

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

50/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### Zsolt Semjén: The Fidesz-KDNP alliance is an unparalleled success

Speaking at the 26th congress of the ruling Fidesz party, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that the alliance of the Fidesz and the KDNP is an unparalleled success. The Deputy Prime Minister recalled the main measures of the Hungarian Government. He stressed that a new, "national" Basic Law was adopted and the government managed to "wash away the shame of 5 December 2004 when the socialists and liberalists betrayed the nation": Hungarians living in territories thrown apart from Hungary have been given an opportunity to apply for Hungarian citizenship, therefore, the unification of the nation under common law has been realized. Speaking at the event, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics expressed his gratitude, on behalf of Hungarian communities living abroad, for what the Hungarian Government has done for Hungarians in Transcarpathia and the whole Hungarian nation. Mr. Brenzovics stressed that the Hungarian Government took measures which contributed to the permanence of the Hungarian community in the Carpathian Basin, and to the "reproduction of the national idea."

### János Áder: We must take care of our Hungarian identity

Addressing a state dinner in honor of the religious leaders of Hungarian communities in neighboring countries held at the presidential Sándor Palace, President János Áder said that "if Europe or Hungarians around the world give up their spiritual heritage, they would lose not only their identity but an extremely important source of humanity, too." The President said that people of faith have faced extremely difficult questions in recent months. Mr. Áder also referred to the tragic historical experiences of the Hungarian nation, citing its refugees and "the sudden appearance of a group of people from another culture". He added that "We know what it is like when there are so many newcomers that the recipient community is forced to give up its identity and adapt to the immigrants." He emphasized that the unparalleled success of the European culture is due to the fact that it is based on the diversity of nations, languages and world views, and the Hungarian culture is also part of this wealth. The President stressed that "if Europe or Hungarians around the world give up their spiritual heritage, they would lose not only their identity but an extremely important source of humanity, too", adding that "this is why we have to take care of our Hungarian identity, both in Hungary or in any other parts of the world." Mr. Áder stressed that in this sense, the religious leaders of Hungarian communities in neighboring countries have done invaluable work for which they deserve the deepest gratitude.

### Hungary's relations with neighboring countries are varying

On Tuesday, speaking at his hearing at the meeting of the Committee on National Cohesion of the Hungarian National Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary's relations with neighboring countries are varying:



there are countries with which our “ties have never been this good,” while relations with some others “have never been this bad.” The Minister said that though cooperation with Slovakia and Serbia has been burdened with “serious challenges, tensions and historical issues”, a pragmatic cooperation has helped resolve the situation. Concerning Croatia, bilateral ties have never been as bad as today, and relations with Romania also pose “great challenges”. The minister said that regarding neighborhood policy, building mutual trust should come first, as well as developing cooperation on certain issues, which will serve as a basis to settle difficult issues. Mr. Szijjártó added that Hungary regularly consults with the representatives of local Hungarian communities in neighboring countries, since they are the ones who know what they really need.

### The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad announces the Márton Áron Memorial Year

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has announced the launch of the Márton Áron Memorial Year which will take place between 24 December 2015 and 24 December 2016. The memorial year will consist of different program series, including jubilee conferences, irregular history classes and various competitions for students. Speaking at a press conference in Budapest held to announce the launch of the program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Transylvanian bishop Áron Márton is connected with not just Catholics in Transylvania but with every Hungarian, and can be the role model of people belonging to any religious denomination. He added that the start of the memorial year, 24 December marks the day when Márton Áron was appointed bishop of Transylvania in 1938. Mr. Potápi added that according to their plans, on 28 July 2016 – the 120th anniversary of the bishop’s birth – Áron Márton will be commemorated in every Hungarian church and the noon bell will also mark his memory. The patron of the memorial year is President of Hungary János Áder, while from the church patron of the program is the archbishop of Gyulafehérvár György Jakubinyi.



### The Transylvanian interns of the Petőfi Sándor Program find their work useful

On Tuesday, the Transylvanian interns of the Petőfi Sándor Program (a scholarship program aimed to support dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin) took part in a press meeting organized by Hungary’s Consulate General in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. Speaking at the event, the interns said that they find their work useful. Under the Petőfi Sándor Program, fifty young Hungarians were spent to different dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin to help the communities and carry out community building activity. Among them 22 young people are working in Romania, who arrived there in August. Young Hungarians



living outside Hungary were also eligible for the program, therefore, among the interns working in Romania there are participants from Vojvodina, Transcarpathia and Moldavia as well. The Consul General of Hungary Lajos Mile said at the event that the interns do very important community building work which is adjusted to local community needs. Mr. Mile added that the interns' aim is that their work is continued after the expiry of the program as well.

### The Szekler flag becomes the official flag of Harghita county

The official representative body (council) of Harghita county has adopted the Szekler flag as the official flag of the county. The draft resolution – submitted by the head of the council Csaba Borboly – proposed five variants, out of which the members of the council chose the Szekler flag. The Romanian councilors, who represent the minority in the decision-making body, asked that a red oak leaf – as a symbol of the Romanians – to be added to the flag, but their proposal was voted down. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), which has a majority in the council, and the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP) supported the decision.



### László Kövér: European core values are “under attack”

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a local renovated sacred monument (White Cross) in Slovakia's Csallóközcsütörtök/Štvrtok na Ostrove held on Friday, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that “European core values, Christianity and the national idea are under attack.” The house speaker listed the sacred monuments erected in Csallóközcsütörtök during the history of the town, stressing that all of them were more than simple monuments, since they were the road signs of the Hungarian and European fate of the local community. Mr. Kövér said that it is not accidental that the two bases of Europe's identity – Christian values and the national idea – are “under attack” today. He added that these days physical violence is preceded by spiritual violence, and the first step towards the subordination of a community is the breaking of its identity. He added that European nations might become the victims of this violence if they do not recognize their common fate and their interdependence.



### The MNT, VaMADiSz and VIFÓ start their information tour

The Hungarian National Council (MNT), the Association of Hungarian Students in Vojvodina (VaMaDiSz) and the Vojvodina Youth Forum have started their joint tour the aim of which is to provide information for students about issues and opportunities connected with higher education. During the tour, the three organizations visit 1300 Hungarian students of 36 secondary schools. The opening stop of the tour was the Economic and Trade School of Zenta, where the representatives of the organizations gave information about the advantages of higher education in Vojvodina, the faculties



universities and colleges offer, opportunities concerning student hostels and dining, as well as scholarship opportunities, paying special attention to the complex scholarship program of the Hungarian National Council which serves the prosperity of students in their homeland. The scholarship program of the MNT includes different courses preparing students for university and college entrance exams, scholarships, mentor-demonstrator program, training courses in Serbian language, as well as programs helping students find jobs.



### The regulation of the Ukrainian Ministry of Education is illegal according to the KMKSZ

The Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) has announced that the regulation of Ukraine's Ministry of Education which gives only three weeks for the translation and publication of the 4th and 7th grade textbooks of Hungarian-language Transcarpathian schools in the 2015-2016 academic years is an infringement of the rights of Transcarpathian Hungarians to mother-tongue education. The representatives of the KMKSZ highlighted that the attitude of the ministry's decision-makers to Hungarian-language education in Transcarpathia is irresponsible, and the regulation violates not just Ukraine's education law, but also Transcarpathian Hungarians' right to education in their mother tongue. As a result, the KMKSZ has called on the Minister of Education to take immediate measures in order to ensure a suitable deadline for the high-quality translation and edition of textbooks.