

# Toledo-Szeged, Hungary, sister-city link expanded to include their counties

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Lucas County, Ohio, meet Csongrad County, Hungary.

In a formal agreement expected to be signed at 4:30 p.m. today, the five-year International Sister City agreement between Toledo and Szeged, Hungary, has expanded to include their respective counties.

That means links between business and government leaders that ultimately could lead to more money and more jobs for both counties.

"Right now we are all in a global economy," John Henry Fullen, director of Toledo Sister Cities, said yesterday. "But the responsibility for economic development is falling to local communities."

Already the relationship with Szeged has opened up a Jeep dealership in the southern Hungarian city. After a 1994 International Trade Fair in Szeged in which Toledo officials displayed Wrangler and Cherokee models, a dealership opened and now has a difficult time keeping the Jeeps stocked, Mr. Fullen said.

Csongrad County is known for its food processing, salami, paprika, and wine-growing.

Today's signing comes on Hungary's national Independence Day.

March 15 marks the day about 1,100 years ago when various Magyar tribes came together and declared Hungary an independent and united kingdom.

The signing at Government Center also marks the first of a sister-



Mayor Istvan Szalay, left, and county president Istvan Lehmann are visiting here.

county relationship in Ohio and only one of about a dozen in the nation, Mr. Fullen said.

Szeged Mayor Istvan Szalay and president of Csongrad County Istvan Lehmann formally presented slides and maps to the county commissioners yesterday during their regular meeting.

The dignitaries are visiting the county for the next week and, in fact, will celebrate Hungarian Independence Day on Sunday with the Birmingham neighborhood.