

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### Vocational training in the Carpathian Basin to be in focus in the next year

Speaking at the “Kárpát-haza” Development Forum in Parliament on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád Potápi said that vocational training in the Carpathian Basin could be next year’s focus – after previous years’ emphasis on supporting nursery schools, small schools and talent programs. The State Secretary emphasized that cooperation within the Carpathian Basin in the field of vocational training should be harmonized and relations should be strengthened. Mr. Potápi added that policy for Hungarian communities abroad is among the areas in which the Government has had success over the past four years, saying that after these huge achievements the Government should turn to the “smaller areas”. The State Secretary said that this work would not be easier than it had been in the past four years and the Government is relying on everybody taking part, including civil society and social organizations and churches.

### Experts on minority issues: Hungary demands nothing for which there is no precedent within the EU

Attending an international workshop organized by the Tom Lantos Institute, experts on minority issues have said that the Hungarian government demands no special rights for Hungarian minorities living in neighboring countries, but only those rights for which there are precedents within Europe. The Tom Lantos Institute, the National University for Public Service and the Institute for Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences organized an international workshop entitled “Hungarian Minorities in a European Context: Achievements and Challenges”. Speaking at the event, head of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) Zoltán Kántor said that the workshop – which was attended by the most prominent figures in the field – gave a further opportunity to show through international precedents that autonomy, dual citizenship and voting rights for citizens living abroad are not peculiarities of Eastern Europe. Experts on minority issues such as professor at the University of Pennsylvania Brendan O’Leary and Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues Tove Malloy also participated in the workshop.



### RMDSZ remains in coalition without its president

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) will remain in the Romanian government, but the president of the party Hunor Kelemen will resign from his posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture. The RMDSZ accepted the compromise suggested by Prime Minister Victor Ponta related to the issue of the “Minority SafePack” civil initiative on minority protection, and it will remain in the Government. Mr. Kelemen said that, according to the compromise agreed with Prime Minister Victor Ponta on Wednesday, the Romanian government will not withdraw from



the lawsuit, but will not submit further documents at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg unless Parliament debates Romania's standpoint in the issue. As previously reported, Romania joined the lawsuit launched at the Court of the European Union in relation to the "Minority SafePack" initiative on minority protection prepared jointly by the RMDSZ and the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) on the side of the European Commission without discussing it with the RMDSZ, its coalition partner. As a result, the RMDSZ became both a plaintiff and a defendant in the same case. Prior to this, Hungary also submitted its application to intervene in the lawsuit against the European Commission.



## Second Free University in Martos

The Second Free University in Slovakia's Martos/Martovce – one of the largest events of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, with almost one hundred lectures, roundtable discussions, forums and concerts – took place between Wednesday afternoon and Sunday evening. The event centered on topics such as the questions of the Hungarian community's permanence in Slovakia. On the first day of the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád Potápi said that the main task of the next period is to continue the programs which are already running. He added that the Hungarian government has only one partner organization in Slovakia – the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) – which can help to reach the objectives laid down, since "This is the only party in Slovakia that represents the interest of the local Hungarian community, which is its permanence in its native land."

The summit forum of the Free University was held on Thursday, led by the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér and the President of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi. The forum focused on topics such as the next steps in the process of unifying the nation, efforts by Hungarians living abroad to achieve autonomy, achievements of the past four years and the municipal elections in Slovakia scheduled for the fall. Mr. Kövér said that Hungary and its government firmly support the Hungarian community beyond its borders in its endeavors to achieve autonomy.

On Friday, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that "Granting autonomy is not a favor received from the majority nation, but the observance of human rights." He added that Hungarians are demanding nothing which is without precedent in the European Union.

The leaders of the Hungarian political organizations abroad held a roundtable discussion centered on the main topics of everyday life of Hungarian communities abroad, related problems and results, their achievements in advocacy and their aims. József Berényi (MKP), Hunor Kelemen (RMDSZ), István Pásztor (VMSZ), László Brenzovics (KMKSZ) and Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Tamás Wetzel emphasized the importance of solidarity and paying attention to each other within the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Wetzel added that the Hungarian government is allocating 20 billion Forints (about EUR 65,000) for policy for Hungarian communities abroad, but there should be



consideration of what is the most efficient way of using this aid and of increasing the resources.



## 12th Vojvodina Free University: Policy for Hungarian communities abroad and Hungarian advocacy in Vojvodina

The 12th Vojvodina Free University in Kishegyes/Mali Iđoš took place from Thursday to Monday. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and President of the Provincial House of Representatives in Vojvodina István Pásztor said that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad pursued in the past four years should be continued, and possible changes should take place not because certain posts have been occupied by new people, but because the demands of Hungarian communities abroad go beyond their previous needs. He added that in his opinion the main challenge of policy for Hungarian communities abroad is to increase the amount of aid allocated for Hungarian communities abroad, primarily not in symbolic sectors, but in the fields of economy, health care and social provision.



## Wetzel: Hungary stands behind Hungarians in Transcarpathia

Speaking at the traditional “Turul festival” at the Turul memorial in Tiszaújlak/Vylok – which is considered the largest public event of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia – the Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Tamás Wetzel said that the Hungarian government and the Prime Minister of Hungary will always stand behind the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. The Deputy State Secretary said that the law on national cohesion adopted in 2010 had been an important gesture in the fight for the reunification of the nation, but the “final victory” is still far off, and there is still much to do in restoring the trust between national communities and in creating national cohesion. Mr. Wetzel added that the Hungarian government considers the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) a reliable strategic partner which can help to promote the prosperity of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.