

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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## The Rákóczi Association receives Duna Award

The Duna Award – founded by the public media channel Duna Television – has been presented for the 7th time. This time, the recipient was the Rákóczi Association. The award was presented by Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén and managing director of Duna Media Provider Nonprofit Ltd. Menyhért Dobos. Praising the activity of the Rákóczi Association, Mr. Semjén said that in 1989 the Rákóczi Association was founded with the aim of supporting Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin in their everyday battle for permanence, as well as to cultivate the legacy of the Hungarian prince Ferenc Rákóczi II and the martyred politician János Esterházy. Mr. Semjén stressed that the most impressive feature of the activity of the Rákóczi Association is that it focuses on the future, since its target group consists of secondary school students in the Carpathian Basin. The Deputy Prime Minister added that the Rákóczi Association has nearly 25,000 members and this number is growing by approximately 2,000 people every year (the membership's average age is 22). Mr. Semjén added that the Association pays particular attention to the promotion of Hungarian-language education and the building of relations between young Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Semjén stressed that what the association has committed to is a mission, what it does is a service, and what it has achieved is a marvel.

## István Grezsa: third phase of the Carpathian Basin nursery school program starts soon

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa announced that the Hungarian Government has decided on the continuation of the Carpathian Basin nursery school program. Mr. Grezsa said that the Government will provide HUF 9 billion (EUR 27 million) for the third phase of the program. The ministerial commissioner recalled that the program was launched at the end of 2016 and will finish in 2021. With the third phase, its total budget is HUF 47 billion (EUR 145 million). The ministerial commissioner expressed the hope that this large-scale program will bring major changes in institutions in neighboring countries where Hungarian children study. Mr. Grezsa added that the program affects 1,665 institutions in the Carpathian Basin which are attended by 48,000 Hungarian children. He added that their number is growing continuously and the Hungarian Government hopes that, despite the demographic situation and assimilation, this number will reach 60,000 by 2021. The ministerial commissioner added that in the first and second phase, 150 new institutions are being built and more than 450 institutions are being renovated in the Carpathian Basin.





## Leaders of Szeklerland welcome the introduction of the Day of Hungarian-Szekler Cohesion

Sándor Tamás, head of the Kovászna/Kovasna county council, and Árpád Antal, the mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, have issued a statement welcoming the Hungarian National Assembly declaration of 16 October as the Day of Szekler-Hungarian Cohesion. According to the local leaders of the Szekler community, 16 October – the beginning of the Szekler Assembly held in Agyagfalva/Lutița – is a memorable historic moment which “justifies unquestionable national cohesion.” On 16-18 October 1848 the participants of the Szekler Assembly held in Agyagfalva – almost 60,000 people – declared that they stand by the Hungarian Government. This date was the official beginning of the Szekler Uprising and Szeklers’ involvement in the 1848/1849 Hungarian Freedom Fight. According to the two leaders, with this decision the members of the Hungarian National Assembly have declared that although Hungarians are separated from each other by borders, Hungarians and Szeklers share common causes.



## Katalin Szili: the permanence of dispersed Hungarian communities is the key to the permanence of the nation

Speaking in Slovakia’s Léva/Levice at the presentation of educational aid for the Rákóczi Association, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that dispersed Hungarian communities are the bastions of the Hungarian nation, and their preservation is a key to the preservation of Hungarians living in larger enclaves. Ms. Szili stressed that for the Hungarian Government every Hungarian counts. She added that this is not only a slogan, since every program and measure – for example, the year of Hungarian families abroad – proves that the support of Hungarians’ prosperity in their homelands is a primary aim for the kin-state. She added that within the program, parents who enroll their children in Hungarian-language education institutions receive one-off financial assistance.



## Árpád János Potápi: support for economic development in Vojvodina is the result of joint thinking

Speaking at the Vojvodina stop on the Carpathian Basin tour of the 2018 – Year of Hungarian communities abroad, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the fact that more than 10,000 Hungarian entrepreneurs have now received financial help from the Vojvodina Economic Development Program is the result of the joint thinking of the Hungarian Government and its strategic partner, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and the Hungarian National Council (MNT). Mr. Potápi recalled that 2018 was the year of Hungarian families abroad and Hungary provided HUF 1 billion (EUR 3 million) for the program.



He added that most of this amount was spent on supporting micro and small enterprises, as well as family enterprises. The state secretary stressed that support for enterprises is extremely important since through this group one can reach and help Hungarian families. He expressed the hope that with this help Hungarian families will not have to leave their homelands because they cannot earn a living there.



### The KMPSZ holds its 27th congress

In Beregszász on Saturday, the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) held its 27th congress, which focused on the current problems of Hungarian-language education. Addressing the event, the president of the KMPSZ and rector of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute Ildikó Orosz said that 2018 passed in the shadow of the adoption of Article 7 of the Act on Education, which would deprive Hungarians of their established rights. Ms. Orosz stressed that the law would create a dangerous precedent: since the establishment of nation states it has always been a natural right that the members of any national minority could study in their mother tongue. The head of the KMPSZ added that it is regrettable that instead of constructive dialogue, Ukrainian public education authorities are showing “a condescending attitude” towards the representatives of the Transcarpathian Hungarian communities. Speaking at the event, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that the Hungarian Government will always be a partner of the KMPSZ, since its activity is of key importance for the permanence of the Hungarian community. Mr. Grezsa also praised the activity of the president of the association, Ildikó Orosz, asking the participants of the forum to protect their prominent members from the attacks.



### Hungarian families from Croatia in Budapest

Last weekend thirty Hungarian families attended an event entitled “Fabulous Advent – Family weekend in Budapest” organized within the 2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad, launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Among the families, there were two from Croatia. The event aimed to help Hungarian families from different parts of the Carpathian Basin to get to know the Hungarian capital and each other, strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ties.

