

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

24/2018



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Hungarian students living abroad celebrate the Day of National Unity in Hungary

On the Day of National Unity – 4 June – Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén received more than 200 young Hungarians living abroad. The commemoration was held at the Great Hungary Memorial Park in Királyszállás. The students arrived in Hungary due to the Rákóczi Association’s program. Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the aim of the Act on the Testimony for National Cohesion – which was adopted in 2010 – was “to give answer to the tragedy of the Treaty of Trianon” and “these answers mean life for the following centuries.” Mr. Semjén highlighted that the Great Hungary Memorial Park – where the event was held – has three main goals: to remind us to the tragedy which happened in 1920, to tell the truth in the issue of Trianon and to emphasize “the pride” since “we have survived and we are still here.” The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that “those who made the treaty of Trianon believed that they can kill Hungarians if they destroy Hungarian economy and society, but they were not right.”



## European Commissioner Tibor Navracsics holds talks in Marosvásárhely

European Commissioner responsible for education, culture, youth and sport Tibor Navracsics made an official visit to Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures where he had talks with the leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen on the situation of Hungarian education in Romania. Mr. Navracsics and Mr. Kelemen took part in a closed forum which was also attended by the Romanian minister of education Valentin Popa and several politicians of the RMDSZ. Speaking at the forum, Mr. Kelemen said that after several years, it seems that the issue of the Marosvásárhely Theological High School can be solved and the school can be re-established through a government decree. The head of the RMDSZ said that the Romanian government parties show openness in this question and the RMDSZ will also continue to make every effort to solve the issue of the school. Mr. Kelemen added that another priority issue for the RMDSZ is to settle the situation of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Targu Mures.

Romania’s Minister of National Education Valentin Popa has said that he supports the merging of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Targu Mures (MOGYE) and the Petru Maior University and said that this is “part of the university autonomy.” Speaking at a joint press conference with European Commissioner Tibor Navracsics and the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen, the minister said that the decision about the merging was made by the senates of the two universities and the “minister’s opinion can have no influence over university autonomy.”



### Via Nova ICS becomes an umbrella organization

On Saturday, the Via Nova ICS – Hungarian organization in Slovakia, the youth partner organization of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) – held its general assembly in Komárom/Komárno. At the, the organization amended its ground rule according to which it will continue its operation as an umbrella organization. Due to the amendment, the name of the organization also changed from Via Nova ICS to Via Nova Youth Association the members of which in the future will be not people but separate organizations. As a result, the activity of the organization will also change: instead of organizing different programs and events, the Via Nova will pay more attention on the representation of the interests of Hungarian young people living in Slovakia.



### Carpathian Basin road show of the Year of Hungarian families abroad ends in Vojvodina

The thematic year entitled “2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad” was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the beginning of 2018. As part of the thematic year, several programs are organized the aim of which is to support Hungarian families living in neighboring countries. One of the programs was a Carpathian Basin road show within the framework of which the State Secretariat – together with the HelloWood creative group visited Hungarian communities (usually small Hungarian communities), providing them an opportunity to take part in joint DIY work the results of which (pieces of furniture) were offered for Hungarian communities. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the head of the executive committee of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Anikó Jerasz said that these events are extremely important for local Hungarian communities since they strengthen unity and through them not only young people but older generations can also be addressed.



### Leaders of Transcarpathian Hungarians hold talks with the Ukrainian minister of education

The leaders of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community – the chairman of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics, head of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ) László Zubánics and the president of the Hungarian Teachers’ Association in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) Ildikó Orosz – held talks with the Ukrainian Minister of Education and her colleagues



on the new Ukrainian Act on Education which has been heavily criticized in recent days since it would seriously restrict the rights of national minorities living in Ukraine. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the talks, Mr. Brenzovics said that the meeting can be considered a “step ahead” in the issue. He added that according to pledges of the Ukrainian ministry, the article on the language of education (article 7) will not enter into force until 2023. The ministry also pledged that until 2023, they would hold further consultations with the representatives of the Hungarian community in order to find a solution to the current situation which is acceptable for every party. The minister also declared that the new law would not concern private schools.

### Hungarian and Ukrainian first ladies inaugurate rehabilitation center in Transcarpathia

On Friday, Anita Herczegh, the wife of Hungarian President János Áder and Ukrainian First Lady Marina Poroshenko inaugurated a rehabilitation center at an orphanage in Ukraine’s Rát/Rativci. At the event, the Hungarian first lady said that the Hungarian Presidential Office would grant HUF 3.2 million for the purchase of equipment for the center. The Ukrainian first lady thanked the staff and leadership of the home for providing family-scale homes for the children, who are all orphans with disadvantaged backgrounds. Mrs. Poroshenko stressed that “the Hungarian “support and understanding” shows that “despite the borders, we are all parts of a large European family.”. The first ladies also greeted participants in a charity run that left Budapest on June 4 and raised money for the Rát centre.



### Annual meeting of Hungarian diaspora schools is held in New York

On Sunday, the annual conference of American Hungarian schools was held at Hungary’s Consulate General in New York. The event consisted of different training courses and workshops. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity for teachers of Hungarians schools in the USA to meet, share experience and expand their knowledge in the field of teaching. Addressing the event which was attended by 500 teachers, Consul General of Hungary in New York Ferenc Kumin stressed the importance of Hungarian Houses, Hungarian religious life and Hungarian schools in the USA. Mr. Kumin said that these institutions play a crucial role in the preservation of Hungarian culture and identity in America. He added that among them the role of schools is extremely important since they are responsible for future generations.

