

# 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: recognition of Szekler people as independent ethnic group is dangerous

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that a voter initiative seeking the recognition of Szeklerls as an ethnic group independent of the Hungarian nation is “harmful and dangerous”. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that “Szeklers are Hungarians” and “by the logic of this initiative” Hungarians could further be divided into various other ethnic groups, emphasizing his opposition to the bid. Mr. Semjén added that the initiative was either submitted “with good intentions” and “based on total incompetence” or “motivated by something worse”, noting that Romanian politics “has long desired to declare” that neither the Csangos nor the Szeklers are Hungarians. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the bid went against both “historical reality” and Hungary’s national interests.

### Péter Szilágyi: relations between actors working for Hungarian communities abroad are stronger and stronger

Speaking at a summer open university on Hungarian communities abroad organized by the Lakitelek Népfőiskola, Deputy State Secretary Péter Szilágyi said that relations between actors working for Hungarian communities abroad are stronger and stronger: these relations are strengthening not only between governments and political organizations, but different research groups and institutions as well. The deputy state secretary responsible for Hungarian communities abroad said that the main objective of the Hungarian Government is to stop the population decrease of Hungarians living abroad through various programs launched for Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the main direction of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is laid down in Hungary’s Basic Law which states that Hungary “bear responsibility” for Hungarian communities abroad instead of the former text which stated that Hungary “feels responsibility”. The deputy state secretary said that the introduction of the simplified naturalization procedure has been one of the most important achievements of the Government which unified the Hungarian nation under common law.



### Hunor Kelemen: a “wave of nationalism” can be felt in Romania

Speaking to the Kossuth Radio’s program 180 perc (180 Minutes), the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that relations between Romanians and Hungarians in Romania had been completely different if Romanians would have had fulfilled their pledges made in the 1918 Gyulafehérvár Resolution. Some days ago, the head of the RMDSZ declared in an interview that the Hungarian community in Romania cannot and does not want to



celebrate the centennial of the formation of the modern Romanian state. In reaction to his statement, the National Coalition for Modernizing Romania threatened Mr. Kelemen to initiate the withdrawal of his award Star of Romania. In the interview to the Kossuth Radio, the head of the RMDSZ stressed that the Hungarian community in Transylvania can already feel a “wave of nationalism” in the country which is getting stronger and stronger as the centenary is approaching. He added that it is not a solution if the entire Hungarian community is terrified with the approaching centenary, instead, Hungarians should present what they have given to Romania during the past 100 years.



### The Slovak National Party quits the government coalition

On Monday, the second strongest party of the Slovak government coalition, the ultra-nationalist Slovak National Party (SNS) unexpectedly announced that it is withdrawing from the government coalition which was made in September 2016. Béla Bugár, the head of the smallest party of the coalition, the inter-ethnic Most-Híd (“Bridge”) party called the move “surprising”. According to the unanimous opinion of political analysts, the aim of Andrej Danko’s move was not the “enforcement” of early parliamentary elections but rather the distraction of attention from the corruption scandals of the minister of education who belongs to their party.



### The Hungarian National Council organizes Serbian language courses for Hungarian students

As a part of its scholarship program, the Hungarian National Council (MNT) is organizing intensive Serbian language courses to help those Hungarian students who wish to continue their studies at Serbian-language universities. The aim of the program is to develop the linguistic skills of students whose mother tongue is not Serbian and whose choice of higher education institutions is often affected by their inadequate level of the state language. The course – which will consist of 80 classes – will take place between 4 and 15 September 2017 at the Európa College in Újvidék/Novi Sad for those first-year university students who have already passed their entrance examinations.



### Zoltán Balog: it is our joint duty to build a strong community in Transcarpathia

Speaking at a large-scale event in Transcarpathia’s Nagydobrony/Velika Dobrony marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Minister of Human Capacities



Zoltán Balog said that “it is our joint duty to strengthen culture and build a strong community in Transcarpathia from those financial goods which are ensured by the kin-state.” The event was attended by more than 7,000 people. Mr. Balog expressed the hope that through the increasing amount of financial support arriving from the kin-state, Hungarians in Transcarpathia can feel that Hungary bears responsibility for them and loves them.” The minister highlighted that in the current difficult situation this help is more important and necessary than ever.

