

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Teachers of Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora meet in Budapest

The Balassi Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a four-day conference in Budapest for the teachers of Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora. The event was addressed by Deputy State Secretary responsible for Hungarian institutes abroad and international educational relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Judit Hammerstein. Ms. Hammerstein stressed that the Teachers of Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora meet in Budapest

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## Zsolt Németh: the Council of Europe report on the protection of minority languages is a milestone in European legal protection

The chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh has announced that the report of the Council of Europe on the protection and support of regional and minority languages is a milestone in the field of the protection of national minorities in Europe. Mr. Németh stressed that during the one-week session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the situation of the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia received special attention. He welcomed that the report presented by MP (Christian Democratic People's Party(KDNP)) Rózsa Hoffman – which was adopted on Tuesday – introduces further norms in the field of the protection of national minorities which – hopefully – will become part of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe. Mr. Németh stressed that the Charter – as a tool for the protection of national minorities – might bring further steps forward in the field of minority language use.



## Press conference in connection with the Matthias Corvinus Memorial Year is held in Kolozsvár

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office declared 2018 "Matthias Corvinus Memorial Year." As part of the memorial year, the organizers held a press conference in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, the birthplace of the king, introducing the main events of the year. Speaking at the press conference, the organizers stressed the integral role of Matthias I. The head of the Council for Human Dignity and member of the memorial year's advisory board Zoltán Lomnici said that the figure of Matthias Corvinus can connect the nations of Central Europe and represents a strong Hungary which was able to protect its borders from the Ottoman Empire. MP (Christian Democratic People's Party) and head of the advisory board Gergely Gaal stressed that the identity of a nation is based on two pillars: a joint mother tongue and joint history. The head of the Magyarság Háza (House of Hungarians) Krisztina Csibi said that as part of the memorial year, Transylvania and Kolozsvár will receive key roles. As an example, she mentioned that the Transylvanian opening event of the year will be held in Kolozsvár on 23-23 February.



## Elvira Kovács: National minorities should receive more attention

Parliamentary representative of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) Elvira Kovács has been elected chairperson of the Committee of the Regions on Non-discrimination and equal opportunities of the PACE of the Council of Europe. Speaking to the Vojvodina daily Magyar Szó, Ms. Kovács said that her major aim is to pay special attention to the issues connected with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. According to her opinion, the main attention is usually paid to those members states which have not ratified the framework convention yet, however, similar attention should be paid to those members states which have already ratified it. She stressed that it should be examined how these states "are using the convention in practice."



## There must be a legal guarantee that the Ukrainian Government will consult with Transcarpathian Hungarians

"There must be a legal guarantee that Ukraine will not begin implementing the new Education Act until an agreement has been reached with the local Hungarian community with relation to it", Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said on Wednesday in Paris, where he held talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister



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Pavlo Klimkin and U.S. Secretary of State Wess Mitchell within the framework of an extraordinary Hungarian-Ukrainian-American trilateral meeting. Ukraine cannot implement a law relating to education without having come to an agreement with the representatives of the Hungarian national community. Promises are not sufficient, we need legal guarantees that this will happen”, Mr. Szijjártó said. “What we require is for the Ukrainian Government to come to a legally binding decision which makes it clear that the implementation of the new Act will not begin until talks with the Hungarian national community have been successfully concluded”, he added. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, claims that this is a bilateral Ukrainian-Hungarian issue “portray a false image”. “By adopting the new Education Act, Ukraine has violated the most fundamental international norms with relation to protecting minorities, including the European Union’s and the Council of Europe’s regulations on protecting minorities and the plan of action that Ukraine has undertaken within the framework of NATO”, he pointed out.

