

# 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: We must protect every Hungarian, no matter where they live in the world

On Friday, speaking after the award ceremony of the “Awards for Hungarian Communities Abroad” – which are handed over every year on Hungary’s national holiday, 20 August – Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that following the example of Israel, Hungary must protect every Hungarian, no matter where they live in the world. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that “We must do the same as the Israelis, if Israel is allowed to do it, then so are we.” He added that “the essence of the State of Israel is that every Jew, wherever they may live in the world, can rest assured that there is a country, there is a homeland, and if they are persecuted anywhere in the world, they can go back home to that country, and that country will protect them under any circumstances, by using all its influence, both its visible and invisible influence”. Mr. Semjén added that Hungary has the same responsibility: it must protect every Hungarian, wherever they may live in the world. The awards were handed over by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. This year awards were granted to special needs teacher Mária Zupko (Slovakia), actor-singer Imre Vadkerti (Slovakia), performing artist Erika Verebes Krnács (Vojvodina), Szabadka/Subotica diocesan János Pézses (Vojvodina), the Nagydobrony/Velika Dobrony Good Samaritan Reformed Church Children’s Home (Transcarpathia), teacher Anna Cár (Slovenia), teachers Ferenc Lengyel and Melinda Lengyel (Austria), and the Hungarian community in Venezuela. The Prime Minister further granted awards to Anna Horváth, former Deputy Mayor of Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, Béla Kató, Bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church Diocese, and Zsolt József Tamási, former principal of the Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş Roman Catholic Theological Lyceum.

## István Grezsa: Hungary bears responsibility for every Hungarian

On Friday, government commissioner at the Prime Minister’s Office István Grezsa received a group of Transcarpathian Hungarian children – the participants of the Erzsébet Summer Camps – in the Parliament Building. Speaking to journalists after the event, the government commissioner stressed that having the opportunity of taking part in summer camps in Hungary means a lot for children living beyond the borders. Mr. Grezsa added that children who are taking part in these camps can also feel that Hungary bears responsibility for them. Mr. Grezsa received and welcomed 220 children. In addition to this group, 880 other Transcarpathian children had the opportunity to take part in Erzsébet summer camps near Lake Balaton and 440 Ukrainian children who study Hungarian as a foreign language.



## Árpád János Potápi: Hungarians in Transylvania have always been ready to take responsibility for the united Hungarian nation



On Sunday, speaking at the closing gala of the Kolozsvár Hungarian Days, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi praised the commitment and sense of duty of Hungarians living in Transylvania. Árpád János Potápi established: the Hungarian community in Transylvania has always taken the lead ahead of the rest of the Hungarian nation in a number of areas of intellectual and spiritual life, and in its commitment and sense of duty. The state secretary stressed that the Hungarian Government supports Hungarian education, culture and economy in Transylvania with the faith that by doing so it contributes to keeping alive the spiritual base which provides guidance for every Hungarian. At the same time, he encouraged his audience filling the main square of Kolozsvár to play a part in the shaping of our common affairs, and to have their voice heard at the parliamentary elections to be held in Hungary next year. The audience applauded the announcement of the State Secretary to the effect that Anna Horváth, former Deputy Mayor of Kolozsvár, Transylvanian Reformed Church Bishop Béla Kató and Zsolt Tamási, former principal of the Marosvásárhely Roman Catholic Lyceum were decorated with the Award for Hungarians Abroad

### Romania challenges the registration of the “Minority SafePack” initiative before the European Court of Justice

Speaking at a press conference, the chairman of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) Loránt Vincze and executive chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Bálint Porcsalmi announced that Romania challenged the registration of the “Minority SafePack” European Citizens’ Initiative before the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Romanian Government asked the court to annul its resolution adopted on 29 March on the registration of the “Minority SafePack” European Citizens’ Initiative. The Romanian Government justified its decision by stating that “the aim of the Minority SafePack initiative is to provide legal protection for people belonging to national and linguistic minorities instead of the promotion of cultural diversity. The head of the FUEN Loránt Vincze stressed that “with this step Romania is going against 50 million European citizens who belong to national minorities, the Hungarian community in Transylvania and all those member states of the EU which are supporting the initiative.” He added that it is extremely strange that “although Romania is not very active in Brussels, it seizes every opportunity to stand up against the interests of national minorities.”



### János Esterházy statue unveiled in Várhosszúrét

Speaking at an event in Slovakia’s Várhosszúrét/Krásnohorská Dlhá Lúka commemorating Hungarian martyr politician János Esterházy, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that “János Esterházy is the role model of loyalty and commitment to the homeland, Hungarian culture and Christian faith.” The event marked the 60th anniversary of the martyr politician’s



passing away. Before the unveiling of János Esterházy's statue, Mr. Szilágyi highlighted that the the politician's perseverance can serve as an example for today's generations. He stressed that János Esterházy always remained loyal to his homeland, culture, mother tongue and faith.

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### Saint Stephen's Day in Palics

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) held its central Saint Stephen's Day commemoration on Saturday in Palics/Palić. The event was addressed by Hungary's Minister of Defence István Simicskó and the chairman of the VMSZ István Pásztor. The minister stressed that 20 August is the joint birthday of Hungarians, the birthday of the Hungarian State and the holiday of our Christian faith. He stressed that Saint Stephen recognized that the key to the permanence and survival of the Hungarian nation is the establishment of a Hungarian state and the conversion to Christianity. The head of the VMSZ István Pásztor said that the most frightening phenomenon of recent years in Vojvodina is migration since people are leaving their homeland in large numbers. He added that in order to improve this situation, "attention should be paid to every Hungarian."

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### Zsolt Semjén: May every Hungarian participate in the building of the State

Addressing the central Saint Stephen Day ceremony of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK), Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén stressed that the Hungarian community and the Hungarian nation can survive if everyone in their own place participates in the building of the State in his or her own little way as a disciple of St. Stephen. Mr. Semjén highlighted that King St. Stephen lives in the memory of the nation as a builder of the State, just as he truly was. He added that the dioceses and counties that he established exist to this day. Mr. Semjén emphasized that the Hungarian community has survived because it has followed the path of St. Stephen, the essence of which lies in the fact that he was at once faithful to western Christianity and committed to national sovereignty. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the cultural center built in Croatia also stands as a symbol of the fact that Hungarians living here are determined to preserve their Hungarian culture and identity.

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### Contracts of Muravidék economic development program signed

The contracts of the economic development program which serve to support Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin were signed in Muravidék, Slovenia as the first Member State of the European Union, and from the allocation of HUF 500 (EUR 1.6 million) million provided by the Hungarian State, 155 family businesses



were awarded grants. State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar highlighted at the signing ceremony held in Dobronak/Dobrovnik in Muravidék that the goal of the Hungarian Government is to strengthen Hungarian economic life in Muravidék to an extent which puts an end to the process of assimilation that has been ongoing for decades. The Government allocated HUF 500 million (EUR 1.6 million) in this year's budget for the Muravidék economic development program from which 155 family businesses were awarded grants, but another HUF 500 million will also be available for similar purposes in next year's budget.

