

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

19/2014



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
AND JUSTICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

**NPKI** | NEMZETPOLITIKAI  
KUTATÓINTÉZET  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



### MOGYE controversy: lawsuit criticizing the university charter dismissed

The Târgu Mureş Court of Appeal has delivered a final and binding verdict dismissing a lawsuit in which Hungarian civil society organizations and parties in Transylvania attacked the charter describing the structure of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureş/Marosvásárhely (MOGYE). The Court of Appeal has rejected the claim, which stated that the university charter violates the provisions of the 2011 Education Act. In a statement on Monday, the university's leaders welcomed the judgement, which was handed down on 23 April. According to the statement, the judgement finds that the Hungarian-language medical and pharmaceutical training at the university organized according to the charter conforms to legal requirements. The university leaders asked Hungarian professors who had resigned from their positions to review their decisions. As previously reported, last week Hungarian professors at MOGYE resigned from their positions in the university's management body after the failure of talks on the establishment of independent Hungarian departments at the university.



### Today Hedvig, tomorrow you? Justice instead of despotism!

On Wednesday evening hundreds of people participated in a demonstration at Vármegyeház Square/ Župné námestie in Pozsony/Bratislava in support of Hedvig Žák-Malina, protesting against her indictment and the current situation in the Slovak justice system. The participants – including Hungarians and Slovaks – sent a message to the Government by their presence, expressing that “enough is enough”. The major figures in Hungarian public life in Slovakia were also present: representatives of the parties which took part in the organization of the demonstration – the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and Most-Híd – as well as members of local governments, civil and cultural organizations, and many Slovaks who felt it important to participate in the demonstration.

The Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the case of the ethnic Hungarian Hedvig Žák-Malina is a human rights issue and indicates that any other individual in Slovakia could face a similar situation. In a statement Mr. Semjén said that the Hungarian government welcomes the protest within Slovakian civil society against Mrs. Žák-Malina's indictment. It is in Hungary's interest that every individual in Slovakia should live in peace and that the members of the Hungarian community should be able to thrive in their place of birth, enjoying equal rights without the risk of suffering Mrs. Žák-Malina's fate as a result of using their own language or declaring their identity.



## Hungary submits application to intervene in Zoltán Lomnici's lawsuit against the EP

In a statement on Wednesday, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad announced that in order to show its support for Hungarians in Slovakia who had been deprived of their Slovak citizenship, Hungary has submitted an application to the Court of Justice of the European Union to intervene in Zoltán Lomnici's lawsuit against the European Parliament. As President of the Council for Human Dignity, in 2012 Zoltán Lomnici – at the request of the Hungarians in Slovakia who had been deprived of their citizenship rights – submitted a petition to the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament. He contested those elements of the Slovak Citizenship Act which state that persons adopting the citizenship of another country are deprived of their Slovak citizenship. After several months of examination, the Committee accepted the case, but some time later dropped it without explanation. Justifying Hungary's application to intervene, the State Secretariat has stated that Hungary's position is that, according to the Court of Justice's case law, it can be stated that the Committee on Petitions acted unlawfully. The State Secretariat added that Slovakia had also submitted an application to intervene in the lawsuit. Mr. Lomnici said that the Hungarian government's application to intervene is an important step, and it has also been welcomed by Hungarians living in Slovakia who have been deprived of their Slovakian citizenship.

## Zsuzsanna Répás: Ethnic Hungarian votes reflect support for government policy

At the Hungarian Youth Festival in Slovakia's Dunaszerdahely/Dunajska Streda, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás said that support for the Government's policy on Hungarian communities abroad is best reflected by the fact that 95 percent of the ethnic Hungarians outside the borders voting in the Hungarian general election on 6 April voted for the ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance. The Deputy State Secretary referred to government measures enacted over the past four years; in this regard she emphasized the importance and results of new legislation which forms the basis of the Government's new policy for Hungarian communities abroad – including the new Fundamental Law and the amended Hungarian Citizenship Act, which is considered a testimony to support for national unity, and she also presented the work of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Ms. Répás said that the dialogue between the Hungarian government and ethnic Hungarian organizations in neighboring countries has been restarted. She added that among the concrete achievements of the new action strategies it is very important that Hungarian institutions abroad – including educational institutions – have been strengthened, as these strategies have contributed to making Hungarian communities abroad stronger and more unified.





### VMSZ to have state secretaries in the new government

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) has joined the new Serbian government as part of the parliamentary majority. The role of the VMSZ in the Government will be realized at state secretary level. The party will have state secretaries at the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Infrastructure, Ministry of Trade, Telecommunications and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and at the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy.



### KMKSZ concludes election agreement with Ukraine's leading presidential candidate

In Uzhhorod/Ungvár the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) concluded an election agreement with Petro Poroshenko, who is the leading candidate in the run-up to Ukraine's presidential election scheduled for 25 May 2014. In the agreement – which was signed in Uzhhorod at the beginning of May – Petro Poroshenko promised that if he is elected President of Ukraine, his government will ensure language rights in line with European norms for the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia, and it will also create suitable conditions for the development of the Hungarian-language education system. Mr. Poroshenko also undertook that during the planned administrative reform a government under him will pay attention to the interests of the Hungarian community living within its unified enclave, and will give it the opportunity to have representatives in the Ukrainian Parliament. He emphasized that national minorities will be able to use their mother tongues freely and will have a right to erect monuments. The presidential candidate also pledged that as President of Ukraine he will take measures to return property that was confiscated from Transcarpathian churches and will promote the official rehabilitation of men deported to labor camps under Stalin's rule. In exchange for all these things, the KMKSZ will support Mr. Poroshenko in the presidential election through all possible legal means.