

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



### Zoltán Balog: the future of Hungarians depends on families

At the day of the Confederation of Family Associations in the Carpathian Basin held in Parliament, Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that the Hungarian government strives to do everything for Hungarian families living outside Hungary, but all efforts are in vain if there are no Hungarian words, tales, songs and love in those families, since the future of the Hungarian nation depends on families. Addressing the event and welcoming the participants – almost eight hundred Hungarians living either in Hungary or beyond its borders – the Minister recalled the measures the Hungarian government had taken so far for Hungarian communities living abroad, including the simplified naturalization procedure and financial support for Hungarian-language education abroad. The Confederation of Family Associations in the Carpathian Basin has been operating for 15 years and has 58 family association members. Together with the organizations of the family chain movement, the confederation represents almost thirty thousand Hungarian families in Hungary, Slovakia, Transcarpathia, Transylvania and Vojvodina.



### The Statue of Liberty in Arad is vandalized by unknown assailants

Local online newspaper aradinap.ru has reported that the reliefs of the 13 martyrs of Arad on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty located in Romania's Arad have been vandalized by unknown assailants, who have painted them in Romanian national colors. The website's photographs and video show that the assailants spray-painted the reliefs red, yellow and blue, and wrote anti-Hungarian graffiti on the statue's pedestal. The deputy mayor of Arad Levente Bognár has said that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) will report the case to the police. The Statue of Liberty of Arad is a memorial bearing the hallmarks of 19th-century Romanticism. It has been vandalized several times since its restoration in 2004.

### Hungarian-language instruction might cease at MOGYE

The Rector of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mures (Marosvásárhely) Leonard Azamfirei has announced that in the fall Hungarian-language pharmacist training at the university might cease. The rector said that the Hungarian professors at the university were responsible for this situation because they had not prepared the accreditation dossier. Former vice-rector of the university Tibor Szilágyi (who had earlier resigned from his post) expressed disagreement with the Rector, saying that the Romanian leaders of the university and the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education are the ones trying to make Hungarian-language education impossible. The senate of the university will discuss the issue of Hungarian-language pharmacist training on Monday. Mr. Szilágyi said that although the 2011 Act on Education states that every language should be accredited separately, last summer the senate of the university decided to require a temporary accreditation for Hungarian-language training. The Hungarian



pharmacists of the university sent a written petition against this decision, first to the leaders of the university, then to the ministry and the accreditation committee, but received no response. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that a Romanian-Hungarian joint accreditation cannot be accepted, since it does not represent Hungarian interests and the number of university places available for Hungarian students is also not proportionate with those for Romanian students. The accreditation committee urges the temporary accreditation of Hungarian training, which is absurd, since Hungarian and Romanian students have joint practical lessons; thus Romanian students taking part in these lessons receive accredited education while Hungarians do not. The vice-rector added that if they “have to continue this fight alone”, it might happen that the Hungarian-language pharmacist training would cease this fall. Mr. Szilágyi said that this situation is a “pre-arranged game in which the ministry and the Romanian university leaders are cooperating and not letting Hungarians have their say.”



### **NPKI: Robert Kaliňák’s decree is directed against Hungarians in Slovakia**

In its latest analysis, the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) examines the legal consequences of the Slovak ministerial decree on citizenship, which entered into force on 1 February. The analysis highlights that the Slovak Minister of Interior Robert Kaliňák is trying to amend the Slovak Act on citizenship – which is evidently contrary to the constitution – by a decree, turning the hierarchy of legal norms upside down. The NPKI underlines that the absurd five-year situation concerning the issue of dual citizenship – the evident unconstitutionality of the amended Act on Citizenship – is further worsened by the fact that the Slovak government intends to change this situation by a ministerial decree which violates the hierarchy of legislative norms and the principle of legal certainty. The ministerial decree would restore citizenship to those who were deprived of it as a result of the 2010 law on the following three conditions: the applicant has a Slovakian residence permit; they have a permanent residence abroad; and the restoration of their citizenship serves “Slovakia’s national interest”. Therefore the decree restores Slovak citizenship to those who have a permanent residence not in Slovakia, but in a foreign country – thus violating the hierarchy of legislative norms.

The current form of the Slovak Act on Citizenship came into force on 17 July 2010 and states that if a Slovak citizen acquires the citizenship of another country on the basis of an “explicit expression of will”, they will be deprived of their Slovak citizenship. As a result of this law, almost 900 people have lost their Slovak citizenship so far.





## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán holds talks with Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko

On Friday Prime Minister Orbán held talks in Kiev with the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko. Among other issues, the parties discussed further opportunities for the social and cultural development of the Hungarian community in Ukraine. Mr. Poroshenko expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Orbán for Hungary's support for Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, the humanitarian aid Hungary is sending to Ukraine, and the medical treatment offered to soldiers injured in the fighting in eastern Ukraine. The meeting was also attended by the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the sole Hungarian representative of the Ukrainian parliament, László Brenzovics, who said that Hungarians living in Transcarpathia support the efforts made by President Petro Poroshenko for the restoration of peace. Mr. Brenzovics added that the Hungarian community living in Ukraine does not experience discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity.

Reporting about the talks between the Hungarian prime minister and the Ukrainian president, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó has said that as a neighboring country Hungary is interested in a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. The minister added that it is Hungary's standpoint that the number of Hungarians mobilized in Ukraine must be proportionate with their ratio in the population of the country. He added that this ratio has been proportionate so far.

Meanwhile the largest Hungarian aid program has been launched in Ukraine; Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is helping refugees in seven regions of the war-stricken country. Talking about the program, which will last until the end of May, president-director of Hungarian Interchurch Aid László Lehel said at the press conference held in Budapest on Thursday that basic food items, hygiene kits and warm blankets would be provided for families that have fled the fighting. He added that they intend to take care of about 1,350 families, or more than 7,000 refugees.

