

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Signatures supporting the Minority SafePack Initiative could reach one million

Speaking at a conference organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) in Budapest focusing on the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the number of signatures supporting the initiative could reach the necessary number: one million. The State Secretary recalled that the initiative was launched in May 2017, at the 15th congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN). Within the framework of the initiative, one million supporting signatures must be collected in at least seven Member States of the EU in order to "oblige" the European Union to deal with the issue of national minorities. Speaking at the conference, the head of FUEN Loránt Vincze stressed that at least 60-70 million people belong to national minorities in Europe, and therefore they are all affected by this issue. He added that the Minority SafePack is not a Hungarian issue, and has grown into a European movement. On Saturday, the representatives of national minorities living in Hungary also signed the initiative, together with State Secretary for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész.



## Péter Sziijártó: on 8 April ten temporary border crossing points will be open on the Romanian border

Speaking in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Sziijártó said that Hungarian and Romanian authorities have agreed that on Sunday 8 April – the day of parliamentary elections in Hungary – ten temporary border crossing points will be open on the Hungary-Romania border. These can normally only be used on Saturdays. Mr. Sziijártó held a press conference in the Transylvanian town in connection with the Hungarian Government's economic development program in Transylvania which is implemented by the Pro Economica Foundation. The Minister added that the border crossing points will be open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on 8 April, making it easier for Hungarians living near the border to vote in the elections.

## Romanian Constitutional Court: law on the refounding of the Roman Catholic School is unconstitutional

According to a ruling by the Romanian Constitutional Court on Monday, the law on the re-founding of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures is unconstitutional. The head of the constitutional court Valer Dorneanu said that the Parliament can only adopt general laws, but specific cases cannot be regulated by laws. He added that the National Assembly cannot adopt laws which have legal



consequences only for one legal person, and the case of the Roman Catholic High School would be a case of this type.

### Ex-deputy mayor of Kolozsvár sentenced to prison for corruption

On Friday Anna Horváth, former deputy mayor of Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca and executive chairperson of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison by the Cluj Court of Appeal. The ruling is not final and can be challenged by appeal. In the same case a businessman from Kolozsvár, Zsolt Fodor, has also been sentenced to two years and six months on probation. Anna Horvath was charged with influence peddling and money laundering. In response to the decision, the chairman of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen wrote that the decision of the Kolozsvár Court of Appeal is not based on justice and law. In his Facebook post Mr. Kelemen wrote that Anna Horváth has been sentenced to prison “without any evidence”. He stressed: “Can we talk about the rule of law when a person is sentenced to prison with no evidence?” Hunor Kelemen added that Ms. Horváth will continue to be a leader and a voice for the Hungarian community in Kolozsvár



### Árpád János Potápi: young people remaining in their homeland strengthen the Hungarian future

The State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office has visited a Hungarian vocational school in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajska Streda, where he handed over developments which were supported by the Hungarian Government. Speaking at the event, the State Secretary said that the school has been renovated as part of the program “2015 – Year of Hungarian vocational education abroad.” Mr. Potápi spoke about the main goals and results of the program, adding that the thematic year will also continue in the future, in order to help young Hungarians prosper in their homeland. The State Secretary added that as part of the thematic year, the Hungarian Government allocated HUF 170 million (EUR 540,000) for the renovation and development of Hungarian vocational educational institutions in Slovakia. He added that this sum was HUF 888 million (EUR 2.8 million) for the entire Carpathian Basin.



### István Pásztor: there is much we can be proud of

Speaking at a commemoration held in Brussels to mark the 170th anniversary of the 1848/1849 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that “if the leaders of today’s Europe knew Hungarian history, they would be more cautious when speaking about Hungarians.” The head of the VMSZ and President of the Vojvodina Provincial House



of Representatives said that “if we compare Hungarians with other European nations – including those living in Western Europe – we see that there is much we can be proud of.

### Vojvodina provincial government supports the operation of national councils

The Provincial Government of Vojvodina will allocate RSD 60 million (EUR 508,000) for the operation of national councils in Serbia. This money will be distributed among the 15 minority municipalities operating in Vojvodina. The contracts on the assistance were signed in Újvidék/Novi Sad, with the largest amount of assistance going to the Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina (MNT). Speaking about the assistance, the head of the Hungarian National Council Jenő Hajnal said that a part of it will be spent on the development of Hungarian media in Vojvodina. He added that the beneficiaries will include the Media House in Szabadka/Subotica.



### István Grezsa opens the first Hungarian House in Rahó

On Friday, government commissioner István Grezsa handed over the first Hungarian House in Rahó, which will be a center for dispersed Hungarian communities living in Transcarpathia. The building of the institution was supported by HUF 120 million (EUR 382,000) from the Hungarian Government. Speaking at the ceremony, government commissioner István Grezsa said that “the building of the Hungarian house in Rahó is a real investment in the future.” He added that “this center proves that assimilation can be reversed.” The government commissioner stressed that the Hungarian house is the result of the recent years’ active policy for Hungarian communities abroad and the assistance of the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the cooperation between Hungarians living in the region.



### Hungarian diplomatic presence returned to Lendva after many years

Speaking at the opening of the new building of the Hungarian consulate general in Lendva, in Slovenia, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that “After many years Hungarian diplomatic presence has returned to Lendva, the capital of the Hungarian community in Slovenia.” The State Secretary highlighted that this was the twenty-third foreign representation that had been opened or re-opened around the world, from Latin America to East Asia, in the past four years. He added that “however, the representations in the Carpathian Basin are closest to our hearts, and the Lendva representation is one of these”. He stressed that Lendva occupies a prominent place on the map of the Hungarian government, and the fact that the foreign representation has been rebuilt this swiftly is clearly a reflection of the excellent relations that Hungary maintains with the Slovenian government and people.