

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Péter Szilágyi: Hungarian culture is a huge treasure in the hands of Hungarian youth living in the diaspora

In Parliament, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi welcomed a group of young Hungarians – second and third generation Hungarians living in Uruguay – who arrived in Hungary as part of the Diaspora Program of the Rákóczi Association, which is supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking to the participants, the ministerial commissioner stressed that although the number of Hungarians in Latin America is only a few thousand, they have a Hungarian house, a well-organized association and a living relationship with the kin-state. Mr. Szilágyi added that “we are a small nation, therefore it is extremely important for Hungarians living in the diaspora maintain close relations with the kin-state. He added that the aim of the Diaspora Program is to address young Hungarians living far from Hungary and provide them with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with their roots through visiting their “old homeland”: the homeland of their parents and grandparents.



## Romanian Government withdraws article on the education of Romanian language, minister of education resigns

At the request of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Romanian Government has deleted the article in its regulation issued in August which discriminated against Hungarian students; as a result, the Romanian language can be taught as a school subject again by Hungarian teachers at elementary schools. Speaking about the decision, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that this result means that the Romanian Government had adopted the opinion of Hungarian children and parents, experts in the field and the RMDSZ, and acknowledged that the step of the minister of education was thoughtless and without a professional basis. On Thursday, Romanian minister of education Valentin Popa announced his resignation, because he disagreed with the withdrawal of the regulation.

## Hungarian Days in Temesvár

As part of a large-scale Hungarian cultural event named Hungarian Days in Temesvár/Timisoara, Hungarian children were handed over the so-called “school starting package”, which is financial assistance provided by the Rákóczi Association to those children who are starting their school studies at Hungarian schools abroad. Speaking at the event, ministerial commissioner Ferenc Kalmár said that dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin are the “bastions” of the Hungarian nation. He added that it is an important goal of the Hungarian Government to help



Hungarians' permanence in their homeland and to foster the strengthening of their relations with Hungary. Mr. Kalmár recalled that 2010 brought a radical change in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, and that today even economic development programs have been launched. As part of the cultural festival, 89 Hungarian families received the assistance of the Rákóczi Association, which enrolled their children in Hungarian schools.



### Árpád János Potápi: the MKP continues to be a strategic partner of the Hungarian Government

Speaking at a press conference in Pozsony/Bratislava together with József Menyhárt, chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), after talks held at the headquarters of the party, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the MKP continues to be a strategic partner in Slovakia of the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi said that the talks with the leaders of the MKP had several important goals: the first is the approaching jubilee congress of the party; the second one is to have talks on the Hungarian Government's programs in Slovakia; and the third is to take part in the academic year opening ceremony of the Pozsony Hungarian College. Mr. Potápi stressed that Hungary will continue to provide every kind of political support for the MKP. Speaking at the event, the head of the MKP József Menyhárt thanked Hungary for its support and stressed that his party has strength, partners and vision.

### The Party of the Hungarian Community holds jubilee congress

On Saturday, the largest Hungarian party in Slovakia, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), held a jubilee congress in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajska Streda, celebrating the 20th anniversary of its establishment. Addressing the event, the chairman of the party József Menyhárt said that the MKP is the core of the Hungarian community in Slovakia. Mr. Menyhárt recalled the main moments of the party's establishment, praising its former presidents Pál Csáky and József Berényi. He stressed that they were "leaders" who were able to hold the community together. Speaking at the event, Ministerial Commissioner Péter Szilágyi stressed that during the past 20 years the MKP was a real "shaper" of the life of Hungarians in Slovakia, adding that "as long as we believe in the party, it will continue to fulfill this role." He added that the main goal of the Hungarian Government is to have Hungarian communities abroad which are strong, responsible and are able to decide on their fate and which have leaders who know what is good for the community. Mr. Szilágyi added that the MKP is such a community, therefore, Hungary will continue to support it. The delegates of the congress decided that chairman József Menyhárt will be the candidate of the Party of the Hungarian community at the 2019 presidential election in Slovakia.



## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán opens football academy in Vojvodina

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the TSC Football Academy in Topolya/Backa Topola in Vojvodina, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that sports, especially football, are “Central Europe’s common language”. Mr. Orbán stressed that sports are a “natural link” between peoples of the region. He added that nations that cooperate will become stronger, while the ones reluctant to do so will be weak and “fall apart”. Mr. Orbán added that “Serbs and Hungarians have opted to cooperate.” He also said that the new football facility was “but the beginning” and added that “many beautiful tasks, sports centers to be built and organizing sports for thousands of children are ahead of us”.



## State Secretary: the Hungarian Foreign Minister cannot be intimidated

Speaking at a press conference, State Secretary for Information and Hungary’s International Image at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tamás Menczer declared at a press conference the “the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade cannot be intimidated in the dispute with Ukraine concerning dual citizenship”. Tamás Menczer said that in Ukraine anti-Hungarian attacks are occurring with the involvement of the administration and state, as proven by the fact that Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó was added to the list of enemies of Ukraine by an extremist Ukrainian website after criticizing President Petro Poroshenko. He added that “the Hungarian Foreign Minister cannot be intimidated and Transcarpathian Hungarians can naturally continue to count on Péter Szijjártó and his definite, unconditional and determined support.” Mr. Menczer said the attack against Transcarpathian Hungarians had moved to another level when Ukrainian secret services conducted an operation at the Hungarian Consulate in Beregszász/Berehove, with which they “broke all written and unwritten diplomatic rules”. Prior to the press conference, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that “if the Ukrainian Government decides to expel the Hungarian Consul in Beregszász, Hungary will immediately expel a Ukrainian consul working in Hungary.” He added that everything that had happened at the Hungarian representation in Berehove and at every Hungarian representation in Ukraine with relation to providing Hungarian citizenship is fully in harmony with both Hungarian and international law.

As has been reported, some days ago a secretly filmed footage – in which Transcarpathian Hungarians are seen taking the Hungarian citizenship oath in Beregszász – was leaked. In response, after publication of the video Ukrainian foreign minister Pavlo Klimkin called on Hungary to take action and said that Ukraine will not allow Hungary to hand out its passports to Ukrainian citizens. The events caused diplomatic tension between the two countries.