

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### János Áder: we celebrate the unity of our political nation

On Saturday, the one millionth new Hungarian citizen – who acquired citizenship under the simplified naturalization procedure – took the official citizenship oath at the Sándor Palace, in the presence of Hungarian President János Áder, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and House Speaker László Kövér. Addressing the event, Mr. Áder stressed that “today we are celebrating the unity of our political nation.” Mr. Áder said that “Miklós Lajkó and his family – who are farmers living in Vojvodina – have showed us what it means to be Hungarians. They wanted to become Hungarian citizens because they feel that they are Hungarian, Hungarian is their mother tongue, they finished Hungarian schools and their ancestors were also Hungarians.” The President added that “we, who live in the kin-state, should be grateful to them and thank them that through the generations they have preserved their ancestors’ faith and patriotism, they love in Hungarian, work in Hungarian, speak to their children in Hungarian and dream in Hungarian.”

### Prime Minister Viktor Orbán receives the chairman of the RMDSZ

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen in his office. The head of the RMDSZ informed the Hungarian Prime Minister about the political situation in Romania and the current cultural and educational issues affecting the local Hungarian community. The parties agreed that the first phase of the economic development program aimed to strengthen the prosperity of Hungarians in their homeland has been completed successfully and the program will be continued. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Kelemen also agreed that the cultural and education institutions serving the permanence of Transylvanian Hungarians should be further developed, and the Hungarian Government will support this process.

### Zsolt Semjén: it is moving to receive our compatriots living abroad in the House of the Nation

Welcoming the participants of a competition entitled “Democracy 1x1” – for Hungarian children between 14 and 18 living beyond the borders – Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén stressed that “it is moving that the House of the Nation can host a competition for children living abroad.” The competition was organized by the National Election Office (NVI) and the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad for secondary school students living in neighboring countries. It aimed to expand their knowledge of democracy, human rights, citizenship, the election system and international institutions. Addressing the event, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the simplified naturalization procedure was introduced to provide an opportunity for compatriots abroad to become Hungarian citizens with all associated rights. He stressed that the Hungarian Parliament is the house of the entire Hungarian nation.



### Péter Szijjártó: This has been a stormy year for Hungarian national minorities

Speaking at his annual hearing before Parliament's Committee for National Cohesion, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that "This has been a stormy year for Hungarian national minorities, of whom the Hungarians in Transcarpathia must face the greatest difficulties because of the Ukrainian Education Act, which continues to be unacceptable". At the hearing the Minister thanked all members of the Committee, regardless of their party affiliations, for coming to what he said is perhaps an unprecedented consensus on the issue, which adversely affects the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia. He also highlighted the fact that the European Union's procedure in relation to the issue has also been fair to an unprecedented degree, as Brussels has taken a stand in support of Hungary's three most important expectations. Mr. Szijjártó said that "The first such expectation is that Ukraine cannot remove the rights previously afforded to national minorities, including the opportunity to study in their native language; in addition to this, minority representatives must be consulted prior to making decisions that affect minorities; and finally Ukraine must fully implement the recommendations and conclusions of the Venice Commission, which call for the Education Act to be amended".



### A quarter of signatures supporting the Minority SafePack initiative are from Transylvania

Making a visit to Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, the head of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) Lóránt Vincze said that so far 360,000 people have supported the Minority SafePack Initiative, and the majority of the supporters are from Transylvania. One of the initiative's aims is to improve the situation of national minorities in Europe, including in the use of the mother tongue and community symbols, equal treatment and the preservation of minority culture. The initiative was registered in April 2017 by the FUEN and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). The initiators undertook to collect one million supporting signatures within one year. The head of the FUEN Lóránt Vincze said in Székelyudvarhely that out of the 360,000 supporting signature which have been collected so far, 231,000 are from Transylvanian Hungarians.



### István Grezsa addresses kindergarten ground-breaking ceremony in Komárom

On Sunday, as part of the Carpathian Basin nursery school development program, government commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office István Grezsa attended the ground-breaking ceremony of a kindergarten in Slovakia's Komárom/Komárno. Speaking at the event, László Fazekas, bishop of the Slovakia Reformed Christian



Church, praised Hungary's efforts for the permanence of Hungarian communities living abroad. Speaking about the aims and message of the Carpathian Basin nursery school development program, Mr. Grezsa said that Hungary's economic situation has greatly improved in recent years, which has enabled the kin-state able to help its compatriots living abroad.

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### István Pásztor receives Duna Award

On Tuesday the Duna Award – founded by the Duna Television – was handed over for the sixth time. This year the award was given to the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor. Praising the awardee, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that “this award sets the activity done for Hungarian communities as an example for the entire Hungarian nation.” Mr. Semjén added that in his life and public activity, István Pásztor has always paid particular attention to the strengthening of the political and economic situation of Vojvodina Hungarians, and has always worked in successful cooperation with his Serb partners. Mr. Semjén recalled that after the election of Mr. Pásztor, the VMSZ became stronger and more open to other Hungarian parties and organizations of Vojvodina. This resulted, he said, in unprecedented, exemplary cooperation among Hungarians living in Vojvodina.

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### The KMKSZ welcomes the opinion of the Venice Commission

In its statement issued on Tuesday, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) welcomed the opinion of the Venice Commission in connection with the new Ukrainian Act on Education which – according to the KMKSZ – is in line with the opinion of national minorities living in Ukraine. The KMKSZ welcomed the fact that the Venice Commission highlighted that the solution to the current situation of national minorities would be the amendment of Article 7 of the new Ukrainian Act on Education. Reacting to the opinion of the Venice Commission, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education offered three different education models for national minorities living in Ukraine, stressing that different methods should be used for different groups. Concerning national minorities speaking non-Slavic languages – including Hungarians and Romanians – the ministry suggests a model in which students after the 4th grade start to learn subjects in Ukrainian – instead of Hungarian – but in smaller numbers compared to other national minority groups.