

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Viktor Orbán: Hungary supports Ukraine's EU membership

Speaking at a joint press conference after talks with the Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that Hungary supports Ukraine's EU integration. Mr. Orbán said that Ukraine's goal is to be part of the Western world, and to occupy its well-deserved place in the community of the EU. The Prime Minister made it clear that Hungary supports Ukraine's EU membership. He pointed out, however, that EU countries are "blocking" two issues which are fundamental for Ukraine: one of them is visa-free travel, while the other is the free trade agreement. As a result of this, Hungary decided to grant Ukrainians visa-free travel. The Ukrainian prime minister stressed that for Ukraine national minorities are an asset, and Ukrainians are proud of the fact that there is a Hungarian community living in their country. Mr. Groysman added that they would like all their citizens to be happy in Ukraine, and the planned joint efforts with the Hungarian government also serve this purpose. He stressed that Hungarian-Ukrainian cooperation must be strengthened. On Friday, at a Hungarian-Ukrainian business forum held in Debrecen, Mr. Orbán said that an action plan for support of economic cooperation is being developed under the supervision of Minister for National Development Miklós Seszták. As part of the action plan a credit line for aid worth EUR 50 million (EUR 162,000) will be provided, while Hungarian businesses in Transcarpathia will receive an allocation of two billion forints this year, and five billion forints next year.

## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán receives the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen in Budapest

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen in his office. The parties held talks in connection with the approaching 15th plenary session of the Hungarian Standing Conference, which will take place on 1 December. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Kelemen exchanged views about preparations for the parliamentary elections in Romania, and expressed satisfaction over cooperation between Hungarian organizations in Romania regarding the selection of candidates. The parties also agreed on the need for a strong Hungarian representation in the Romanian parliament.

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## Hunor Kelemen: "Romania is ignoring both its own laws and international responsibilities"

Speaking in Strasbourg at a session of the European Parliament's Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that Romania is ignoring both its own laws and responsibilities accepted in international agreements. Mr. Kelemen said that this is proved by the fact that the Romanian



government submitted its report about the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities two years after the deadline. At the session of the minority intergroup, Mr. Kelemen presented two shadow reports drawn up by the RMDSZ on Romania's country report. The head of the RMDSZ stressed that Romania's report on the situation of national minorities draws a false picture of the situation of minority rights and the use of mother tongue in the country. He emphasized that the statements in this report spurred the RMDSZ to prepare a shadow report on the issues, as well as one on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Romania. The shadow reports highlight that in recent times – especially after 2011 – Romania has regularly violated its laws and international agreements on minority rights which were ratified by the Romanian parliament in the 1990s and the 2000s.



### Successful Hungarian-Hungarian dialogue in Slovakia

The leaders of the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP) convened a civil forum entitled Hungarian-Hungarian Dialogue, in order to discuss the situation of Hungarian-language education in Slovakia. It provided an opportunity for every interested party to take part. The meeting was successful, and the parties adopted a joint statement which was signed by everyone, including the president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the head of the Most-Híd (Bridge) party. In the statement, the parties urge the introduction of the term “network of nationality schools.” They also state that the schools for nationalities should be handled separately during financing, and the rules on the minimum number of students in nationality school classes should be abolished. The parties also agree that – in order to enhance the long-term development of nationality schools – an independent curriculum should be drawn up for them at every school level, and particular attention should be paid to the education in the Slovakian language for Hungarian pupils.



### Viktor Orbán: It is time to strengthen Hungarian-Serbian cooperation

Speaking at a press conference in Niš in Serbia held as part of a Hungarian-Serbian government summit, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that over the last few years the political conditions have been created for Hungarian-Serbian economic cooperation, and now the time has come to take a practical view on generating projects which serve the interests of both countries. Mr. Orbán said that analyses indicate that Serbia is on the threshold of a major period of growth. The Prime Minister stated that as the political conditions are now in place, practical measures should be enacted, the language of business should come to the fore, and projects which serve the best interests of the two countries should be implemented. Mr. Orbán



stressed that Serbia regards Hungarian communities living in its country as an issue close to its heart, and its policy supporting minorities is exceptionally positive in a European context. The Hungarian Prime Minister added that Serbians living in Hungary may also rely on the Hungarian Government.

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More than 300 Transcarpathian Hungarian farmers and entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture received financial assistance as part of Hungary's economic development program in Transcarpathia entitled Ede Egán Transcarpathian Economic Development Program. The total sum allocated for agricultural developments was HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million). On Saturday, the winners of the program signed their contracts in Beregszász/Berehove as part of an official ceremony held at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute. The ceremony was also attended by government commissioner responsible for the development of Transcarpathia Dr. István Grezsa. The government commissioner said that these contracts are the first ones among those which will be signed by Transcarpathian Hungarians as part of the Hungarian Government HUF 32 billion (EUR 103 million) program.

### Shadow report on Ukraine's country report presented in Strasbourg

On Thursday, the shadow reports on Romania's and Ukraine's country reports submitted to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Romania were presented during a session of the European Parliament's Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages held in Strasbourg. Speaking about the Ukrainian shadow report which was prepared by Transcarpathian Hungarian civil organizations and representatives of scientific life, the head of the Hodinka Antal Institute at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute István Cserniczkó highlighted several deficiencies of Ukraine's language policy and its disadvantages for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. Mr. Cserniczkó also spoke about the educational reform planned by Ukraine which would violate national minorities' language rights. He stressed that the strengthening and development of the Ukrainian language must not lead to the weakening of regional or minority languages and the violation of minority rights.

