

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Wetzel: interest in the simplified naturalization procedure is undiminished

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Tamás Wetzel has told the Hungarian news agency MTI that so far 680,000 claims for Hungarian citizenship have been submitted and almost 630,000 people have taken their oaths of citizenship, while more than 22,000 claims have been rejected. The Deputy State Secretary added that during the state reform program, simplifications are expected to take place in the administrative procedures connected with the simplified naturalization procedure. He said that these simplifications might range from the registration of birth to the naturalization of diplomas, adding that the organization of these processes will be the main task of the following four years. The Deputy State Secretary highlighted that they are also planning to simplify the tendering system.

Mr. Wetzel emphasized that the interest in the simplified naturalization procedure is still undiminished, but nowadays claims for citizenship are usually submitted in foreign representations and on extramural consular days. He added that the Hungarian government would also expand the number of foreign representations in regions where it is needed, for example in Transcarpathia.



## Klaus Iohannis wins the second round of presidential election in Romania

The second round of the presidential election in Romania took place on 16 November the two participants of which were Prime Minister Victor Ponta of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the candidate of the opposition Christian Liberal Alliance (ACL) Klaus Iohannis. According to the data published by the Romanian central election office on Monday morning, after 76,53 % of the votes had been counted, Klaus Iohannis won 54,81 % while Prime Minister Victor Ponta had 45,18 %. On Sunday evening Victor Ponta admitted his defeat and said: "I have congratulated Klaus Iohannis. People are always right". Later in the evening Mr. Ponta told Antena3 TV station that he does not intend to resign from his position as Prime Minister of Romania.



## Hungarian parties perform well in municipal elections in Slovakia

Independent candidates won the most mayoral positions in the municipal elections in Slovakia held on Saturday, 15 November. Among the parties, Robert Fico's Social Democratic Party Smer-SD achieved the best result. As expected, the candidates of Slovakia's two parties counting on Hungarians' votes performed well in the elections. Among the parties launching independent mayoral candidates, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) reached the third best result. The MKP led by József Berényi won 105 mayoral positions and will delegate 1140 local council members to



the representative bodies, therefore, the party reached similar results than four years ago. The Most-Híd (Bridge) Party led by Béla Bugár won 87 mayoral positions and will have 824 local council members which is a better result than the party had in the previous municipal elections. The joint candidates of the MKP and the Most-Híd won in 30 towns. The candidate of the two parties Attila Czíria did not manage to win in Révkomárom/Komárno which is considered a town of key importance. A suspended member of the MKP, independent candidate László Stubendek became the mayor of the town.

### Methodological packages of the Year of Hungarian Senior Elementary School Children Abroad are handed over in Dunaszerdahely

At the closing event of the “2014 - Year of Hungarian Senior Elementary School Children Abroad” program held in Slovakia’s Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi handed over the methodological packages of the program which aims to strengthen Hungarian-language education abroad. In Slovakia hundreds of teachers from almost one and a half hundred institutions receive this package which contains books and other educational auxiliary materials, prepared on the basis of the needs of Hungarian teachers’ associations abroad.



### Prime Minister Viktor Orbán holds talks with member of the Ukrainian Parliament

On Monday afternoon Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics in the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest. The parties discussed gas supplies to Ukraine, infrastructure projects and the reconstruction of Hungarian institutions. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Brenzovics stressed the need to develop Hungarian-Ukrainian border stations and the adjacent road network. They also agreed that the Hungarian government would continue the successful Eastern Partnership Program which makes possible the reconstruction of further Hungarian cultural and social institutions in Transcarpathia.