

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Conference for Hungarian university students abroad

Between 7 and 9 December, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad organized a three-day conference for Hungarian university and college students studying in neighboring countries. The conference in Eger was organized for the 6th time and was attended by 45 students from Transylvania, 5 students from Slovakia, 16 students from Vojvodina and 14 students from Transcarpathia. In addition to providing an opportunity for young people to take part in roundtable discussions and workshops focusing on current political and public life issues, the aim of the conference is to strengthen ties between young Hungarians living in different parts of the Carpathian Basin. The event was addressed by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi and Parliamentary and Strategic State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Balázs Orbán.



## Péter Szijjártó: The Transylvanian Economic Development program serves the joint interests of Hungary and Romania

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI on the sidelines of a session of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stressed that it is the goal of both the Hungarian and Romanian governments to maintain the dynamics of improving relations between the two countries. Mr. Szijjártó said he had spoken on the telephone with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu. The Hungarian Minister added: "We mutually assured each other that this is in the interests of both countries, particularly in view of the debate on the future of Europe, and the Hungarian national community living on Romania's territory in Transylvania and Szeklerland". He added that "We confirmed that in the interests of continued good relations we will be maintaining our commitments". Mr. Szijjártó stressed that he assured his Romanian colleague that the Transylvanian Economic Development Program serves not only the interests of the Hungarian community living there, but those of the whole of Romania, as businesses that receive funding from the Transylvanian Economic Development Program operate within the territory of Romania and pay their taxes there, and accordingly reinforce the whole of the Romanian economy. Mr. Szijjártó added that "they naturally also contribute to strengthening local Hungarian national communities, and this is not only in Hungary's interests, but also in Romania's, since we view the Hungarian national community living there as something that connects the two countries."

## RMDSZ: article of the Gyulafehérvár Declaration dealing with national minorities should be codified in law

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) would like to codify in law those pledges of the Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia Declaration which have not been realized yet. According to the newsletter of RMDSZ, the party's lawmakers have



included the first point of the third article of the Gyulafehérvár Decree in a draft law. According to this, the draft law of the RMDSZ asks the Romanian Government to ensure proportional representation for national minorities in different institutions at every level: local, county, national and European level. The draft law also asks Romania to ensure appropriate representation for national minorities at courts as well as to ensure the necessary number of workplaces in leading positions at governmental and decentralized institutions. The RMDSZ also proposes the regulation of the self-determination of minority education and cultural life in the statutes of national minorities and the establishment of so-called “development regions” and autonomies with special status in historic regions where national minorities live in large numbers.



### Balázs Orbán: It is important to establish new think tanks for young Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Martos/Martovce Community House and the Esterházy Academy, Parliamentary and Strategic State Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office Balázs Orbán said that it is important to establish new think tanks in the Carpathian Basin for young Hungarians since they are the people who will make the 21st century the century of the Hungarian nation. Mr. Orbán added that this is a huge task and responsibility. He added that the Esterházy Academy is one such think tank where young people active in public life are trained. The state secretary stressed that the Hungarian Government considers it important to support the operation of the Esterházy Academy, since this institution gives young Hungarians in Slovakia knowledge which will help them become serious and responsible representatives of their local Hungarian community. Speaking at the event, the head of the National Council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) Péter Óry said that the academy is an initiative which serves the future of young Hungarians in Slovakia, and therefore it receives full support from the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP).



### Levente Magyar: Hungarian economic development program in Vojvodina is a huge success

Speaking in Szabadka/Subotica, at the closing event of the Hungarian economic development program in Vojvodina, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar stressed that the program is a huge success. Mr. Magyar recalled that over the past three years, developments worth 70 billion HUF (EUR 215 million) have been realized or are in progress. He added that from this sum, 23 factories have been built and ten thousand Hungarian entrepreneurs in Vojvodina – and their families – have received support from the Hungarian Government. Speaking at the event, the president of the Alliance of



Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor recalled that the launching of the economic development program was possible due to the 2010 paradigm shift in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. He added that this was a radical shift in assistance policy, and – in addition to programs focusing on the strengthening of identity – prosperity in the homeland was placed in focus. Mr. Pásztor added that the Hungarian Government initially ensured HUF 50 billion (EUR 153 million) for the Hungarian economic development program in Vojvodina, but this sum was increased later, and now total amount of support including preferential loans and non-refundable grants exceeds HUF 65 billion (EUR 200 million).



### There is some favorable progress related to regulations affecting the Hungarian community in Ukraine

Following bilateral talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin on the sidelines of a session of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Council in Milan on Thursday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó declared that “there is some favorable progress related to regulations affecting the Hungarian community in Ukraine, and there is some progress in general bilateral relations between Budapest and Kiev”. Mr. Szijjártó said that the Ukrainian Parliament had placed on its agenda a vote on the extension of the transition period of the new Education Act. He added that this is unfortunately not a guarantee that the vote will be held, pointing out that there have already been two similar, unsuccessful initiatives. Mr. Szijjártó added that “We certainly value the Ukrainian Government’s intent to have Parliament place onto its agenda a vote on the fact that the transition period prior to the coming into force of the new Education Act should be extended until 2023 in accordance with the expectations of the European Union.” He added that they also regard it as positive that the two governments have mutually permitted the opening of honorary consulates in Siófok and Ternopil. Mr. Szijjártó said it was also positive that the Hungarian Ambassador has been able to begin his operations in Kiev, and that he and the Ukrainian party had also come to an agreement on extended opening hours for the border crossing stations at Barabás and Lónya. The Hungarian Minister said it is also good news that some progress has been made on establishment of two new border crossing stations at Nagypalád and Nagyhódos.

### Katalin Szili: Hungarians in Transcarpathia must feel that the kin-state stands by them

Addressing the congress of the election of new officials of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Ukraine (UMDSZ), Prime Ministerial commissioner Katalin Szili stressed that Hungarians in Transcarpathia must feel that the kin-state does not stand behind them but stands by them, and helps their permanence and prosperity in their homeland



with all possible means. Ms. Szili said it is a key goal to retain Hungarian youth and intellectual capital in their homeland. She stressed that Ukraine must understand that the issue of democracy and the protection of minority rights are equally as important as the question of security. Ms. Szili stressed that Transcarpathian Hungarians are not migrants, they are constituent parts of the state and they want to live and prosper in their homeland. She stressed that even one hundred years from now the Hungarian language should be spoken in Beregszász/Berehove and children should be able to study, think and pray in Hungarian language.

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