

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

45/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## The Hungarian Standing Conference and the Hungarian Diaspora Council hold meetings this week

The Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) and the Hungarian Diaspora Council (MDT) will hold their annual meetings this week in Budapest. The plenary session of the MDT will be held on 9 November, while the meeting of the MÁÉRT will be organized on 10 November. Both events will be addressed by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Speaking to journalists, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that similarly to the previous years, the MÁÉRT will decide about the next thematic year, and if the current proposal is approved, Hungarian families might be in the focus in 2018. Mr. Potápi added that at the end of the session, a closing declaration will be adopted, summing up the most important events of the past year concerning Hungarian communities abroad. Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi told the journalists that the meeting of the Hungarian Diaspora Council will be attended by the representatives of 93 Hungarian organizations (last year this number was 75). At the meeting, the most important programs and measures concerning Hungarian communities abroad will be presented. The deputy state secretary added that in 2016, a strategic document entitled “Hungarian diaspora policy – Strategic directions” was adopted. In the document, four main fields were outlined on the basis of which the Hungarian diaspora policy can be developed: the development of Hungarian-language education in the diaspora, strengthening economic relations with the diaspora, strengthening diaspora diplomacy and the establishment of a Hungarian Emigration and Diaspora Center in Budapest. At both meetings, the Minority SafePack European Citizen’s Initiative will be presented which is a new opportunity for the protection of national minorities in the European Union. The participants of the MDT and the MÁÉRT will also have an opportunity to sign the initiative.

## Conference on Slovakian county elections is held in Budapest

On Monday, a conference was organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) in Budapest with the aim to evaluate the results of the Slovakian county elections which were held on 4 November. Speaking at the conference, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the results of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) can ensure a good position for the party for the next municipal elections which will be held in 2018. At the county elections, Slovakian government parties (Smer – SD) reached much worse results than four years ago, while right wing opposition parties strengthened. Concerning Hungarian parties, the Party of the Hungarian Community “defeated” the Slovak-Hungarian mixed Most-Híd (“Bridge”), since in four from five counties which have Hungarian population, the MKP reached better results than his rival (Pozsony/Bratislava, Nagyszombat/Trnava, Nyitra/Nitra, Besztercebánya/Banská Bystrica). The only county in which the Most-Híd was stronger is the county of Kassa/Kosice. Summing up the results, the chairman of the



Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that “all in all, the results reached by the MKP are good.” He added that despite the fact that his party had candidates only in five counties, it became the third strongest party in the country and in regions where Hungarians live in a bloc, the MKP is the absolute winner of the elections.



### The central building of the Székelyföld Ice Hockey Academy is inaugurated

The central building of the Szeklerland Ice Hockey Academy has been inaugurated in Csíkkarcfalva/Cârța. The aim of the academy is to establish the necessary logistic and human resources conditions for children and adults pursuing ice hockey or working in this field and help them prosper in their homeland. Another important pillar of the investment, the building of the sports medical wing has also started. The main initiator of the Székelyföld Ice Hockey Academy was the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen. Speaking at the event, Mr. Kelemen expressed his gratitude to all those people and institutions who contributed to the establishment of the academy, emphasizing the role of the Hungarian Government.



### County elections: the MKP “wins the battle for Hungarian votes”

There was a record turnout at the county elections held in Slovakia on 4 November. Compared to the elections held four years ago, Slovakian government parties have reached worse results, while right wing opposition parties have strengthened their positions. Concerning the “battle” for Hungarian votes, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) defeated the Most-Híd (Bridge) party, winning in five counties from four where Hungarians live. The only county where the Most-Híd won is the county of Kassa/Kosice. As a result, the MKP will have 33 representatives, while the Most-Híd – only 10 representatives in county councils.



### The VMSZ encourages Hungarians in Vojvodina to participate in Hungary’s approaching parliamentary elections

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) has launched an action the aim of which is to encourage Hungarians living in Vojvodina to take part in Hungary’s parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in April 2018. The activists are trying to reach every Hungarian citizen living in Serbia. Concerning the action, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that Vojvodina Hungarians’ participation in the elections “cannot be left to chance” and Hungarians who wish to vote must register. Within the framework of the action, 1800 activists will visit Hungarian families in Vojvodina. According to the information of the VMSZ,



there are 170,000 people in Serbia who have both Serbian and Hungarian citizenships, however, only 33,000 of them have registered for the elections. Mr. Pásztor added that the aim of the VMSU is to multiply this number.



### Bence Rétvári: the new Ukrainian education act violates the UNESCO's charter

Speaking at the 39th session of the UNESCO's General Conference in Paris, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Human Capacities Bence Rétvári said that the new Ukrainian Act on Education violates the charter of the UNESCO which states that the opportunity to study in one's mother tongue should be guaranteed for everyone. The state secretary said that it was important to stress at the UNESCO's assembly that Ukraine has made a serious step back in the field of language use since it is depriving the local Hungarian community from the possibility of mother tongue education. Mr. Rétvári added that he had asked the UNESCO to stand up against Ukraine because it is violating the rights of Hungarians and the charter of the UNESCO which were previously signed by Ukraine. The state secretary stressed that "Transcarpathian Hungarians' rights must be restored."