

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

49/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## The Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért) holds its 14th meeting

The Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért) held its annual (14th) meeting on 3 December. Addressing the plenary session of the event, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán spoke about the situation of Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, country by country. Regarding Romania, he said that the Hungarian government sees backsliding in the area of minority rights and, with respect to the issue of language use, the denial of European rights “to our own communities”. He further objected to the fact that the process of restitution of church and communal properties has not accelerated. In his view the issue of the Hungarian-language training of medical doctors in Transylvania is likewise not moving towards resolution. In the context of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, the Prime Minister pointed out that after the nationally organized Hungarian party failed to obtain a seat in the Slovak Parliament, the government in Budapest decided in favor of very close Slovak-Hungarian economic cooperation, hoping that this will also benefit the Hungarian community living there. With regard to the Hungarian party in Slovakia, he expressed the hope that at the next elections the Hungarian community in Slovakia will obtain seats in the Slovak parliament. Regarding Transcarpathia, the Prime Minister greeted the fact that, after many long years of opposition, the Hungarian community has finally united its forces. In connection with Vojvodina, Mr. Orbán stressed that the constructive work which has been ongoing for years is heading in the right direction, at the same time indicating that it is not in the interest of Hungary’s policy on Hungarian communities beyond the borders to harm in any way the unity which has been forged there. Mr. Orbán told Hungarians in Croatia that he hopes they will have a government in Zagreb which looks upon national pride as a positive constitutional factor. Regarding Slovenia, he pointed out that Hungary provides Ljubljana with every form of support for fulfilling the responsibilities arising from “modern-day mass migration”. At the conference Mr. Orbán also said that programs may be launched to help young Hungarian entrepreneurs beyond the borders. In addition to well-trained, qualified, Hungarian-speaking workers, there is also a need for successful young Hungarian entrepreneurs beyond the borders who understand and value the Hungarian language and culture, he highlighted.

Addressing the event, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that due to the simplified naturalization procedure, the number of new Hungarian citizens will reach 800,000 by the end of the year which indicates that the unification of the nation under common law has been realized. Mr. Semjén added that every Hungarian living in either part of the world is entitled to the Hungarian citizenship and right to vote.

In the closing declaration which was adopted unanimously at the end of the meeting, the members of the Hungarian Standing Conference stated that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad must pay specific attention to economic development, declared that the undiminished interest in the simplified naturalization procedure can be considered a success, and expressed their hope that peace in



Ukraine will be restored soon. The parties also agreed that 2016 will be the thematic year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad.

### The Hungarian Diaspora Council (MDT) holds its 5th meeting

The Hungarian Diaspora Council (MDT) held its 5th meeting on 2 December 2015. The event was addressed by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. In his address, the Prime Minister said that that “we are in the midst of a reordering of world power, world economics and world politics; the dominance of the West is in continuous decline.” Mr. Orbán added that the shift in the focus of the world economy towards the East is not a temporary phenomenon.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that “we are a world nation, and Hungarians living in the diaspora form a strong link.” In the closing declaration adopted at the end of the meeting, the members of the Hungarian Diaspora Council welcomed that the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (a scholarship program aimed to support Hungarian diaspora communities) will continue, and with the expansion of the number of target countries, will contribute to the strengthening of more Hungarian communities. The parties also welcomed the results of the Mikes Kelemen Program and the Julianus Program.

### The year of Hungarian vocational education abroad is successful

Speaking at a conference closing the thematic year “2015 – the year of Hungarian vocational education abroad”, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the thematic year was successful, the developments launched under it will continue and the next year will be dedicated to young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad. The state secretary recalled that last year the Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért) decided about the launch of the year of Hungarian vocational education abroad. Over the recent years, vocational training has been an integral part of education policy, therefore, the thematic year also dovetailed with Hungary’s main trends. Mr. Potápi added that the development of both education and economy serve the prosperity of the Hungarian nation. The state secretary said that during the 2015 thematic year, the main partners of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad were Hungarian teachers’ associations outside Hungary. Under the program, several workshops and vocational arts buildings were established. In Transylvania, HUF 126 million (EUR 402,000) was allocated for the program, in Slovakia – HUF 70 million (EUR 223,000), in Vojvodina – HUF 60 million (EUR 191,000), in Transcarpathia – HUF 50 million (EUR 159,000), in Croatia – HUF 20 million (EUR 63,000), in Slovenia – HUF 17.5 million (EUR 55,000) respectively.



### The IKSZ and the MIÉRT hold joint session

The Hungarian Youth Conference from Romania (Miért) and the Young Christian Democratic Union (IKSZ) hold a joint board meeting in Parliament in Budapest. The event was addressed by Deputy Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén and the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen. Speaking at the event, the president of the IKSZ Lőrinc Nacsa said that in the closing declaration of the meeting, the members of the two organizations stated that they find the preservation of the Hungarian language and culture essential, and consider it important that young Hungarians living either in dispersed communities or in the diaspora remain in their homeland, preserving their national identity. The parties also expressed their will to take part in the "2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad" program, organizing joint events, conferences and trainings.

### Szász Pál Scholarship for Hungarian lawyers living abroad

This year 25 Hungarian law students living abroad receive Szász Pál scholarship again. The winners of the scholarship take part in a seminar which started on Friday in Budapest. The Szász Pál Scholarship was founded in 2012 by Hungary's Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. The aim of the scholarship is to support highly qualified young law students who are committed to the Hungarian nation, speak both their mother tongue and the state language and terminology at an excellent level, and have experience both in the country where they live and the kin-state. Addressing the event, Cabinet Chief of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi said that in addition to growth in number, intellectual and economic growth, legal growth is also essential for the permanence of Hungarians' in their homeland.



### Romanian flag in Sepsiszentgyörgy is replaced with Szekler flag by unknown perpetrators

On Monday, the Romanian flag beside the statue of the Romanian Soldier in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe was removed and replaced with a Szekler flag by unknown perpetrators. The prefecture of Kovászna county announced in a statement that it considers the action a desecration of the Romanian national flag and the Romanian national holiday with respect to the fact, that the action took place one day before the national holiday in Romania. On 1 December, Romanians celebrate the anniversary of the 1918 Gyulafehérvár Resolution which declared the unification of Transylvania and Romania. The prefecture recalled that over the recent period, several law amendments were initiated in order to confine extremist nationalist manifestations in the country. The office added that one of these proposals was to re-introduce the violation of Romanian national symbols in the Penal Code as a crime.



### New gymnasium of the Emmausz Male Dormitory in Muzslya is opened

The new gymnasium of the Emmausz male dormitory in Muzslya has been opened. The inauguration ceremony was attended by several public figures from Vojvodina and Hungary. Addressing the event, the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér said that – symbolically – the new gymnasium is probably the greatest gift that could be given to the local community. Mr. Kövér added that Hungary ensured EUR 700,000 for the construction of the building.



### The annual meeting of the Associations of Hungarian Teachers' in Transcarpathia

On Saturday, the Associations of Hungarian Teachers' in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) held its 23rd annual meeting in Ukraine's Beregszász/Berehove. The members of the meeting discussed the current situation of Hungarian-language education in Transcarpathia and outlined the main tasks for the future. Speaking at the meeting held at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, the president of the KMPSZ Ildikó Orosz expressed her thanks to the Hungarian Government because it provided an opportunity for 3,000 Transcarpathian Hungarian children to take part in summer camps in Hungary. Ms. Orosz also highlighted that the smooth operation of Hungarian-language education in Transcarpathia is also due to the kin-state's support since – because of the absence of Ukrainian state funding – the necessary workbooks for children are published with the help of Hungary as well.

