

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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## Zsolt Németh: “spring” in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad should be sustained

Speaking at the Csaba Lőrincz award ceremony in the Magyarság Háza on Friday, Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh said that the turn of the millennium is considered the reform era for policy on Hungarian communities abroad since this period was the preparation stage of the “spring in policy for Hungarian communities abroad”; this was realized with the adoption of the simplified naturalization procedure and – hopefully – will continue in the future. The Csaba Lőrincz Prize was awarded posthumously to Gáspár Bíró, who was a professor at Eötvös Loránd University. Before the award was announced, Zsolt Németh said that this prize is given to those who – through their life’s work – keep Hungary on the track of policy for Hungarian communities abroad, do not let this policy turn right or left, and know that this track is one-way only with no turning back, enabling Hungarians living abroad to be at home, undisturbed in their native lands.



## Kelemen: it would be a mistake not to have a Hungarian presidential candidate

Speaking at a session of the Council of the Union Representatives (considered to be the reduced parliament of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ)) in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș, the party leader Hunor Kelemen said that it would be a mistake if Hungarians in Transylvania did not have a Hungarian candidate they could vote for in the first round of the Romanian presidential elections, scheduled for the fall. Deputy Prime Minister of Romania and head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that “If we have a candidate, we can be present in the media and in public debates, thus we can communicate people’s expectations. If we have no candidate, we will not matter, we will not be asked for our opinion and we will not be able to engage in debate.”

## The Szekler flag might be used freely from the fall

The leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has announced that on Wednesday the Romanian government supported the draft law on the use of flags and this has been submitted to the competent specialized committees of the Senate. The final decision on the draft law will be made by the Lower House of Parliament.

Mr. Kelemen considers that the law on flags provides an opportunity for the use of the Szekler flag, since it does not prohibit different local governments using the same flag as their symbol. He said that “If the council of Harghita County/Județul Harghita declares the Szekler flag as the flag of the county, Kovászna County/Județul Kovasna has the right to do the same.”

Mr. Kelemen added that although nothing prohibits the use of the Szekler flag, court decisions related to it makes regulation of the issue necessary.



In the middle of April, 42 representatives from the main governing party in Romania submitted the draft law to the Romanian Parliament on the adoption and use of flags of local administrative units. According to the draft law, the flags of villages, towns and counties can be proposed by local governments and accepted by government resolution. In administrative units where a national minority constitutes at least 20% of the population, the name of the administrative unit must also be indicated in the given minority language.



### MKP: Autonomy is a solution to the questions of minority life

At a press conference held after the session of the National Council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), the party leader József Berényi said that they want to take into account all the means which can help stop assimilation processes. Member of the European Parliament from the MKP Pál Csáky argued that territorial autonomy could help in solving social and economic problems in South Slovakia. With regard to this proposed solution, he referred to the Constitution of Slovakia, which states that “minorities have a right to create structures which help them solve their problems.” Although the Constitution does not mention territorial autonomy directly, this can be inferred from the text. Mr. Csáky also urged the adoption of the Act on minorities. He also mentioned the document of the MKP which deals with linguistic rights, cultural and education self-government and solutions of territorial self-government.



### Pásztor: an inter-party government will be formed in Vojvodina in the fall

The head of the provincial House of Representatives in Vojvodina and President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor has said that the current government coalition in Vojvodina has no alternatives and from the fall an inter-party government will oversee the region. Answering a question from the newspaper Naše novine on whether he would support the Democratic Party (DS) at provincial level, Mr. Pásztor said that “The VMSZ stands where it stood in previous months and over the last two years, on the basis of finalized agreements,” therefore his party stance will remain the same for as long as the agreement is in force. Mr. Pásztor added that so far “it has been working perfectly.”



### School documentation will be in Hungarian from September

The Local Council of Beregszász/Berehove had its regular session on 13 June; among the matters resolved, the 43 representatives in attendance unanimously supported the resolution supplement put forward by the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ), which proposes that schools with Hungarian language instruction can maintain their documentation in Hungarian. They also call on schools



concerned to issue bilingual school-leaving certificates for students finishing Hungarian language schools.

### KMKSZ ISZ is formed

On 21 June 2014 the Youth Organization of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ ISZ) was formed. At the opening session sixty young Hungarian people were present, including members of the initiating group. The session was opened by the head of the KMKSZ László Brenzovics, who welcomed the participants. He expressed his pleasure that a new generation of Transcarpathian advocacy has emerged, signaling that they are ready for tasks and challenges. The participants elected István Dobsa as president of the KMKSZ ISZ.