

# 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 230,000 Hungarian kindergarteners and students from Hungarian communities abroad receive support under the "Szülőföldön magyarul" program

On 25th September, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office started to send out notification letters and grant support to those Hungarian parents in Hungarian communities abroad who have successfully applied for the 2017 support program "Szülőföldön magyarul (In the Homeland in Hungarian)". Within the program, those kindergarteners, elementary and secondary school students of Hungarian communities abroad who are studying in the Hungarian language in neighboring countries will receive one-off educational, pedagogical, schoolbook and teaching aid of HUF 22 400 (EUR 72). In his information letter sent to the Hungarian parents, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that since 2010 the Hungarian government has sought to support Hungarian families and communities abroad with its every step.



## The future is written in Hungarian

Speaking at the Protestant Theological Institute in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), during the largest Transylvanian event of the jubilee year organized to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that the entire Carpathian Basin is on the threshold of the age of national pride. He also spoke about pastoral service in its purest form as a requirement for young theologians. In his speech Mr. Orbán said that "the future is written in Hungarian". Maintaining Hungarian communities, he said, is one of the precepts of the national mission, which "is to fight to ensure that people can prosper, study in Hungarian, and live as Hungarians in the land of their birth". Asking whether the strength required for the next 500 years still exists, the Prime Minister declared: "Deep and strong are the roots that sustained us after the Battle of Mohács and our country's division into three, and after we were hacked into five parts almost a hundred years ago; they sustained us throughout the years of communist dictatorship and also in recent decades". "If we have succeeded in remaining upright, like an oak tree, even under the weight of 500 years of history, then we shall continue to stand tall throughout the next five hundred years", Mr. Orbán said.

## Hungary is strong enough to take responsibility for Transylvanian Hungarians

At the consecration of a new Protestant church in Szászfenes/Florești, Romania, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that "Hungary is strong enough in both body and spirit to also take responsibility for Transylvanian Hungarians". Praising the settlement's Protestant community for its work in building a congregation and a church, the Prime Minister said: "Where there is work, and where there is will – a will to act and solidarity – assistance will not be withheld [...] We are proud that the



Hungarian government has had the opportunity to fund completion of this church". He pointed out that the assistance provided towards construction of the church is also in part thanks to the fact that in 2014 the Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin had the opportunity to collectively decide on "a national policy that transcends borders and assumes responsibility for all Hungarian communities". The project of the Protestant church building in Szászfenes, located west of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), cost a total of 3.5 million lei (EUR 760,000), towards which the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office – through the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Company - has contributed 160 million forints (EUR 513,000).

### Orbán and Kelemen have talks on medium- and long-term issues

In Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca on Saturday afternoon, the leaders of Fidesz and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) had talks on important medium- and long-term issues. For Fidesz, in addition to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Minister for Human Capacities Zoltán Balogh and the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh also attended the negotiations. The politicians discussed the economic situation of Hungary and Romania and established that it is time to link the economic system of the two countries with the help of large projects at higher level. The RMDSZ delegation, led by Hunor Kelemen, urged the organization of high-level Hungarian-Romanian government meetings as soon as possible. The parties welcomed the fact that the Hungarian and Romanian foreign ministers are going to negotiate within the coming days. According to Krónika, Péter Szijjártó will meet with his Romanian counterpart Teodor Meleşcanu on Monday in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca. In line with the foreign ministerial meeting, the RMDSZ believes it is necessary to overview the problems affecting Hungarian communities on this occasion, and issues of restitution, language rights and symbols should also be raised.

### János Árpád Potápi inaugurates new classroom in Nagykároly/Carei funded by the Hungarian government

On Wednesday, János Árpád Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office, inaugurated a new classroom at the Simion Barnatui Vocational Lyceum in Nagykároly/Carei, Szatmár County. Traffic rules be taught in the new classroom. Mr. Potápi stressed that over the past two years, the Hungarian Government has provided HUF 12.5 million (EUR 38.900) for the school in the "2015 – Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad".



### Károly Pánczél: the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP) is a strong actor

The Hungarian National Assembly's Committee on National Cohesion arrived on a two-day visit to Slovakia. During their stay, the members of the committee held talks



on the current social situation of Hungarian communities and the situation of institutions concerning minorities. After a visit to the Érsekújvár/Nové Zámky district, the president of the Committee Károly Pánczél stated that with their personal presence they aim to help in the success of MKP candidates standing in the regional elections. Mr. Pánczél pointed out that regions play an important role in peoples' lives, in their everyday life, but voters are not really aware of this. The chairman of the committee said that it is important to draw attention to the fact that not only local governmental and national elections are important, but regional elections as well.



### Péter Szilágyi: the Hungarian government continues to support the European College in Vojvodina

Speaking in Serbia's Novi Sad/Újvidék on Sunday, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi emphasized that the Hungarian government has supported and continues to support the Europa College in Vojvodina, and will help the extension of the institution if needed. Mr. Szilágyi took part in the school year opening ceremony of first year students. It is the third year that first-year students can move in to the Hungarian college; it was opened in 2015. At the ceremonial event held on Sunday it was said that from year to year more students are applying to the European College, and so it has almost completely reached its capacity with 400 students. Mr. Szilágyi highlighted that in recent years more and more Hungarian colleges are being opened throughout the Carpathian Basin. He stressed that the main goal is to help young Hungarians abroad live and study in Hungarian communities, have an opportunity to develop themselves, receive Hungarian knowledge and pass on this knowledge to their homeland.



### Petro Poroshenko signs the new Ukrainian Education Act

On Monday, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed the new Ukrainian Education Act, which was adopted by the Kiev Parliament on 5th September, and which has generated major protests both in Ukraine and abroad – including Hungary – as it reduces the rights of national minorities to receive education in their mother tongue. The new legislation makes minority language education in the country practically impossible. Reacting to the Ukrainian president's act, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó declared that "We can guarantee that all this will be painful for Ukraine in future". He added that Hungary will veto and block every step in the European Union which means further progress for Ukraine towards the European integration process in terms of the Eastern Partnership. President of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and Member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics stated that Hungarians in Transcarpathia



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and the KMKSZ will continue the fight with legal instruments and do everything to save its kindergartens and schools. The newly-elected leader of the Fidesz parliamentary group, Gergely Gulyás, declared that, if it is necessary, the Hungarian state will secure Hungarian-language education in Transcarpathia through the establishment of private schools and private universities.