

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Potápi: Every Hungarian child born in mixed marriage needs Hungarian-language education

Speaking at a conference held as part of the Family Day organized by the Association of Family Organizations in the Carpathian Basin, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the aim of the Government is to provide an opportunity for every child born in mixed marriage to attend Hungarian-language education institution (including nursery schools), otherwise they "will be lost" for the Hungarian nation. At the conference held on Saturday in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly, the leaders of Hungarian organizations abroad discussed the situation of Hungarian communities abroad and their possibilities for permanence. Speaking at the conference, the state secretary stressed that despite the general population decrease, the number of Hungarians in the world is still 15-16 million from which 2-2.5 Hungarians live in the Carpathian Basin and 2-2.5 Hungarians – in other parts of the world, in the diaspora. Mr. Potápi added that it is extremely important for the Hungarian Government that these Hungarians preserve their Hungarian identity.

## Katalin Novák: the issue of Hungarians abroad cannot be a campaign theme

Speaking at the Family Day in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly, State Secretary for Youth and Family Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Katalin Novák stressed that the issue of Hungarian communities living abroad cannot be a campaign theme. The event was organized as part of the "2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad" thematic year. The state secretary said that some weeks before the approaching parliamentary elections which are scheduled to take place on 8 April, some people believe that the issue of Hungarians living abroad can be a theme for the campaign. She added that the only possible point of view in this issue is that Hungarians living abroad are "our sisters and brothers" and it has nothing to do with the election. Ms. Novák also spoke about the new forms of assistance which are available for Hungarians living abroad: maternity support and baby bonds. Ms. Novák stressed that the goal of these forms of support is to express that every child is valuable for the kin-state, regardless where they are born in the world.

## New calls for application for the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and Petőfi Sándor Program are available

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office, Árpád János Potápi said that this year and the next an increased number of young Hungarians will be assigned to the Hungarian diaspora around the world and scattered Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin to help them preserve their identity and language. The state secretary said that the number of scholarship holders taking part in the Petőfi Sándor Program (PSP) (which is focusing on Hungarian communities in the Carpathian



Basin) will be increased from 65 to 75, while those taking part in the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (KCSP) – from 115 to 150. Mr. Potápi added that a new element of the programs is that within the framework of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program, 30 participants will be so-called “church scholarship holders” (priests, deacons, theologians, catechists). The state secretary stressed that the KCSP and the PSP are the “flagships” of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad which address Hungarians living in different parts of the world and strengthen relations between them and the kin-state.



### We have lost a great patriot

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán believes that with Zoltán Kallós’s death we have lost a great patriot. The Prime Minister’s message of condolence was read out by Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén on Saturday at the Válaszút funeral service. In his message the Prime Minister quoted the saying that it is not having Hungarian grandparents that makes a Hungarian, but rather having Hungarian grandchildren. He took the view that this is the thought that rendered Zoltán Kallós the “honorary grandfather” of not only the children who attended the Válaszút school, but of every Hungarian. Mr. Orbán recalled Zoltán Kallós’s teaching that, in addition to fostering its mother tongue, the secret of the survival of the Hungarian community lies in its singing and dance culture. “We are grateful for the fact that by visiting Hungarian villages he gathered together the hidden treasures of folk art, and with his foundation and summer camps he helped children to find a true home among the values of our common heritage.” The Prime Minister concluded that with Zoltán Kallós’s departure “we have lost a great patriot”.

### The Hungarian Government’s economic development program has started in Transylvania

On Friday, 521 Transylvania Hungarian entrepreneurs signed contracts worth HUF 1.5 billion (EUR 4.8 million) as part of the Hungarian Government’s economic development program in Transylvania. The ceremony took place at the Marosvásárhely/ Târgu Mureş building of the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for economic diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar stressed that the program can help a lot local Hungarians. Mr. Magyar added that this success would not have been possible without a strong Hungarian Government, the entrepreneurs’ faith, the exemplary work of the Pro Economica Foundation and the Romanian Government’s support.





## Government commissioner hands over “Hungarian corners” in Slovakia

Speaking in Slovakia’s Révkomárom/Komárno, government commissioner at the Prime Minister’s Office István Grezsa stressed that the target group of the Hungarian Government’s Carpathian Basin nursery school program is the entire Hungarian nation and its aim is to strengthen national unity. As part of the ceremony held in the town, Mr. Grezsa handed over so-called “Hungarian corners” – packages containing methodological aids for children. The government commissioner stressed that with these packages, the Hungarian Government is trying to improve the quality of Hungarian-language education in neighboring countries and help children expand their knowledge of Hungarian culture. Speaking at the event, the chairman of the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that is an “unbelievable” result that due to the Hungarian Government’s program, 58 nursery schools have been renovated in Slovakia.



## Hungary supports Serbia’s EU accession in the strongest possible terms

“Hungary supports Serbia’s EU accession in the strongest possible terms because it is in line with Hungarian interests from several perspectives”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said in a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday. The Minister was attending a two-day informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Sofia, which began on Tuesday, and held talks with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić. Reporting on the meeting, Mr. Szijjártó said that Hungary is also a supporter of Serbia’s EU accession because it would be good for Vojvodina Hungarians, and the stability of the Western Balkans, of which Serbia is clearly one of the most critical pillars, is of extreme importance to Hungary. In addition, the more member states it has, the stronger the EU, he pointed out. “It would be important to accelerate Serbia’s accession process”, he stressed, adding that “Hungary agrees with Serbia that the country will be ready to join the EU by 2022”.



## Ukraine must suspend the implementation of the Act and begin negotiations with Transcarpathian Hungarians

Hungary calls on Ukraine to “suspend the implementation of the Education Act instead of conducting an international campaign of lies” until it comes to an agreement with Transcarpathian Hungarians on all of the details, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó declared on Friday in a telephone statement to Hungarian news agency MTI. The Minister attended a two-day informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Sofia, which began on Thursday. Mr. Szijjártó told the press that on Friday a meeting of prospective EU member states was held at which the parties discussed security issues relating to Europe. “The subject of security fundamentally includes the question of to what extent countries that are moving towards European



integration respect European regulations, including the regulations on minorities”, he declared. “Ukraine, which is aspiring to achieve European integration, has recently severely contravened the international laws on the protection of minorities, adherence to which is also strictly required by the European Union”, he added. Ukraine has “launched an international campaign of lies against Hungary and Transcarpathian Hungarians”, Mr. Szijjártó said, explaining that “Transcarpathian Hungarians did not attend a meeting with the Ukrainian Government in Kiev at which negotiations on the Ukrainian Education Act took place in accordance with the requirements of the Venice Commission”.

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