

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Second Hungarian Cultural World Meeting starts in Pécs

On Saturday, a two-day event entitled Second Cultural World Meeting of Hungarians started in Pécs with the participation of more than one hundred representatives from fifteen countries. The event was organized by the jubilee project office of the University of Pécs which is celebrating its 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and the Pécs-based Foundation for Hungarians Beyond the Borders (HTMA). Addressing the event, State Secretary for Culture Péter Hoppál stressed that the current government is allocating unprecedented funds and national resources for the support of Hungarian culture. Speaking at the event, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that since 2010 the most important task of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has been the reunification of the nation. Presenting the main results of the field, he stressed that due to the simplified naturalization procedure more than 830,000 people acquired Hungarian citizenship and about 110,000 people living in the diaspora were declared Hungarian citizens. Mr. Szilágyi said that the main goal, that is, to increase the number of new Hungarian citizens to 1 million might be reached soon. The deputy state secretary added that the strengthening of education system in dispersed Hungarian communities and the enforcement of economic relations are among the most important further objectives.



## The European Commission registers the Minority SafePack initiative

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) has issued a statement, announcing that the European Commission decided to register the Minority SafePack initiative which was prepared by European minority organizations. The RMDSZ underlined that this decision is of historic importance from the point of view of national minorities in Europe. The registration of the initiative will start a one-year process of collection of signatures of support: the organizers have to collect 1 million signatures in order to initiate the adoption of new laws on the protection of national minorities. Originally, the organizers of the initiative called on the institutions of the European Union to adopt new laws in eleven main fields concerning national minorities, however, the European Commission decided to register only nine of them.

## Heineken and Csíki Sör Manufaktúra come to agreement over the use of brand name

The Heineken Romania and the Csíki Sör Manufaktúra, the local Hungarian producer of the popular Transylvanian beer “Igazi Csíki Sör” said they intended to settle their long ongoing “Csíki/Ciuc” brand dispute. The parties announced their agreement in a joint bilingual (English-Hungarian) statement published by the Csíki Sör Manufaktúra on Monday. In the statement, the parties declare that following ongoing and constructive conversations they both intend to settle their dispute about the Csíki Sör brand-name. As part of the settlement, the Heineken Romania gives consent to the Csíki Sör Manufaktúra for the coexistence of the Ciuc and Csíki brand names and



agrees that the Csíki Sör Manufaktúra to market the Csíki Sör beer. As a result of the agreement, both parties will abandon all legal activities related to the commercial dispute. The agreement was reached after Minister of the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár and the members of the municipality of Hódmezővásárhely had made a visit to the Csíkszentsimon factory of the Csíki Sör Manfuaktúra and the Hungarian Government encouraged both parties to engage in talks in their trade mark usage dispute. Speaking at a press conference held after the visit, Mr. Lázár said that Hungarian businesses which find themselves in trouble may rely on the assistance of the Hungarian Government, while multinational corporations which abuse their power at the expense of Hungarian businesses may expect to see the Hungarian Government take action against them.

As is known, in its judgment dated 27 January, the Marosvásárhely/Targu Mureş court banned the production and distribution of Csíki Sör. The manufacturer of Igazi Csíki Sör was sued by Heineken Romania because it claimed that the maker of the beer misappropriated its intellectual property. After this, the Csíki Sör Manufaktúra decided to change the name of its product to "Forbidden Real Beer" (Igazi Tiltott Sör).



### State Secretary Árpád János Potápi presents the year of Hungarian family businesses abroad in Párkány

Speaking at the second regional meeting of the economic and regional development council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) in Párkány/Sturovo, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi presented the main results and planned events of the "2017 - Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad" program. Mr. Potápi stressed that since 2014, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has paid extraordinary attention to the economic strengthening of Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin. For this aim, in 2016 the state secretariat launched a thematic year for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living abroad and this year it is focusing on Hungarian family businesses in neighboring countries. The state secretary said that the opening event of the thematic year was held at the end of February in Balatonalmádi with the participation of 220 representatives of Hungarian family businesses abroad, and on 22 March, the Carpathian Basin road show of the program started in Szabadka/Subotica. During the road show, the organizers will visit different Hungarian-populated towns in neighboring countries and will hold different lectures and sector-specific training courses which aim to develop entrepreneurial skills. Mr. Potápi added that the first Slovakian stop of the road show will be Komárom/Komárno, while the second one will be held in Rimaszombat/Rimavská Sobota.



## The Hungarian Government allocates EUR 1.8 million for the development of church school center in Gúta

The Hungarian church school center in Slovakia's Gúta/Kolárovo will be renovated due to Hungarian state support. State Secretary for churches, national minorities and civil relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that at the end of 2016, the Hungarian Government decided to allocate HUF 570 million (EUR 1.8 million) for the renovation of the Hungarian school center in Gúta, including the building of a new gym and a playground for nursery school children. Mr. Soltész stressed that "strong relations with the church are important elements of the permanence of national communities." The aim of the state secretary's recent visit was to confirm that the Hungarian Government is committed to ensure the pledged financial support for the renovation of the institution.



## Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić wins presidential election in Serbia

According to unofficial preliminary results, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić, the nominee of the Serbian government coalition, head of the Serbian Progressive Party won the presidential election in Serbia held on Sunday. After 77.4 percent of the votes have been processed, Mr. Vučić had 55.2 percent. On Sunday evening, he announced his victory, saying that "he is extremely proud of Serbia's citizens' trust in him." He expressed his pleasure that he managed to win the support of more than 2 million voters. Speaking on Sunday evening, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said he believes that with the victory of Aleksandar Vučić, the situation of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina will improve. He added that "from the point of view of the realization of joint undertakings declared in the coalition agreement, I believe, we will be stronger and able to realize our goals easily". Mr. Pásztor stressed that Mr. Vučić's victory might also contribute to the strengthening of Hungarian economic life in Vojvodina.



## Viktor Orbán holds talks with President of Ukraine on dual citizenship of Hungarians in Ukraine

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko on the need for a bilateral agreement on the dual citizenship of Hungarians in Ukraine. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Poroshenko met in Malta on Thursday morning at the venue of the congress of the European People's Party (EPP). Mr. Orbán assured Mr. Poroshenko that Hungary supports protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. During the talks, the Hungarian Prime Minister highlighted that Hungary is committed to maintaining Ukrainian-Hungarian energy cooperation, including joint action against the Nord Stream II pipeline project.



On Friday morning, Mr. Orbán received the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics in his office. The parties agreed that the dispute over the issue of dual citizenship for Hungarians living in Ukraine could soon be resolved. At the meeting held at Fidesz headquarters in Budapest, Mr. Orbán informed Mr. Brenzovics of his discussions with the Ukrainian prime minister in Malta on Thursday, during which it emerged that the Ukrainian government wishes to resolve the issue through bilateral talks and a bilateral agreement. The Hungarian prime minister said that he is open to conducting talks, as long as Ukraine provides the legislative background required for the agreement.

### [The Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute celebrates its 20th anniversary](#)

On Sunday, the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Beregszász-based Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute which is one of the most important centers of Hungarian scientific and cultural life in the region. Addressing the event, the rector of the institution Ildikó Orosz recalled that the institute started its operation in the 1996/1997 academic year, but – as a higher educational institution – it was recognized legally in Ukraine only in the second term, in 1997. Ms. Orosz stressed that the greatest achievement and advantage of the institution is that it provides an opportunity for Hungarian young people living in Transcarpathia to gain high-level knowledge in their homeland, in their mother tongue. She added that over the past 20 years, the institute has become the main scientific and culture center of Transcarpathian Hungarians.

