

# 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: Szeklers from Bukovina have preserved their culture

Speaking at the inauguration of a Szekler country house in Hungary's Kismányok, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that Szeklers of Bukovina have preserved their culture and identity, even 77 years after their arrival in Hungary. The establishment of the house was initiated and organized by the National Association of Szeklers from Bukovina. At the ceremony – which started with a pilgrimage and a holy mass at the local church – the state secretary stressed that “the Szekler house symbolizes that we are not only “guests or visitors” in the Carpathian Basin but ancient inhabitants of this region and we hope that we will continue to be state-forming nations in the future as well.” The participants of the event – among whom there were Szeklers from Hungary and abroad – also commemorated the martyrs of Arad: the leaders of Hungary's revolution and freedom fight who were executed by Austria in 1849. In 2001, October 6 was declared a national day of mourning.

### László Tőkés: autonomy is the only possible answer to the Treaty of Trianon

Speaking at the meeting of the Hungarian Autonomy Council of the Carpathian Basin (KMAT), the head of the council László Tőkés stressed that “autonomy is the only possible answer to the Treaty of Trianon”, highlighting that “without autonomy every policy on national minorities is self-deception”. Mr. Tőkés recalled that the last meeting of the KMAT was held at the beginning of March when the members decided to launch a series of conferences and events connecting to the centenary (the hundredth anniversary of the 1920 Treaty of Trianon). The head of the KMAT stressed again that “autonomy is the only possible solution for Hungarian communities living abroad”, however, in this issue they would like to choose “peaceful ways instead of confrontation.”



### Commemoration on 6 October in Arad

Hungary's eternal “need for freedom” was in the focus of speeches delivered at the 6 October commemoration held in Romania's Arad. Recalling the events of the 1848-1849 Hungarian revolution and war of independence, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tamás Vargha said that Austrian prime minister of the time Felix zu Schwarzenberg called Hungarians “rebels who should be annihilated”, but he was not right. Speaking at the commemoration, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen emphasized that “it is no enough to acquire freedom, we must retain freedom, cultivate it, protect it again and again (...), and recognize which is that point at which freedom – total and unbounded freedom – starts to restrict other people's freedom. Mr. Kelemen highlighted that “we have to be free in our homeland and for our homeland.”



## SZNT calls on people to lit watch fires on the day of Szeklerland's autonomy

The president of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) Balázs Izsák has called on Hungarian Christian congregations of the world to pray together for the autonomy of Szeklerland on 28 October 2018 and asked the residents of Szeklerland to lit watch fires on this day, the day of Szeklerland's autonomy. The president of the SZNT stressed that one of the most important tools of the fight for autonomy is the regular expression of the community's will. The SZNT initiated that on 28 October 2018, at 5.30 p.m. watch fires are lit at every town in Szeklerland.



## László Kövér: Hungarians are targets of culture fight

Speaking at a 6 October commemoration in Slovakia's Nyárasd/Topol'níky, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that the 19th century armed struggle against Hungarians was replaced by a culture war after 6 October 1849. Mr. Kövér stressed that the new war had been helped by political tyranny "and can still be observed today". He added that "the first targets of this culture war were the intellectual cornerstones of the revolution of 1848: the Hungarian language and its roots", adding that the "conscious culture war" that had targeted Hungarians over the course of the 20th century was still being waged today. The house speaker stressed that the ones being attacked were always those who "want to strengthen the identity of Hungarians, who want to remain Christian, Hungarian, men and women and want a Hungary that remains Hungarian and a Europe that will belong to Europeans" for further generations. He said the Austrian retaliation that followed the execution of the Arad martyrs was aimed at depriving Hungarians of their national pride.



## Developments in Bácskossuthfalva with Hungarian Government support

In recent days, several developments have taken place in Serbia's Bácskossuthfalva/Ómoravica, realized from the Hungarian Government's support. As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, the playground of the local Hungarian kindergarten has been renovated and developed. Currently 103 Hungarian children are attending the institution. As part of another program, a local monument paying tribute to the victims of World War One will also be renovated in the near future. Speaking to journalists, the chairman of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal said that the monument is extremely important not only for Hungarians in Vojvodina, but also for Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin.

## October 6 commemoration in Vojvodina

Hungarians in Vojvodina held their central 6 October commemoration in Elemér/Elemir. The ceremony started with a holy mass at the Saint Augustine church.



After the mass, Hungary's ambassador to Serbia Attila Pintér and the president of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal delivered a speech. Mr. Hajnal stressed that "we remember the martyrs of a defeated freedom fight, but this commemoration can only be worthy to their memory if we "discover the ideal of freedom behind it." The head of the MNT emphasized that the martyrs of Arad encourage us "to do what we want, to decide independently in issues affecting our life and to believe in these issues with heart and soul." After the speeches, the participants laid wreaths at the statue of martyr Ernő Kiss at the church garden.



### Péter Sziijártó: Hungary is expelling a Ukrainian consul in retaliation

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Sziijártó said that "as a proportional response to Ukraine's measure, Hungary is expelling a Ukrainian consul". The Minister was reacting to the fact that on Thursday (4 October) the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry declared the Hungarian Consul in Beregszász/Berehove a persona non grata and ordered that he leave the country within 72 hours. Mr. Sziijártó stressed that "Hungary has an interest in maintaining good relations with neighboring Ukraine, but in recent months Ukraine has been continuously aggravating the conflict with Hungary". He emphasized that "the Hungarian Consul expelled from Ukraine's territory did not contravene any law". The foreign minister added that Ukraine's Ambassador to Budapest was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Thursday and told that one of the consuls working at the Ukrainian Embassy in Budapest must leave Hungary within 72 hours". The Minister said it was fact that the hidden camera video recorded at Hungary's foreign representation in Beregszász and made public a few days ago, was acquired within the framework of a secret service operation, which goes against all of the written and unwritten rules of diplomacy.

### Árpád János Potápi: tense Relations with Ukraine Won't Affect Hungary's Support for Transcarpathian Hungarians

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new kindergarten built in Ukraine's Beregszász/Berehove as part of the framework of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the prime minister's office Árpád János Potápi said that "Hungary's tense relations with Ukraine will not affect the Hungarian government's support for the Hungarian community in living in Transcarpathia." Earlier in the day, Ukraine's foreign ministry announced that it was expelling a Hungarian consul serving at the Beregszász consulate for having conducted a Hungarian naturalization ceremony for Ukrainian citizens there. Hungary has responded by expelling a Ukrainian consul. Speaking at another ceremony – at the inauguration of the so-called teachers' house built from support from Hungary – Mr. Potápi said that the Hungarian Government will continue to do



everything it can to make sure that the quality of life of Ukraine's Hungarian community does not deteriorate. He stressed that the Hungarian Government has done everything in recent years to ensure that the Transcarpathian Hungarian community feels that there is a kin-state behind it and that it knows that no matter what difficulties it may face, it can count on the Hungarian government." Mr. Potápi added that Hungary "expects the same from the Ukrainian authorities, whose number-one job is to protect every single citizen and guarantee their safety, irrespective of their ethnicity."

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