the results, between 14 September and 1 October, 90,921 Hungarians without permanent residence in Hungary cast their votes by post. Out of this number, 89,405 votes have already been checked, and 83.5 % of them (74,653 votes) are valid.

After processing 99.98 % of the votes, the results show that 43.35 percent of Hungarian citizens took part in the referendum, with more than 98% of them saying “No” to the question on the referendum ballot paper: the majority of the voters do not want to allow the European Union to mandate the settlement of non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary without the approval of the National Assembly of Hungary.



## Transylvanian Hungarian Catholic Bishop Áron Márton reburied in Gyulafehérvár

As part of a large-scale Holy Mass on Thursday, Transylvanian Hungarian Catholic Bishop Áron Márton was reburied at the Cathedral of Romania's Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia. The reburial ceremony of the Bishop – who died 36 years ago – was part of the festival of the Cathedral of Saint Michael. In his sermon, the Archbishop of Gyulafehérvár György Jakubinyi said that Áron Márton served during the era of two totalitarian regimes – Nazism and Communism – and even during these hard years he was able to fulfil the tasks of his episcopal motto: he did not shrink from work or torture. Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary for Churches, National Minorities and Civil Relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that the annals should record that the Romanian Secret Service, the Securitate, prepared 75,000 pages of notes about Bishop Áron Márton's activities. Mr. Soltész added that the Bishop's main crime was to highlight the unacceptable doctrines of Liberalism, Bolshevism and Fascism. The state secretary added that the common point in these seemingly different ideologies is that they deny the existence of God and ridicule the worship of God.

The ceremony in Gyulafehérvár was attended by thousands of people from the Carpathian Basin.

## Dormitory for dispersed Hungarian communities opened in Magyarlapád

On Thursday, two new dormitories for dispersed Hungarian communities were opened in Magyarlapád/Lopadea Nouă. The building of these was supported by the Hungarian government. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that dispersed Hungarian communities must receive particular attention and support. He stressed that “if we abandon these communities, Hungarians living in a bloc will also disappear sooner or later”. The state secretary said that Hungarian state support means that in recent weeks several schools for scattered Hungarian communities have been inaugurated in Transylvania. Mr. Potápi stressed that “if we support children and young people, we support our own future. If they grow up as Hungarians, they will continue to think as a unified Hungarian nation over the next 50-100 years.”

Hungary allocated HUF 53 million (EUR 171,000) for the building of the two new dormitory buildings, which can accommodate 24 students.



## Town Cultural Days in Pozsonypüspöki

On 2 October a series of events entitled Town Cultural Days started in Pozsonypüspöki/ Podunajské Biskupice. The first event in the series was the Memorial



Day of Deported Slovaks, which began with a Holy Mass and continued with a commemoration held in the square in front of the primary school. Speaking at the event Izabella Jég, the head of the Pozsony organization Csemadok, said that after the Second World War a lot of families were deported from towns in Slovakia, including Pozsonypüspöki. In her speech, former Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, current ministerial commissioner Katalin Szili said that nine years ago she arrived in the town to deliver a speech for the inauguration of the memorial column set up in front of the school. At that event, however, the Slovakian authorities did not allow her to speak, so she simply held a minute's silence to commemorate the deported families. Ms. Szili expressed her pleasure that today, nine years later, she can deliver a speech at the memorial column, and stressed that "people can take their objects and personal belongings, but there is one thing they cannot take with themselves: their homeland."



### Zenta's High School celebrates its 140th anniversary

On Friday the Zenta High School celebrated the 140th anniversary of its establishment. At the jubilee event, a number of events were held at the House of Culture in Zenta. These were attended by former and current teachers and students of the school, as well as several public figures. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi recalled the most important moments in the school's history, and said that the 140-year history teaches us that we must hold on to and preserve our precious values, our belonging to our nation and our Christianity. The head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and president of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor stressed what a huge impact the Zenta High School had on the town's cultural life and social development, adding that the school greatly contributed to the current image of Zenta.



### Croatia's Hungarian community is important for the Hungarian government

On 11 September early Parliamentary elections were held in Croatia. At the election, the representative of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK), Róbert Jankovics secured one of the eight parliamentary seats ensured for national minority delegates, winning more than 53 % of the votes. Speaking at a conference in Budapest which focused on the Hungarian minority's situation in Croatia in light of the early parliamentary elections, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that "Croatia's Hungarian community is important for the Hungarian government, and preserving this community is one of its most important objectives." The state secretary added that the 2016 early election was an important one for the Hungarian community in Croatia. He added that Hungarians have been



living in the same territory since the Hungarian Conquest (896), therefore, their permanence in their native land is of crucial importance. The representative of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) Róbert Jankovics said that in Croatia eight minority representatives are elected, and since 1992 Hungarians have been able to delegate one of them.

