

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## President János Áder receives Hungarian bishops living abroad

On Thursday, President of Hungary János Áder received Hungarian bishops living outside Hungary. Addressing the event held at the Sándor Palace, the President said that churches can help Hungarians living in minority communities to preserve their Hungarian identity. Mr. Áder stressed that churches have an indispensable role in this process, which history has given them. The President stressed that “Hungarians abroad must hold on to their language and hold on to their faith”. He emphasized that the Church is not only a sacral community but also a meeting place and the bastion of the Hungarian language and national identity.



## Parliamentary election in Romania: the RMDSZ has 6.3%, after 99% of the votes have been processed

A parliamentary election was held in Romania on 11 December. By 7 a.m. Monday, the Romanian Central Elections Office had processed 99% of the votes. According to these results, the Social Democratic Party won the election with 46% of the votes. Its ally, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (ALDE), received 5.6%, and so it will also have seats in the Parliament and the parties of the left will have enough seats to form a government. Among parties of the right, the National Liberal Party (PNL) won 20%, while the Save Romania Union has 8.5%. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) received 6.3% of the votes, which can be considered a very good result. Evaluating the election results in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, the president of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen thanked Hungarians living in Romania for showing their strength. Mr. Kelemen said that the joint list formed by the RMDSZ and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) and the solidarity of Szeklerland and dispersed Hungarian communities persuaded Hungarians that the RMDSZ is committed to improving the country, and they made it clear that only one Hungarian formation can represent Hungarian interests in Romania.

On Sunday evening Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén issued a statement declaring that “Hungarian unity has brought results: the Transylvanian Hungarian community will have strong representation in the Romanian parliament.” The Deputy Prime Minister added that “thanks should go to every Hungarian in Transylvania who was ready to stand up and act for their community, and who voted for the Hungarian joint list.”

Four days before the elections, Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán made an official visit to Transylvania and encouraged Hungarians living there to vote. At a joint press conference with Hunor Kelemen, the president of the RMDSZ, Mr. Orbán said that “People in Romania must not ignore Hungarians.” He added that the strength of the Hungarian community in Romania also has an impact on relations between Hungary and Romania. Mr. Orbán emphasized that a strong Romania is also in the interest of Hungary.



## The Hungarian government allocates HUF 1.5 billion for Hungarian nursery schools in Transylvania

Speaking in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe at the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hungarian Teachers' Association in Romania (RMPSZ), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that, as part of the Hungarian government's 2017-2018 nursery school development program, Hungarian nursery schools in Transylvania will receive HUF 1.5 billion (EUR 4.8 million). The state secretary added that the following amounts will be spent: HUF 900 million (EUR 2.8 million) on the building of almost 200 playgrounds; HUF 300 million (EUR 960,000) on the purchase of new equipment for kindergartens; and HUF 227 million (EUR 716,000) on methodological developments. Mr. Potápi said that in this work Hungary is relying on the assistance of the RMPSZ. He added that the program is part of the Hungarian government's large scale, HUF 17 billion (EUR 54 million) nursery school development program, which was launched in the middle of November.

## Áron Márton Memorial Year comes to an end with a Holy Mass in Csíksomlyó

The closing event of the Áron Márton Memorial Year was a Holy Mass held in Transylvania's Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc on Friday, marking the 77th anniversary of Áron Márton being appointed a Catholic bishop in Transylvania. Addressing the event, the Archbishop of Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia György Jakubinyi spoke about his personal memories of Bishop Márton. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi spoke about the main events of the memorial year. He stressed that we can only remain loyal to the spirit of Bishop Áron Márton if we refuse to subordinate ourselves to any power or autocracy.

The Áron Márton Memorial Year was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad in December 2015, marking the 120th anniversary of the Bishop's birth. As part of the memorial year, several extremely successful jubilee conferences, special history classes, children's competitions and other events were organized.



## János Áder and Andrej Kiska: Hungarian-Slovakian relations have never been as good as they are now

On Monday, President of Hungary János Áder received his Slovakian counterpart Andrej Kiska in his office in Budapest. After their talks, the Hungarian president said that Hungarian-Slovakian economic relations have never been as good as they are today. Concerning relations in the field of transportation, Mr. Áder said that a freight ferry line between Esztergom and Párkány/Štúrovo was launched, new border crossing points between the two countries were opened, and soon a new bridge will



be built on the Danube at Komárom. He also mentioned that, by 2019 at the latest, a double-lane highway will be built as far as Rajka, as well as between Miskolc and the Slovakian border. The Hungarian president added that two years ago a joint cultural project was started: the renovation of the Rákóczi mansion in Borsi/Borša. The Slovakian president Andre Kiska said that he and the Hungarian president had agreed that bilateral relations between the two countries have never been as good as they are now.

During his official visit to Hungary, the Slovakian president also had talks with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. During the meeting the parties stressed that Hungary and Slovakia have a mutual interest in each other's success. Mr. Kiska and Mr. Orbán agreed that even in the currently difficult political and economic situation in Europe, Hungarian-Slovakian economic cooperation continues to be stable and prosperous, and this is further strengthened by the cooperation of the Visegrád countries. The parties also discussed the situation of national minorities in the two countries.



### Prosperitati Foundation: The third round of calls for applications announced

The Prosperitati Foundation's new calls for applications have been presented in Vojvodina's Kishegyes/Mali Idoš and Topolya/Bačka Topola. So far more than 2,900 people have submitted their applications for 15 different tenders which are all part of the Hungarian government's economic development program in Vojvodina. Out of the 2,900 applications, 2,500 were successful. At the events in Topolya and Kishegyes, 15 new calls for applications were announced. The blank forms for these will be available on the Prosperitate Foundation website from 15 December. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor expressed the hope that the economic development program brings major progress which has tangible results in the New Year. After Kishegyes and Topolya, the new calls for applications will also be presented in public forums in Szabadka/Subotica, Ada and Csóka/Čoka.



### 400 Transcarpathian Hungarians sign economic development contracts in Beregszász

On Monday, speaking in Transcarpathia's Beregszász/Berehove, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that "with the launch of the economic development program, a new era has begun in the life of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia." The state secretary stressed that over the past decades Transcarpathia has never had opportunities like the ones it has today. At the event, which was addressed by Mr. Magyar, 400 Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs signed contracts which are part of the



Hungarian government's HUF 32 billion (EUR 102 million) economic development program in the region. Speaking at the official signing ceremony, the state secretary stressed that "the joint work which was started in 2016 brought its results, since almost 400 Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs have an opportunity to individually sign economic development contracts worth several million forints, with a combined value of HUF 800 million (EUR 2.5 million)."

### Hungarian language courses for Ukrainians living in Transcarpathia are successful

The first phase of Hungarian language courses launched by the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary for Ukrainians living in Transcarpathia has been extremely fruitful. In Beregszász/Berehove on Saturday, almost 1,000 people received certificates for successful completion of courses. Speaking at the event, government commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office responsible for developments in Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that the success of the language courses exceeded preliminary expectations, and proved that learning the Hungarian language is extremely popular among the Ukrainian population of Transcarpathia. Mr. Grezsa added that, instead of the expected 500 participants, more than 2,000 Ukrainians applied.

