

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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



## Hungary's President pays a visit to Transylvania

On Monday, President of Hungary Janos Áder arrived in Transylvania on a three-day unofficial visit. The President and his wife, Anita Herczeg, arrived in Nagyszeben/ Sibiu on Monday afternoon, then travelled to Sepsiszentgyörgy/ Sfântu Gheorghe. During his visit Mr. Áder attended cultural events and visited memorial sites of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight. On the last day of his visit, the President of Hungary was informed about the problems of the Hungarian diaspora in Romania. In Kolozsvár/ Cluj-Napoca, Mr. Áder met the head of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP). The MPP's leader Zsolt Biró informed the President about questions related to the Hungarian community, and the development of Hungarian-Romanian economic relations and infrastructure investments (with particular attention to problems concerning the construction of the highway in northern Transylvania).

## RMDSZ-MPP strategic agreement without EP candidate

On Friday the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) signed a long-term strategic agreement in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca. At a joint press conference, RMDSZ leader Hunor Kelemen and MPP leader Zsolt Biró announced that their aim is not just to cooperate in the European Parliament elections on May 25, but for the agreement to also be extended to local-government level. Mr. Biró said that, although in the past four months – before the agreement was signed – there had been an understanding that an MPP candidate could occupy third place on the RMDSZ's European Parliament list, the MPP has decided not to pursue this; it would nevertheless support the RMDSZ in its election campaign. Mr. Biró said that the agreement with the RMDSZ is a historic moment in the Hungarian political life of Transylvania since the fall of communism. The leader of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that it had also been included in the agreement that the two parties would establish a joint working group to prepare the draft law on autonomy, as the RMDSZ had previously promised.

## Hungarians' network in the Carpathian Basin is strong again

In a video message addressing the “MédiaTár” conference at the Sapientia Hungarian University in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that “It is an essential duty of the Hungarian media to provide news about all Hungarians in the world.” He was patron of the conference, at which media experts discussed the role of Hungarian media workshops abroad in the formation of Hungary's public media strategy. In his video message the Deputy Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the renewed Hungarian public media, because it has made it possible “to see all Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian Basin as a unity.” Mr. Semjén said that news must be as much about the events that happen in Szabadka/ Subotica as about those which happen in Pécs. At the conference State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh said that the media of Hungarian communities abroad is extremely important in terms of self-determination for the country and the nation, and media outlets in the Carpathian Basin should work as a network. The participants at the conference concluded that the media of Hungarian communities abroad – which up until 2010 had been disorganized



– has been restructured, and the essential questions of the Hungarian communities abroad have become an integral part of Hungary’s public media programs.

### Zsuzsanna Répás meets leaders of the EMNT and EMNP in Csíkszereda

On Saturday Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás visited Csíkszereda/ Miercurea, where she met the local leaders of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) and the Hungarian National People’s Party of Transylvania (EMNP). Ms. Répás and the party leaders discussed aspects of Hungary’s approaching parliamentary election in Szeklerland, and the assistance of the EMNT’s Csíkszereda office in this historic event. Before the talks at the EMNT’s office, the Deputy State Secretary held a press conference at the consulate in Csíkszereda. She said that the National Election Office (NVI) has already started sending out packages containing ballot papers, and that citizens who had previously asked for delivery of ballot papers to consulates can receive them at the Consulate General of Hungary in Csíkszereda from March 24. The registration process for Hungarian citizens who do not have a permanent residence in Hungary was closed on March 22. More than 250,000 naturalized Hungarians without a permanent address in Hungary have registered, and processing of data is still in progress, with the number of processed registrations standing at around 189,000. Hungarians without a permanent address in Hungary can vote in the parliamentary election by post.



### Presidential election in Slovakia: good results strengthen the identity of Hungarians

The Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás has said that the results of the previous weekend’s Slovakian presidential election are good for the Hungarian community, and can strengthen the identity of Hungarians living in Slovakia. At Monday’s conference of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, Ms. Répás said that there is a reason to celebrate, because a very important result has been achieved. She added that the fact that the Hungarian community in Slovakia had taken on the responsibility and burden of putting forward its own candidate in the election would give it strength in the future.

Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent a letter congratulating Gyula Bárdos and his campaign staff on the result they achieved in the March 15 presidential election in Slovakia, saying that “The result of 5% achieved in the election is the crossing of a psychological threshold which can mean the beginning of a new era for the Hungarian community in Slovakia.” Mr. Orbán added that it was very important that Hungarians living in Slovakia could vote for a Hungarian candidate from the MKP, since it was the first time in the history of Slovakia that the Hungarian community had an independent Hungarian presidential candidate.

Mr. Bárdos told the Hungarian newspaper Magyar Hírlap that he is proud of the 5% result, but an even better one could have been achieved; this could have drawn more



attention to the problems of the Hungarian community in Slovakia and the danger of their assimilation, but a major obstacle to this was that the Most-Híd inter-ethnic party had supported Pavol Hrušovský in the election, and not him. Concerning the second round of the presidential election, Mr. Bárdos said that the MKP will only support Kiska if he champions issues important for the Hungarian community, such as the questions of self-government and language use.

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### A negative tendency has been halted

The Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás has said that the results of Sunday's elections in Serbia show that it is possible to represent Hungarian interests, and that assimilation is not the only future for the Hungarian community in Serbia. This was one of the main points Ms. Répás talked about at a conference of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, when evaluating the results of the previous weekend's Serbian election. István Pásztor, head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), said that the results show that many people who have seen the opportunities presented by the Democratic Party have turned back in the direction of Hungarian policy. The head of the VMSZ added that the party is not planning to be directly involved in the Government, but will make efforts to include the elements of their program in the Serbian government's program. The VMSZ is not expecting ministerial positions, but counts on state secretarial positions in ministries dealing with economics, agriculture, health care, environmental protection and social issues.

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### Zsolt Németh discusses cooperation with Transcarpathian leaders in Ukraine

On Monday, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh arrived in Transcarpathia for a working visit. The State Secretary discussed the current situation of the Hungarian minority with the leaders of the Hungarian Cultural Alliance of Transcarpathia (KMKSZ), and had talks in Uzhhorod/ Ungvár with leaders of the Transcarpathian county on strategic cooperation, infrastructure development along the Hungary-Ukraine border, issues related to the ethnic Hungarian minority and energy. During talks with Transcarpathia's new governor Valeri Lunchenko, Mr. Németh expressed Hungary's continued support for Ukraine's efforts to preserve its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Hungary does not recognize Crimea's recent referendum, and will support the implementation of European sanctions against Russia. Mr. Németh added that Hungary will increase its support for Transcarpathia by half a million dollars within the Eastern Partnership scheme, and he signed an agreement on the additional support together with the leader of the Zakarpattia (Transcarpathia) Oblast Council Ivan Baloga and its first-deputy leader László



Brenzovics – who is responsible for coordination of the program’s implementation. In Beregszász/Berehove, the State Secretary viewed the Rákóczi Institute’s new wing, which is still under construction, and said that the Hungarian government will give a further 500,000 dollars in support for the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute.

### Venice Commission declares referendum in Crimea unconstitutional

The Venice Commission has declared that the referendum in Crimea to be unconstitutional, while the upper house of Russia’s parliament signed the treaty on Crimea becoming part of the Russian Federation. Meanwhile in Brussels the leaders of the European Union’s countries and Ukraine’s interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk signed the political part of the Ukraine-EU association agreement, and accepted further sanctions against Russia. The President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy said that “The European Union is by this new Ukraine’s side.” At a press conference held after the EU summit in Brussels on Friday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that Hungary wants to see a democratic Ukraine, which accepts European values and has a flawless minority policy, since the minority question is Hungary’s greatest concern in the Ukrainian crisis.

