

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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## Hungarian-language vocational training is not allowed to be launched at the Reformed High School in Marosvásárhely

The education inspectorate of Maros/Mures County has rejected a request to launch Hungarian-language vocational training courses at the Reformed High School in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. According to the high school's plans, two Hungarian-language groups would be launched from the beginning of the next school year, with financial support from Hungary. The first group would focus on the training of auto coachwork repairers and mechanics, while the second one would offer courses for bakers and butchers. The Reformed High School has already signed contracts with local companies, which would also support the planned vocational training courses. The director of the school Zsolt Benedek said that the education inspectorate stated that the reason for rejection is that there are groups in the Hungarian-language vocational school in Marosvásárhely in which the number of students is low and expected to fall further in the next school year, therefore the number of school leavers will decrease by 300 compared with this year. In spite of this fact, Zsolt Benedek believes that the initiative of the Reformed High School would have been successful.



## The MKP presents its election program

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), which will take part in the Slovakian parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 5 March 2016, has presented its election program in Slovakia's Komárom/Komárni. The MKP summarized its election program in eight main points: economic and regional development; rural development; agriculture and environmental protection; public administration; social policy and health care; education and culture; the situation of minority rights; and EU, foreign and security policy. The MKP program mainly focuses on the development of Southern Slovakia, the second sentence of the program highlighting that the party intends to enact all measures necessary to prevent a reduction in the Hungarian community in Slovakia. In his speech presenting the program, the president of the party József Berényi said the following: "What can stop the assimilation of the Hungarian community, if not territorial self-government?" The MKP started its election campaign in December. In addition to the main objectives of the program, the party is also focusing on other problems affecting Hungarians living in Slovakia.

## The activists of the KDSZ reveal their identity

The activists of Bilingual Southern Slovakia (KDSZ) organized actions in different places over the weekend. The KDSZ members installed bilingual (Hungarian-Slovakian) street signs, but their action was stopped by the local police. This time, the KDSZ activists decided to reveal their identity. The names of dozens of activists are indicated in many of the published documents, and it also became public that four of them will take part in the elections on the list of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP). Örs Orosz, Pál Zachar, Zoltán Bóna and Ildikó Bauer are included



on the list as members of the group called “Independent Young People”. In its statement published in connection with the issue, the KDSZ declares that “For a long time the refusal of the need for bilingualism has been not only about the use of the Hungarian language, but also repudiation of the most basic democratic values; this damages every citizen of Slovakia. The economic development of southern regions in Slovakia is hampered by the same discrimination which removes bilingual street signs, punishes the activists and ignores the results of local censuses.



### VMSZ: the concentration of Vojvodina Hungarian parties’ strength is of crucial importance

During the last meeting of the Presidency of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), it was announced that – following a proposal by the party’s president István Pásztor – the VMSZ might enter into coalition with other Hungarian parties at local level during the approaching municipal elections. Local organizations might propose this to the leaders of the VMSZ, who will make the final decision. Mr. Pásztor will hold a meeting for the leaders of other Hungarian parties, during which they will have an opportunity to discuss in detail the views and ideas connected with the forthcoming period.

### Early parliamentary elections might be held in Serbia

In Belgrade on Sunday, the Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic announced that he would initiate early parliamentary elections in Serbia, and asked the leaders of his party, the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), to support him in this. Speaking at a meeting of the SNS assembly, the Prime Minister – who was elected two years ago – stressed that his government had started the changes in Serbia, and the country is now both politically and economically stable. At the same time, he added that new elections are necessary to solve the “social conflicts” which are hindering reforms in the country. In connection with the elections, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and chair of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor said that the expected date of the early parliamentary elections will be between 22 April and 22 May, on the same day as provincial and local elections. At Mr. Pásztor’s invitation, on 18 January the Hungarian parties of Vojvodina will have a consultative meeting in connection with the approaching elections.



### Deputy State Secretary Zsolt Csutora in Transcarpathia

Deputy State Secretary responsible for Eastward Opening at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Zsolt Csutora has made an official visit to Transcarpathia. On Wednesday he met the president of the Transcarpathian County Council Mihaylo Ravis in Ungvár/Uzhhorod. During the meeting, the parties discussed the



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opportunities for deepening cooperation between border regions, and how to find new partners in Europe to solve problems affecting local governments and build their image on the international stage. At the meeting, the deputy chair of the Transcarpathian County Council and vice-president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) József Barta described the situation of the Hungarian community living in the region.

