

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### More than 80 monuments can be renewed outside Hungary

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that more than 80 monuments in neighboring countries – paying tribute to the victims of the First World War – can be renewed by March 2018 from the Hungarian Government's HUF 100 million (EUR 323,000) support. Mr. Potápi said that similarly to the first phase of the call for application focusing on the renovation of WW I monuments in the Carpathian Basin (HUF 100 million), the second phase has been launched with the same amount: HUF 100 million again. In the second phase, applicants can apply for non-refundable financial support between HUF 500,000 (EUR 1560) and HUF 2 million (EUR 6,260) until 16 October. Speaking at the press conference, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Human Capacities Bence Rétvári emphasized that the main "losers" of the First World War were Hungarians living outside Hungary who lost not only their families but their homeland as well.

### Hungary is supporting Romania's membership of the OECD

Speaking with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán by telephone, President of the Romanian government's leading Social Democratic Party (PSD) Liviu Dragnea promised that Romania will solve the situation of the Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. According to the report of Mr. Dragnea, the parties agreed that Hungary will support Romania's bid for membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) only after Romania finds a solution to the situation of the school. On Saturday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced that with regard to Mr. Dragnea's promise, Hungary will supporting Romania's bid for membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Following a telephone conversation with his Romania counterpart, Mr. Szijjártó said on Monday that "Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu has thanked the Hungarian Government for providing its support for Romania's bid to become a member of the OECD".

### Potápi: Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin do not give up their fight for autonomy

Speaking in Nagyvárad /Oradea at the meeting of the Hungarian Autonomy Council of the Carpathian Basin (KMAT), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin have not given up their fight for autonomy, however, they have to protect themselves from continuous offences against them. Addressing the second 2017 meeting of the KMAT, the State Secretary said that Vojvodina is the only region abroad where obvious progress was achieved in the field of autonomy. Mr. Potápi stressed that the first step in this process should be taken in the community: communities must confirm their demand for autonomy. Following this step, the



Romanian community must be involved and after that the “Hungarian and Romanian politics should be adjusted to these demands.” Mr. Potápi added that the last step is to gain the support of the European Union.

In their closing declaration sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the members of the KMAT stated that the majority of problems of Hungarian communities can be traced back to the absence of autonomy. The organization including political organizations and parties of Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian Basin expressed their protest against the new Ukrainian education law and asked the President of Ukraine Petro Porosenko to not announce it. The members of the KMAT also protested against measures making the operation of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targo Mures impossible. They called on the Romanian Government to respect European norms and ensure the basic right of mother-tongue education for the Hungarian community.

### Hungarian Days in Temesvár

Series of events of Hungarian Days started on Friday in Temesvár/Timisoara. Speaking at the opening ceremony on Friday afternoon, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi stressed that it is due to the peaceful co-existence of different nations in Temesvár that the capital city of Bánság/Banat could always be “a step ahead” of others through the history. Mr. Szilágyi recalled that Temesvár was that place in Europe where the first public lighting fostered by electric power started to operate, where the first city hospital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was built, where the first tram was set off and this was the place where the 1989 revolution – which swept away the Romanian communist dictatorship – began.



### State Secretary Árpád János Potápi holds talks with the leaders of the MKP in Pozsony

Speaking at a press conference in Pozsony/Bratislava after a meeting with the leaders of the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP), State Secretary of Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that many things are decided at the level of county municipalities, therefore, it is very important for the Hungarian minority in Slovakia to strengthen its representation during the regional elections in November. The state secretary had talks with the leaders of the MKP on the results of the Hungarian Government’s policy towards Hungarian communities abroad (including objectives affecting Slovakia and Hungarians in Slovakia within the framework of the 2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad), the strategic partnership between the MKP and Fidesz-KDNP and the regional elections which will be held in Slovakia in November. The State Secretary stressed that the regional elections are exceptionally important and highlighted that many things depend on county municipalities, for example, the support of institutions



and the question of cross-border developments, therefore, it is extremely important to take part in these elections.



## Minister of Human Capacities proposes meeting with Ukrainian Education Minister

Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog has proposed a meeting with Ukraine's Minister for Education and Science Liliia Hrynevych. According to an official letter sent to the Ukrainian Education Minister, a copy of which was provided to Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday, Mr. Balog will be attending an event to mark the official start of the academic year at the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute on 25 September, to which Liliia Hrynevych is also invited. In the letter, Mr. Balog wrote that the new legislation, and especially article 7 of the new Education Act, has raised major concerns with several governments, including that of Hungary. A meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the "major concerns" relating to the aforementioned Article of the Act, and the information provided by the Ukrainian party could also help the Hungarians to understand the true reasons and goals behind the new legislation, he added.

The new Act on Education adopted by Ukrainian Parliament on 5 September is aimed at modernizing public education via reforms to be introduced from September 2018. With regard to the language of education, Article 7 of the new legislation states that the language of education in Ukraine is the state language, and national minorities are only permitted to receive teaching in their native language in the first four grades of school (until age 10).

