

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## The toughest possible diplomatic tools must also be considered in defense of Hungarian interests

“We should not shy away from using the toughest possible diplomatic tools in representation of Hungarian interests”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said in an interview published in Wednesday’s edition of Transylvanian daily Krónika. According to Mr. Szijjártó, the events of recent weeks have clearly indicated the extent to which Hungary and Romania are dependent on each other, citing economic relations between the two countries and the joint international representation of interests as areas in which such interdependence exists. He pointed to joint action with regard to Ukraine’s Education Act as a good example of the latter. The Romanian authorities are open and seem well-intentioned with relation to Hungary’s economic development program for Transylvania, after the Hungarian party made it clear to them that it wants to achieve exactly the same thing as the German state is doing with Transylvanian Saxons, he told the press.

## Semjén in Szatmár: support is not an “act of grace” but the obligation of the Hungarian state

Hungary is a strong country now, financially, as far as its pride is concerned, and also in its national awareness, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén stated in Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mare in Romania on Thursday at the inauguration of the St. Aloysius Convent School refurbished from grants provided by the Hungarian Government. Zsolt Semjén said at the inauguration of the Catholic boarding school refurbished from an allocation of HUF 94 million that Hungary and the Hungarian State do not only feel, but as is laid down in the new Fundamental Law, also bear responsibility for every Hungarian wherever they may live in the world. The Hungarian State is the State of every Hungarian; Mr Semjén laid down in his speech.

The convent school named after Jesuit monk St. Aloysius which forms part of the Hám János Roman Catholic Lyceum of Theology was built in 1997, and provided boarding in its first school year for 120 students, it accommodates presently 108 students.

In the Hám János Roman Catholic Lyceum of Theology, vocational education has started in the 2017/2018 school year. Due to the support of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office, two vocational education classes have started their operation this year. The consecration ceremony of vocational education was held on Friday and was attended by the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. The state secretary stressed in his speech that the aim of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is to achieve the prosperity of Hungarians in their homeland. He added that this aim can be reached by strengthening vocational education and through Hungarian economic development programs for Hungarians living outside the kin-state.



## László Tőkés is re-elected president of Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT)

At the meeting of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) which was held on Saturday in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, Member of the European Parliament László Tőkés was re-elected as president of the party. The present delegates summarized the public events of the past period, heard the president's and the managing director's reports as well as the reports of the EMNT on the work done in the so-called Democracy Centers in connection with the simplified naturalization procedure. After the reports, the present delegates reelected MEP László Tőkés, former bishop of Királyhágómellék president of the EMNT.



## István Grezsa: the second phase of the Carpathian Basin kindergarten development program is announced

Speaking on Friday in Nagymegyer/Veľký Meder at the 7th Municipality Free University of Hungarian mayors and representatives in Slovakia, Government Commissioner István Grezsa announced that the Hungarian Government is supporting the launching of the second phase of the Carpathian Basin kindergarten development program with an amount of HUF 21.5 billion (EUR 67.7 million). As part of the second phase of the program, 77 new kindergartens will be built and 217 institutions will be renovated. The government commissioner added that concerning Slovakia, 11 new kindergartens will be built and 95 institutions will be restored from HUF 5.4 billion (EUR 170.000). Mr. Grezsa said that "in the first phase of the kindergarten development program, Slovakia received the highest amount of support compared to its population. It seems to us that this territory needs the biggest help". The government commissioner added that there are 500 towns and villages in Slovakia where the ratio of the Hungarian population exceeds 15 % but in 200 of them there is no opportunity for children to attend a Hungarian nursery school.



## István Pásztor in Brussels: Vojvodina and Serbia receives increasing attention

Speaking to the Hungarian language television Pannon RTV in Brussels at the 15th Week of Regions and Towns, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor said that the assessment of Serbia and Vojvodina is much better now than it was before, and it is especially important from the perspective of the development of good relations among regions. Mr. Pásztor highlighted that "today Serbia and Vojvodina is receiving much more attention than before, and their general image has been much better." The head of the VMSZ added that during the meetings in Brussels he saw that several important regions are willing to cooperate with Serbia and Vojvodina, therefore, it is



important to make joint efforts in these issues especially now when the EU integration process of Serbia has become more intensive.



### Hungary will initiate review of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

The new Ukrainian education legislation creates a worse situation for Hungarians and other minorities than the situation they found themselves in regarding education in the Soviet Union, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stated in Ungvár who will initiate a review of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Union to be held next week. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade spoke about this after had had consulted with the leaders of Hungarian organizations and historical churches in Transcarpathia with respect to the situation that had evolved in the wake of the new education law. Mr Szijjártó said: at the meeting the parties came to the obvious conclusion that the education law which recently entered into force practically frustrates the operation of Hungarian schools in Ukraine, revokes the already acquired right of studying in the mother tongue over the age of 10 years, and in consequence, Ukraine violates all its existing international obligations. “We cannot allow this, the Hungarian Government will take the toughest action to combat these measures”, he added. Szijjártó also said that the representatives of Hungarians, civil society organizations, local churches and pedagogues asked the Hungarian Government to not give in; instead of agreement only withdrawal of the law can bring solution. The Minister emphasized: the fate of Hungarian communities abroad is non-negotiable; Ukraine has to withdraw the provisions of the law violating the rights of minorities.



### Árpád János Potápi: we must bear responsibility for the fate of our nation

Marking the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Hungarian Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II to Turkey, a three-day festival was held in Istanbul and Rodostó/Tekirdağ. The event was attended by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi. Speaking at a holy mass held at the Saint Benoit Church, the state secretary said that for the Hungarian community living in Turkey, Rákóczi is much more than a figure of the Hungarian history. He added that Rákóczi can be considered the founder of the Hungarian community in Istanbul and the founder of the friendship between Hungarians and Turks. Mr. Potápi stressed that the main message of the great prince is to bear responsibility for each other, regardless of where we live in this world. The state secretary stressed that everyone has his or her own role in the formation of the Hungarian future, either through teaching their children the Hungarian language or reinforcing the positive image of the Hungarian nation through their work.



## Péter Szilágyi: the number of new Hungarian citizens will reach 1 million by the end of the year

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the Regional Diaspora Council held in Cleveland, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi said that the number of new Hungarian citizens will reach 1 million by the end of 2017. The State Secretary visited the Hungarian community living in Cleveland where he attended the meeting of the Regional Diaspora Council. Mr. Szilágyi informed the members of the Council about the current details and new opportunities of the Hungarian Government's policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Among other issues, he mentioned that from the beginning of 2018, Hungarian weekend schools operating will have an opportunity to apply for increased Hungarian Government support. Mr. Szilágyi also stressed that one of the greatest results of the kin-state's policy is that the unification of the Hungarian nation under common law has been realized and – as a result – the number of new Hungarian citizens will reach 1 million by the end of the year.