

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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2019 – Year of Hungarian children abroad starts

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced the official start of the “2019 – Year of Hungarian children abroad” which will be the continuation of the “2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad.” Speaking about the program, the state secretary announced that the total budget for the thematic year is HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.1 million). Mr. Potápi added that 80% of the program will be spent on calls for applications, while the rest of it will be spent on the realization of different events, conferences, summer camps and various programs for families and children. The state secretary announced that in March 2019 a call for applications will be launched for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad offering family-friendly services. Mr. Potápi added that families living abroad who received the maternity grant in 2018 within the “Köldökzsinór Program”, will receive a “baby package” from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. He added that the delivery of the packages – which will include useful items for infants – will start in March 2019. Mr. Potápi said that 6600 packages have already been ordered. Among other important aims of the thematic year, Mr. Potápi mentioned the building of the network of health visitors (védőnő) abroad, adding that this service is uniquely Hungarian, and the Hungarian Government’s aim is to introduce it to Hungarian communities abroad. The state secretary added that the 2019 – Year of Hungarian children abroad is a complex program, therefore the other programs of the State Secretariat – like the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program and the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Memorial Year – will also focus on children. Therefore the real sum spent on Hungarian children abroad will be multiplied.

Carpathian Basin Family Day in Budapest

On Saturday the Association of Family Organizations in the Carpathian Basin held its 7th Carpathian Basin Family Day in Parliament. The event – which was supported by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Human Capacities – was attended by hundreds of families – among them 500 participants from neighboring countries. Speaking at the event, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly János Latorcai said that “Local communities cannot exist without strong families, and without strong families there is no successful Hungary which is able to bear responsibility for Hungarian communities abroad.” Mr. Latorcai added that various measures adopted in recent years ensure great help for Hungarian families, and the 7-point action plan announced by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will further strengthen Hungarian family policy, which internationally is exemplary and unique. Mr. Latorcai added that the Hungarian Government hopes that these measures will ensure that the number of Hungarian children born in Hungary and abroad increases significantly in the years to come. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that when adopting a decision, the Hungarian Government always thinks in terms of a nation instead of country borders, regardless



of where Hungarians live in the world. He recalled that 2018 was the year of Hungarian families abroad, as part of which the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad reached 6,500 families and about 10,000 children abroad. Mr. Potápi added that in accordance with the decision of the Hungarian Standing Conference, 2019 is the year of Hungarian Children Abroad. The state secretary expressed his pleasure that among the 600 participants of the event, there were more than 500 Hungarians living abroad.



The Hungarian Government's economic development program in Transylvania is a huge success

As part of the Hungarian Government's economic development program in Szeklerland, 73 applications were submitted for the realization of agricultural and food industry investments. The deadline for applications was 25 January. Speaking to the Hungarian daily Krónika, the head of the Pro Economic Foundation Mónika Kozma said that the first impressions are very good. She added that the fact that the tendering procedure is online caused no difficulty for companies.



Renovated kindergarten is handed over in Slovakia

As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, a renovated Hungarian nursery school was inaugurated in Slovakia's Tornagörgő/Hrhov. Speaking at the event, the mayor of the town László Tankó said that the kin-state "threw a lifeline" to Hungarians living in Tornagörgő, adding that "children are the greatest blessing for the community." The ceremony was also attended by the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt and Consul General of Hungary in Kassa/Kosice Attila Haraszti. Speaking at the event, Mr. Tankó stressed that "Children are the guarantee of the nation's permanence and this permanence depends greatly on nursery schools." The mayor of Tornagörgő added that the positive effects of the program are already being seen, as immediately after the renovation the number of children increased.



Two new factories are opened in Vojvodina due to support form the Hungarian Government

On Thursday two new factories were opened in Vojvodina, due to the Hungarian Government's economic development program which created 65 new workplaces in Ada and Topolya. Speaking at the ceremony, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that "this is the peak of the past three years' of economic development in Vojvodina, a result of which will be the



inauguration of almost two dozen large investments in the region in the months to come.” Mr. Magyar stressed that due to the Hungarian Government’s support and the work of people in Vojvodina, developments worth HUF 80 billion (EUR 252 million) have been realized in Vojvodina. Speaking at the event, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that the Hungarian community in Vojvodina is extremely grateful to the Hungarian Government both for the financial support and the continuous signs that they are important for Budapest. Mr. Pásztor stressed that these impulses encourage them to believe that they can put historically difficult times behind them and think and plan together.”



Graduation ceremony at the Uzhhorod National University

On Tuesday 45 students received their MA and MSc degrees at the Ukrainian-Hungarian Educational and Scientific Institute of the Ungvár/Uzhhorod National University. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa welcomed the students. He stressed that “the existence of intellectuals brings with it great responsibility”, and now, receiving their degrees, students will belong to this group. Mr. Grezsa added that his advice to the students is to pay attention to “quality” both in their work, personal life and characters. He emphasized that a precondition for quality is life-long learning. Mr. Grezsa said that “we can have a quality life only if we do not give up values like loyalty, faith and hope.”

