

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

2/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Árpád János Potápi: the strengthening of national cohesion is an important task of the Government

Speaking at a commemoration event in Bonyhád marking the 255th anniversary of the Siculicidium (a massacre that took place at Madéfalva in 1764), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that it is an important task of the Hungarian Government to strengthen national cohesion among Hungarians, regardless of whether they live in the Carpathian Basin or elsewhere. The state secretary stressed that the Hungarian Government makes every effort to ensure that all Hungarians who want preserve their Hungarian identity can do so. Mr. Potápi also stressed that Hungary makes every effort to help towns and villages in Szeklerland. He noted that the memorial to the 1764 Siculicidium in Madéfalva was renovated with funding from the Hungarian Government's, and a new chapel had been built in the village. Mr. Potápi added that on this anniversary they remember those Szeklers who were forced to leave their homeland: some of them founded five villages in Bukovina and their descendants were resettled to the Lower Danube (in 1941), and later – in 1945 – to Tolna, Baranya and Bács-Kiskun counties in Hungary.

Katalin Szili: everyone should have the right to live in their homeland

Speaking at a commemoration marking the anniversary of the “Malenkij Robot”, when German families were deported from Tolna County to forced labor camps, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that in the 21st century everyone should be guaranteed the right to live in their homeland. Ms. Szili stressed that no one has the right to expel other people from their homeland or restrict their rights in their native land. She recalled that after World War II the establishment of homogenous nation states led to deportations, population exchanges and the expulsion of ethnic groups. She added that in 1945 Germans were expelled from their own homeland. Ms. Szili stressed that “we must declare that an ethnic group must never again be forced to leave its homeland.” She added that we must also “raise our voice” if any groups are treated as second-class citizens in their own homeland, or if their rights are restricted. The Prime Ministerial Commissioner added that unfortunately there are several such examples today, especially in Szeklerland and Transcarpathia. Speaking about nationalities, Ms. Szili recalled that the Fundamental Law of Hungary states that nationalities living in Hungary are constituent elements of the state, and this should be an example to all those neighboring countries where this is not the rule



The Sapientia Foundation builds new campus in Sepsiszentgyörgy

According to an article published in the Transylvanian daily Krónika, the Sapientia Foundation will build a new university campus in Sepsiszentgyörgy with financial support received from the Hungarian Government. Hungary has provided HUF 4.15



billion (EUR 12 million) for the foundation's Sepsiszentgyörgy developments. The Bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church and head of the board of trustees of the Sapientia Foundation told Krónika that, due to these developments, in addition to the agricultural engineering department, forestry training and sports department will start their operation soon. The building of the new campus is the main priority for 2019, but its implementation will take several years because of bureaucracy. Mr. Kató said that they are placing great emphasis on the establishment of the infrastructure necessary for the new departments adding that the university considers it to be its own mission to complement the "incomplete palette" of Hungarian-language higher education departments in Romania.



Year assessment: 2018 was the year of serious domestic policy crises and a government reshuffle

2018 was the year of serious internal political crises – because of the killing of a young Slovakian journalist – and the year of government reshuffle. The economy of the country strengthened, but leading political forces had weakened by the beginning of 2019, on the threshold of presidential and EP elections. Since July Slovakia has been the president of the Visegrád Group. The motto of the Slovak presidency is "A Dynamic Visegrád for Europe" and it is based on three pillars: strong Europe, secure environment and intelligent solutions. At the beginning of November local government elections were held in the country, bringing the weakening of the largest government party, Smer. According to József Menyhárt, the President of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), the MKP strengthened in 2018, together with the whole Hungarian community and its political representation. In spring a new Hungarian media group was founded, and dozens of kindergartens were renovated due to the Carpathian Basin nursery school program of the Hungarian Government. József Menyhárt will be the candidate of the Party of the Hungarian Community in the 2019 presidential election in Slovakia.



Jenő Hajnal: only a viable community can encourage people to remain in their homeland

Speaking to Újvidék Rádió (Radio of Novi Sad), the president of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal stressed that we need viable communities which are able to encourage people to remain in their homeland and persuade those who have left their country to return. Speaking about the new MNT budget adopted on Friday, Mr. Hajnal said that the 2019 budget foreshadows the budget for the next four years. The head of the Hungarian National Council added that in the period to come there will be the development of concepts instead of strategies in all the four fields



(culture, education, information, language use), and action plans will be added to every concept. He added that each of these will pay special attention to young people.



Transcarpathian Hungarians remember the anniversary of the birth of Hungarian poet Sándor Petőfi

On 1 January several commemorations were held in Transcarpathia marking the 196th anniversary of the birth of Hungarian poet Sándor Petőfi. In Beregszász/Berehove and Ungvár/Uzhhorod wreaths were laid at the memorials of the best-known Hungarian poet. The commemoration in Ungvár was organized by the Consulate General of Hungary in Ungvár and the representatives of the Transcarpathian Community of Hungarian Intellectuals. As has been reported, in the summer of 1847 Sándor Petőfi visited the former Upper-Hungary, including Ungvár/Uzhhorod, Munkács, /Mukacheve and Beregszász/Berehove. From Berehove he went to Badaló/Badalovo, where he wrote one of his most famous poems, The Tisza.

