

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Árpád János Potápi: 2018 is the year of families

Speaking to the Hungarian daily Magyar Hírlap, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government's aim is for more Hungarian children to be born both in Hungary and abroad, and for them to attend Hungarian-language schools and become successful members of the Hungarian nation in their homelands. The State Secretary stressed that support for families and children will remain in focus in the current government term. He added that 2018 is the year of families – both in Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Potápi recalled that the Ministry of Human Capacities declared 2018 the Year of Hungarian Families, and the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities abroad “joined” this initiative, launching the “2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad.” Within this thematic year several programs are being organized with the aim of helping families. Mr. Potápi also spoke about the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor and Petőfi Sándor Programs, stressing that both are extremely successful. The State Secretary added that the scholarship holders sent to different parts of the world within the two programs have managed to “invigorate” Hungarian communities across the world: new communities were found, new weekend schools were established, new scout groups were formed and several second and third generation Hungarians managed to pass Hungarian language exams as a result of the teaching and preparation of the scholarship holders.

## Deputy State Secretary receives the participants of the ReConnect Hungary Program

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi received the interns of the ReConnect Hungary Program (young people of Hungarian descent living in the USA and Canada) at the Duna Palace (Duna Palota) in Budapest. The Deputy State Secretary stressed that “we are a world nation”, and that of the 15 million Hungarians across the world, 2.5 million live in the diaspora. Mr. Szilágyi recalled that 2010 was a turning point in Hungarian diaspora policy: after the 20th century, when Hungarians living in the diaspora were “neglected”, the kin-state started to pay special attention to this area, and Hungarians living in different parts of the world at last received the attention they deserve. The Deputy State Secretary recalled that in 2010 a new constitution and the law on dual citizenship was adopted, and it was declared that Hungary not only feels responsibility for its compatriots living abroad, but will fulfil its responsibility towards them. Mr. Szilágyi said that 2011 was also a milestone with respect to the diaspora, since that year saw the formation of the Hungarian Diaspora Council: the highest level forum of dispersed Hungarians living in different parts of the world.





## Ministerial decree on the issue of the Marosvásárhely school might soon be adopted

Speaking to journalists, Bálint Porcsalmi, the Executive Chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), said that the ministerial decree has been prepared which can settle the issue of the Marosvásárhely Catholic High School. Mr. Porcsalmi said that “soon it will be seen whether the political will of the Social Democrats will be accompanied by realization under common law.” He added that two ministerial decrees from the Ministry of Education are necessary: the first one is about starting the school’s accreditation procedure; the second one is about the local school network. Mr. Porcsalmi added that if they are realized, a preparatory class can run from September.



## Martos Summer Open University is to focus on families and national minority rights

The “season” of Carpathian Basin summer universities will start in Slovakia on 4 June. According to the organizers, this year the Martfeszt – Martos Summer Open University will focus on families, national minority rights and topical issues in domestic and foreign policy. This year’s program – the slogan of which is “Home is Here” – will be held from 4 to 8 July. The Summer University is organized by the Via Nova Youth Organization and the student association of the Selye János University, and is supported by the Government of Hungary. As in previous years, the opening event will be a roundtable discussion, with the participation of House Speaker László Kövér, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi, the Chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt and Jenő Szász, the head of the Research Institute for National Strategy (NSKI).



## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán had talks with President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians

In the Parliament Building on Wednesday morning, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, had talks about programs which seek to support Hungarians in Vojvodina, the provincial decision on red-letter days in Vojvodina, and Serbia’s EU integration. At the meeting the Prime Minister confirmed that in the coming years the Government of Hungary will continue to support Hungarian economic development projects in Vojvodina, as well as cultural, educational and church programs aimed at helping the Hungarian community. The President of the Alliance informed Mr. Orbán about a decision recently adopted in the Provincial Assembly of Vojvodina about red-letter days for the community of Vojvodina, which will allow Hungarians in the province to celebrate 20 August – the day of the foundation of the Hungarian State – in appropriate



circumstances. Mr. Orbán agreed with the position of the Alliance: that for such a diverse region it is acceptable for each nation to designate the memorable red-letter days which are important for its own history. The press chief highlighted that at the Wednesday meeting Mr. Pásztor asked the Hungarian Prime Minister to continue to strongly support Serbia's soonest possible accession to the European Union, because EU membership serves the best interests of both the Serbian and Hungarian peoples.



### Ukrainian foreign minister: Ukraine does not want to discriminate against Hungarians

Speaking to the Ukrainian press, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin said that "Hungary has started to understand that Ukraine does not want to use the new Act on Education to discriminate against the Hungarian minority living in Transcarpathia." As has been reported, the Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó and the Minister of Human Capacities Miklós Kásler held a meeting last week in Transcarpathia with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin and Minister of Education Lilija Hrinevics, with the participation of representatives of Transcarpathian Hungarians, to discuss issues relating to Article 7 of the Ukrainian Education Act, which discriminates against minorities. At the meeting the Hungarian Foreign Minister stressed that Hungary has no intention of entering into a debate on how the Ukrainian Education Act aims to make the teaching of the official state language more efficient. He stressed that "We want only one thing: that this is not achieved to the detriment of minority language education, and education in Hungarian is not negatively affected by the fact that the Education Act seeks to make the teaching of the state language more effective." Mr. Szijjártó stressed that during the meeting progress had been made, which he welcomes, but that "the road before us is still a long one, and there is still a lot of hard work to be done jointly to enable us to return to the state of affairs that existed last September."



### Árpád János Potápi: King Matthias wanted Central European unity

Speaking in Slovenia's Lendva, at the opening of an exhibition on the life and spiritual heritage of King Matthias – which is part of the King Matthias memorial year, launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad – State Secretary Árpád János Potápi stressed that King Matthias wanted to protect Hungary from the expansion of the Ottoman Empire through Central European unity. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the State Secretary said that the memory of Mátyás is not only strong among Hungarians, but also among neighboring nations: Czechs, Slovaks and Serbs. He added that Slovenia and Lendva is not an exception. Mr. Potápi said that the name of King Matthias reminds us that unity is strength, and the



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building of our future depends on us – but in cooperation with nations living around us.



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