

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Commemorations on the day of Hungarian culture

On 22 January, the day of Hungarian culture, several commemorations were held both in Hungary and beyond its borders. This was the day in 1823 when Ferenc Kölcsey completed the National Anthem of Hungary. Commemoration events included concerts, art exhibitions, film screenings and literary evenings. Under the project entitled "The Nation Recites Together", more than 100,000 students in almost 700 Hungarian primary and secondary schools around the world linked up with their peers in Hungary via the web to recite the Hungarian National Anthem and the *Szózat*.



## Electoral reforms: the RMDSZ demands proportionate representation

Deputy Chairman of the parliamentary group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Árpád Márton has said that the RMDSZ urges electoral laws which would make it possible for Hungarians to be represented in Romania's parliament and local governments in accordance with their proportion and importance. The next municipal elections in Romania will take place in summer 2016, while parliamentary elections will be organized in fall 2016. The new electoral laws are scheduled to enter into force at least one year before the elections. Mr. Márton said that the RMDSZ would support the restoration of proportionate (party lists) system of election instead of the current system based on electoral districts, while it would not support reduction in the size of the Parliament. Mr. Márton added that a smaller parliament would decrease the political significance of Hungarian representation, since in this case Hungarians could lose their right to form their own faction. He added that at least 7 senators are necessary to create a faction, and in an upper house consisting of 100 members Hungarians would not have more than six representatives.

## The prefect of Kovászna County orders the local RMDSZ leaders to remove the banner of Szeklerland

The prefect of Kovászna County/Județul Covasna Sebastian Cucu has ordered the local leaders of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) to remove a banner with the inscription "Szeklerland" which is located in front of the prefect's office in Sepsiszentgyörgy /Sfântu Gheorghe. The prefect called on the head of the county's municipality Sándor Tamás and the mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy Árpád Antal to take part in a commemoration on 24 January organized for the anniversary of the unification of Moldova and Havasalföld/Wallachia, and to remove the banner with the inscription Sic - Terra Sicularum ("Szeklerland" in Latin) from the venue of the event. On Friday Sándor Tamás told the Hungarian news agency MTI that the Háromszék/Trei Scaune organization of the RMDSZ would not obey the prefect's order and would not remove the banner of Szeklerland. Mr. Sándor said that the area where the 12-square-meter banner with the inscription SIC - Terra Sicularum is



placed has been hired by the RMDSZ for half a year. He added that “the banner expresses our own identity, it does not offend anyone and we will leave it where it is, at least for half a year.”

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### State Secretary launches social consultation in Slovakia

State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi has launched a series of “social consultations” entitled “Results and plans in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad” in Slovakia’s Szepesi/Moldava nad Bodvou, Királyhelmec/Kráľovský Chlmec and Kassa/Košice. During the consultations, the state secretary presented the new, economy-centered conception of the policy for the leaders of religious and civil organizations, Hungarian-language educational institutions and the Hungarian mayors of the region. Mr. Potápi said that “We must pay special attention to people’s permanence in their homeland, i.e. to the fact whether people living beyond Hungary’s borders are able to earn a living in their homeland and find work with their certificates and qualifications there. We must support Hungarian companies and Hungarian entrepreneurs to enable them to employ Hungarian workers who will create Hungarian families and provide a future for them. Therefore, economic policy is a tool of Hungary’s kin-state policy, which contributes to Hungarians’ permanence in their homeland.”

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### Partial mobilization in Ukraine has started

At a press conference held on Tuesday in Kiev, Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Spokesman (RNBO) Andriy Lysenko announced that partial mobilization in Ukraine had officially started. Mr. Lysenko added that the mobilization would consist of three phases and would last 210 days, and would concern every county of Ukraine as well as its capital. He added that the new soldiers would replace those who have been taking part in the country’s “counter terrorism mission” in Eastern Ukraine since last year. He said that the mobilization would involve 50,000 citizens nationwide – among them 3,000 citizens in Transcarpathia – who have professional military qualifications. Besides men, women under 50 years who have the necessary military qualifications can also be mobilized.

### Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó meets local leaders and members of the KMKSZ in Transcarpathia

Speaking at a press conference in Transcarpathia’s Ungvár/Uzhhorod on Friday, Hungary’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that the Hungarian government is keeping close tabs on the recent round of military mobilization in Ukraine and is cooperating with the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia to prevent the disproportionate mobilization of Hungarians. During



his one-day official visit in Transcarpathia, the minister held talks with the leaders of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) at the headquarters of the association, where the parties discussed the situation of Hungarians in the county, the questions of military mobilization which has recently started in Ukraine, the national aspects of the planned territorial-administrative reforms in Ukraine and the problems of Hungarian-language education in Transcarpathia. After the talks, the minister signed an agreement with the chairman of Transcarpathia's Regional Council Volodymyr Chubirko on the third phase of a 155 million forint (EUR 498,000) grant to be provided to Transcarpathia under the EU's Eastern Partnership Program.

In Beregszász/Berehove the minister visited the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute which has recently been renovated and expanded with a secondary vocational institution, supported mainly by the Hungarian government. After the talks in Beregszász, the minister said that it is important that there should be a district in Transcarpathia where Hungarians are in the majority, even after the next administrative reform of Ukraine.



### László Kövér unveils memorial to Hungarian internees in Slovenia

The Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér unveiled a memorial to 600 Hungarians who were interned to Slovenia by Yugoslavian authorities in 1945 and are buried at the cemetery of Slovenia's Spodnja Voličina, a village near Maribor. The House Speaker said that "We should create a world for our children in which the heroes of our Central European neighbors are not enemies any more but our fellows and allies." Mr. Kövér said that "The alliance is the only way for us to jointly cope with economic and social problems, to preserve our Hungarian and Slovenian identity in our homelands, and to preserve our national culture and national states in the European community space." Mr. Kövér emphasized in his speech that Hungarian-Slovenian relations are exemplary.

