

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Árpád János Potápi: the Hungarian Government pays special attention to Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora

Speaking at a conference entitled “Meeting of Hungarian weekend schools” organized by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office in Budapest, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government pays special attention to the supporting of weekend schools for Hungarians around the world, as they greatly contribute to the preservation of Hungarian identity and culture. The conference was attended by nearly 100 participants from all parts of the world including the USA, Canada, Australia, Latin America, Western Europe and Israel. Addressing the event, Mr. Potápi stressed that according to government data, 213 Hungarian weekend schools operate around the world with a total student body of around 5,200-5,300. The state secretary added that the Hungarian Government reached out to the schools via a survey last year, garnering a response from 117 of them. Mr. Potápi added that last year, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad launched two schemes aimed at helping the Hungarian diaspora preserve their identity, focusing on Hungarian diaspora organizations and Hungarian weekend schools. He recalled that in 2010, the Hungarian National Assembly decided to clear all obstacles to the “creation of a unified Hungarian nation”. It was as part of this commitment that the law on dual citizenship was adopted. Mr. Potápi added that the following year – 2011 – saw the founding of the Hungarian Diaspora Council which meets every year. Mr. Potápi also recalled that in 2013, the Government launched the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program aimed at helping Hungarians living in different parts of the world within the framework of which scholarship holders are sent to the diaspora to help Hungarian communities preserve their identity and culture.

## Péter Szilágyi: Hungarian teachers preserve their identity

Speaking at a large-scale event in Budapest organized for Hungarian teachers from different parts of the world, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that “Teachers are preserving and protecting Hungarian identity.” The deputy state secretary stressed that the necessary framework for education is ensured by politics, but it is “teachers’ work and commitment that is filling this framework with life.” Mr. Szilágyi stressed that every child is entitled to Hungarian-language education regardless of whether they live in Beregszász/Berehove, Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures or San Francisco. The deputy state secretary recalled several efforts of the Hungarian Government made for the strengthening of mother-tongue education in the world, including the so-called thematic years launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. He added that as part of the 2015 – Year of Hungarian Vocational Education Abroad, 120 workshops have been established and the renovation of vocational education institutions will continue in 2018 as well. Mr. Szilágyi also spoke about the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program which was launched in 2016 and within



the framework of which hundreds of Hungarian kindergartens will be built and renovated abroad.

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### King Matthias Days are held in Kolozsvár

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the King Matthias Days in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca which marked the 575th birth anniversary of Hungary's King Matthias, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that several nations in the region consider Matthias Corvinus as one of their own. The event this year was held as part of the King Matthias Memorial Year launched by the Hungarian Government. Addressing the event, the state secretary emphasized that "the name of King Matthias today means the same in Hungarian, Croatian, Czech and Romanian: to rebuild the former glory of the region". He added that Matthias's message is that nations in the region should set aside disputes and start building a future together. The state secretary highlighted that Matthias realized that a country needs to be strong and confident to survive and that peoples in central Europe can only maintain their Christian traditions together.

The celebration was held at the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania in Kolozsvár where – as part of a large-scale ceremony – the main hall of the building was named after king Matthias.

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### Vojvodina Economic Development Program to reach 250 million euro mark

The Hungarian Government's Vojvodina Economic Development Program will be reaching the 250 million euro mark in 2018, which means the Government has kept its 2015 promise, according to which it will be providing a new vision of the future to the Hungarian community in Vojvodina within a short period of time and will be placing the Hungarian economy in Vojvodina onto new foundations", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Parliamentary State Secretary, Levente Magyar said on Thursday in Bácskossuthfalva/Stara Moravica, where the Program's latest tenders were launched. The state secretary said that when the Government launched the economic development program two and a half years ago they didn't promise that life would become easier and require less struggle from one day to the next, "but we did promise that we will be opening up a perspective before the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, the likes of which could not have been expected or contemplated in previous decades". Mr. Magyar said that "These tenders and results are helping many thousands of Hungarian families in Vojvodina, and are compensating them for having decided to remain in the land of their birth." He added that "It is a historic compensation for the many difficulties that the community has had to suffer during the past century". The state secretary stressed that "The Serbian Government's support of the Program was essential to its success, in addition to which the positive atmosphere that has characterized Hungarian-Serbian relations in recent years and



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he alliance of strategic depth that has developed between the two states had also contributed to the Program's success."

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### New kindergartens are inaugurated in Transcarpathia as part of the Hungarian Government's Program

As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program launched by the Hungarian Government in 2016, three new Hungarian institutions have been renovated from HUF 13 million (EUR 41,000), in cooperation with the Transcarpathian Greek Catholic Church. The new kindergartens were inaugurated by government commissioner responsible for the region István Grezsa. Speaking at one of the institutions in Beregdéda/Didovo, the government commissioner said that as part of the program, 25 institutions have been renovated in Transcarpathia so far. The renovation of the kindergartens was coordinated by the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) which is the Hungarian Government's strategic partner.

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