

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Gergely Gulyás: Brussels should pay more attention to the issue of autochthonous national minorities

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, parliamentary group leader of Fidesz Gergely Gulyás stressed that from the point of view of Hungarian communities living abroad, it is of key importance that Brussels pay more attention to the situation of autochthonous national minorities. At the press conference, Mr. Gulyás signed the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative which was launched by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN). Speaking at the event, Mr. Gulyás stressed that the Minority SafePack is an initiative aimed at the protection of national minorities which "would oblige" the European Union to pay more attention to Hungarians living beyond the kin-state's borders. By 3 April 2018, the FUEN has to collect one million supporting signatures in seven countries. Mr. Gulyás recalled that in case the necessary conditions are met, the European Commission and the European Parliament will not be able to ignore the issue. Mr. Gulyás asked everyone – regardless of party affiliation – to support the Minority SafePack initiative.



## Draft law on Szeklerland's autonomy is submitted to the Romanian Parliament

On Friday, MP József Kulcsár-Terza – member of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) – submitted a draft law on Szeklerland's territorial autonomy to the Romanian Parliament. The draft law submitted by the politician is the Autonomy Statute of Szeklerland prepared and accepted by the Szekler National Council (SZNT). Mr. Kulcsár-Terza expressed the hope that this step will provide an opportunity for dialogue and will urge the majority nation in Romania to recognize and accept "Szeklers' right to full national freedom." Prime Ministerial commissioner Katalin Szili welcomed the submission of the draft law, declaring in a statement that this step might promote dialogue between Romania and Hungary in the issue of self-determination and strengthen cooperation between Hungarian parties, movements and civil organizations.



## József Menyhárt: 2017 was the year of work

József Menyhárt was elected president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (mKP) one and a half year ago. Since his election, he has visited all the regions in Slovakia inhabited by Hungarians, has taken an active part in the realization of a large-scale nursery school development program launched by Hungary and has been a key figure of several other important events affecting the life of the Hungarian community in Slovakia. Speaking to the Hungarian-language news site Felvidek.ma, Mr. Menyhárt said that 2017 was the year of work and 2018 will be the same.



Regarding future plans, Mr. Menyhárt said that a new media strategy has been also prepared in Slovakia the launch of which will be officially announced soon within the framework of a press conference.

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### István Pásztor: 2017 has been a crucial year for Vojvodina Hungarians

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that at a national level, the presidential election held in April was the most important event of the year in Serbia while concerning the local Hungarian community, the launch of the Hungarian Government's unprecedented economic development program was the most important milestone. Mr. Pásztor recalled that the VMSZ made a very important decision before the presidential election since it was the first time that – after the previous two elections – the Hungarian community did not launch an own candidate but supported the candidate of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), former Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic. The head of the VMSZ added that 2017 was a crucial year for the Hungarian community since many important projects of the Hungarian Government's economic development program were realized and the local community received financial assistance from the kin-state which has never been seen before.

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### 2017 has been the most difficult year for Transcarpathian Hungarians since Ukraine became independent

2017 has been the most difficult year for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia since Ukraine became independent in 1991. In addition to the current social and economic crisis, nationalism has also strengthened in the country. The new Ukrainian Act on Education – which was adopted on 5 September 2017 and would deprive national minorities from the right of mother tongue education – caused serious international reaction and “united” Hungarians who stood up firmly against the new law. While the situation of national minorities became worse in Ukraine in 2017, Hungary increased the amount of financial support ensured for Hungarians living in the region, supporting their education system, historic churches, doctors, people working in the field of health care as well as journalists and the teachers of art schools.

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### Róbert Jankovics is elected president of the HMDK

Róbert Jankovics – former executive chairman of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) and Member of the Croatian Parliament – has been elected president of the HMDK. Mr. Jankovics was the only candidate for the post and



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received unanimous support. The HMDK will also have four vice-presidents who will be elected by the national board. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after his election, Mr. Jankovics said that his main goal is to create a stronger, more unified and self-confident Hungarian community in Croatia.

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