

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

28/2016



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Hungarian politicians living abroad hold meeting in Hungary's Kisvárda

On Friday, speaking at a press conference at a summer camp organized by the Christian Democratic Youth Federation (IKSZ) in Hungary's Kisvárda, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that in the past six years, the number of people who applied for Hungarian citizenship under the simplified naturalization procedure or who were recognized as Hungarian citizens reached 850,000. Mr. Semjén highlighted that due to the simplified naturalization procedure, 780,000 people have taken or will take the oath of citizenship and 70,000 people living in the diaspora were recognized as Hungarian citizens. He added that by the end of this government term, the number of new Hungarian citizens will reach one million.

At a roundtable discussion held as part of the camp, the representatives of the Hungarian Government and leaders of Hungarian organizations abroad discussed the results of elections affecting Hungarian communities abroad, as well as relations between the kin-state and Hungarians living in neighboring states. Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén stressed the importance of Hungarian communities living outside Hungary. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that the aim of the kin-state is the permanence of the entire Hungarian nation, but this is possible only if every nation-part remains. Speaking at the forum, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that compared to the results of the elections in 2012, the RMDSZ lost a lot of voters in 2016. He added that this was due to the low turnout, the change of legal conditions and the new rules of campaign financing. Referring to the elections held in Serbia on 24 April, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that the VMSZ fulfilled its goals. He added that the next purpose is to unite and strengthen the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, and build such a "force field" around the VMSZ which is able to maximize the results. Speaking at the event, the recently elected president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that during the elections held in Slovakia in March, the MKP won more than 105,000 votes, but it did not manage to win seats in the Slovakian Parliament. He added that in spite of the fact that the number of Hungarians in Slovakia decreased by 110,000 between 2001 and 2011, the MKP reached the same results than in the previous elections. Presenting the situation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that the KMKSZ was extremely successful during the municipal elections in Ukraine held at the end of October 2015. Mr. Brenzovics added that these results are mainly due to the cooperation agreement the KMKSZ concluded with the other most important Hungarian party of the region, the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ).





### March on the Day of Szekler Freedom was legal according to court decision

After the court of Maros/Mureş county, the court of appeal of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures also found that the Szekler National Council (SZT) should win the lawsuit against the mayoral office of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. According to the court's decision, the mayor of the town Dorin Florea acted unlawfully when he ignored the provisions of the law on the freedom of assembly and did not endorse the marches organized by the Szekler National Council in March 2015 and 2016, on Day of the Szekler Freedom. According to the constitution and legal provisions, the mayor did not had right to raise objections against the march 48 hours after the SZNT's announcement. Despite this, Dorin Florea was not willing to recognize the action organized by the Szekler National Council.



### House Speaker László Kövér addresses the 4th Martos Summer Open University and Festival

As in previous years, the opening event of the 2016 Martos Summer Open University and Festival was addressed by the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér. In his speech entitled "From Martos to Martos", the house speaker summarized the past four years of the festival and the current situation in Europe due to the migration crisis. Referring to the latter topic, the house speaker said that "Europe reached a junction." Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi presented the latest results of his field, while the new president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt outlined the opportunities of the Hungarian politics in Slovakia. Replying to journalists' questions, the house speaker said that "the fact that the MKP did not win seats in the Slovakian Parliament is not the end of Hungarian world". He added that the MKP is doing a good work and it must be continued. Speaking about the kin-state's policy for Hungarian communities abroad, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi said that there is a lot to do, but due to the successful economic policy, the members of Hungarian communities abroad can consider Hungary an example to be followed. Mr. Potápi added that there are only few fields which receive as much attention and support from the Hungarian Government than the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. He added that this is also seen in numbers: in 2017, the Hungarian Government ensures HUF 30 billion (EUR 95 million.) for this field. Mr. Potápi highlighted that the row of thematic years launched by his state secretariat will continue in 2017 as well, and the next thematic year – presumably – will focus on Hungarian families abroad. Speaking at the forum, the head of the MKP József Menyhárt evaluated the period preceding the parliamentary elections in Slovakia (5 March), the results and the election of news officials in the MKP. Mr. Menyhárt also spoke about future goals, and said that he would like to build a very strong MKP which is not only a party but a community. He added that he will pay particular



attention to young generations, family policy and the strengthening of Hungarian identity.

---

### State Secretary Miklós Soltész inaugurates Hungarian nursery school in Transcarpathia

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a Hungarian Greek Catholic nursery school in Transcarpathia's Makkosjánosi/ Yanoshi (a village near Beregszász/Berehove) the establishment of which was supported by the Hungarian Government, State Secretary for Church, Ethnic and Civil Society Relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that the Hungarian Government and Hungarian people will always stand by those Transcarpathian Hungarians who – against the current difficult situation – want to stay and live in their homeland. Speaking after a show in which the 25 children of the nursery school sang Hungarian and Ukrainian songs, the state secretary said that it is important to know that these children are part of Ukraine but belong to the Hungarian nation, and the two are not mutually exclusive. Mr. Soltész emphasized that the Hungarian Government and Hungarian municipalities consider it crucial to support Transcarpathia and Ukraine because by this support they can strengthen Transcarpathian Hungarians as a community.

---