

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Hungary provides HUF 600 million for the support of organizations and enterprises offering family-friendly services

At a press conference in Budapest on Monday, Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office, announced that two new calls for applications have been issued as part of the 2019 – Year of Hungarian children abroad: one for Hungarian enterprises abroad and one for Hungarian civil and church organizations abroad which offer family-friendly services. The state secretary highlighted that – in addition to the general development of their organization/enterprise – the applicants will propose the organization of programs for children and families, and of other programs which help the everyday life of families. Mr. Potápi added that the total budget of the two calls for applications is HUF 600 million/EUR 1.9 million: HUF 300 million for entrepreneurs and HUF 300 million for civil and church organizations. The state secretary added that family is the basis of society and nation, and they would also like to strengthen this ideology abroad. He added that the aims of this policy are to increase the number of Hungarian children born in Hungarian territories outside Hungary, and to help them become adults with a strong Hungarian identity.

Programs for Hungarian students abroad on the Day of National Cohesion

On the Day of National Cohesion (4 June), the Rákóczi Association is organizing a trip for Hungarian students living abroad. The deadline for applications is 14 May. According to a statement from the association sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the aim of the program is to provide Hungarian students living abroad with an opportunity to visit another Hungarian school in the Carpathian Basin. The program is open to all Hungarian secondary/high schools in the Carpathian Basin. In the statement the Rákóczi Association added that as part of another program of the association, more than 2,000 students will have an opportunity to take part in the papal mass in Csíksomlyó on 1 June.



Transylvanian Hungarian Festival Association is formed

The formation of the Transylvanian Hungarian Festival Association was announced at a press conference in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca on Friday. The organizers said that it will work in close cooperation with the Hungarian Festival Association. The long-term aim of the association – which was formed on the initiative of the Kincses Kolozsvár Association – is to become an umbrella organization which unites the main festivals of Transylvania. In the first round, local organizations – which organize the Transylvania cultural city days – joined the umbrella organization. As a result of the initiative, several festivals in Transylvania's Hungarian-populated towns will be introduced at the Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca.



More than 110,000 people have already registered for the papal mass in Csíksomlyó

The number of people who have registered for the Holy Mass which will be held by Pope Francis at the beginning of June in Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc. Registration started on 1 March and the original deadline – the end of March – was extended until Easter Monday. According to the four Transylvanian Catholic church districts, the number of registered people has exceeded 110,000, among them more than 75,000 registered in groups, but the processing of data is still in progress.



István Grezsa: the 21st century will be the century of prosperity for Hungarians

Speaking in Slovakia's Nagycétény/Veľký Cetín after a ground-breaking ceremony for a new Hungarian kindergarten, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that although Hungarians lost the 20th century, they will win the 21st century. Mr. Grezsa stressed that the attention of the Hungarian Government is cast across the whole Carpathian Basin, regardless of the ratio of Hungarians in a given territory. He stressed that Hungary is counting on every Hungarian. Mr. Grezsa added that the new kindergarten in Nagycétény will perform a missionary task: it will gather Hungarian children from surrounding towns.



The situation of Vojvodina Hungarians in the EU

In Magyarkanizsa/Opština Kanjiža, a forum was held entitled "The situation of Vojvodina Hungarians in the EU". The forum was attended by MEPs Tamás Deutsch and Andor Deli, as well as the Chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor. They spoke about what is at stake in the EP elections on 26 May. Mr. Deutsch stressed that the work of recent years is exemplary, as Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin who live outside the kin-state have had an opportunity to represent themselves in the European Parliament. Mr. Deutsch stressed that the concept is of an entire nation, and this was taken into account when compiling the list for the 2019 EP election. He added that one of the most important aims is to raise the level of the legal protection for autochthonous national minorities to the level of other minority groups.





Péter Szijjártó: The Ukrainian Language Act is unacceptable

Péter Szijjártó has said that the Language Act adopted by Ukrainian Parliament on Thursday is unacceptable. In a statement to public media, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that “the Act, which violates the rights of the Hungarian national community, is indicative of the mentality of incumbent President Petro Poroshenko, who has practiced anti-Hungarian politics”. Mr. Szijjártó added that “However, by a large majority Ukrainian voters elected another president – Volodymyr Zelensky – and have put an end to the Poroshenko era.” The minister stressed that “our hope is that, while standing on a foundation of mutual respect and with the intention of finding solutions, with the new President [...] we will be able to resolve the situation that has arisen as a result of the legislation that affects the rights of the Hungarian national community”. The first statements of the new Ukrainian President may even give rise to hope, he said, and for this reason, after he takes office “we will be doing everything possible in the interests of repairing the relationship between Ukraine and Hungary”. Mr. Szijjártó highlighted that “Our goal is for there to be friendship between Hungary and Ukraine, and the results of the recent Ukrainian presidential elections provide a certain amount of hope that this can be successfully developed”.

On Thursday the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the so-called Language Act, a bill aimed at assuring the use of Ukrainian as the state language, with a large majority of 278 votes. Transcarpathian Hungarian organizations have recently objected strongly to the new law, because they believe it will do away with all the language rights previously afforded to minorities. With the exception of private conversations and religious services, the Act essentially makes the use of the Ukrainian language compulsory, and violation of the regulations could result in legal proceedings. Incumbent President Petro Poroshenko indicated in advance that he would be signing the new law after it is adopted by Parliament, but newly elected Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a statement that after he enters office he will be examining the Language Act in relation to whether it respects the rights of all citizens.



International conference in Vienna marking the 35th anniversary of the Kaláka Club

Speaking at an international conference in Vienna organized to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Kaláka Club (an organization of Hungarians living in Austria), Hungarian House Speaker László Kövér, the patron of the event, said that the community of Hungarians living in Austria is still an important link between Hungary and Austria. The conference focused on the economic situation of Hungarians living in Central Europe. Mr. Kövér said that the members of the Kaláka Club proved that it is possible to remain loyal members of the Hungarian nation and – at the same time – be loyal and value-creating citizens of Austria which accepted them. Speaking at the conference, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi



said that one of the main aims of the current Hungarian Government is help Hungarians living abroad prosper in their homelands. Mr. Potápi added that it is very important that – on the proposal of the Hungarian Government – Hungarian organizations abroad also put family policy in the focus of their politics.

