

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Ministerial Commissioner: teachers are the guarantors of Hungary's future

At the awards ceremony for "Teacher of the Year" in Budapest, where awards were made to teachers in the motherland and outside Hungary, Péter Szilágyi – Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad – said that children and teachers are guarantors for Hungarians' future. Mr. Szilágyi emphasized that the Hungarian government sees the nation as one, and providing education for Hungarian children in their native language is equally important in Debrecen, as it is in Székelyudvarhely or Zenta. The ministerial commissioner said that this is one of the main national policy goals, and added that setting the institutional framework for education in Hungarian is the priority task in the regions outside the motherland.

Péter Szilágyi: the relationship between the motherland and the diaspora has strengthened since 2010

On Saturday, at the Budapest general assembly of the Western European Association of Hungarian Country Organizations (NYEOMSZSZ), the Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad said that we have experienced a significant change in policy on Hungarian communities abroad, with a much stronger relationship between the motherland and the diaspora. Péter Szilágyi pointed out that huge steps have been taken forward over the past nine years, and an increasing number of programs is available for Hungarians in Western Europe, America, Australia and other regions. The ministerial commissioner described the Hungarian nation as a world nation with 15 million Hungarians living all over the world. He emphasized that the programs launched since 2010 can address every Hungarian living in diaspora who wishes to live as a Hungarian. Talking about diaspora policy, Mr. Szilágyi highlighted the annually organized diaspora council, Hungarian weekend schools – where the second meeting attracted over 100 participants from 27 countries – and the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program aiming at Hungarians in diaspora. Talking about this latter program he said that the training of the scholarship holders from the northern region will take place in the second half of May, while those from the southern region will start training in August.

Szili: the initiative to create a European minority development region is to be supported

In Budapest on Saturday Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that the Székely National Council initiative to create a European minority development region is to be supported, as 60 million people – 10 per cent of the population of the EU – lives in minority. At the general assembly of the Western European Association of Hungarian Country Organizations, it was declared that both the association and the Hungarian parties abroad support the civil initiative that was launched at the Székely May Day on Saturday. Their aim was to collect at least one million signatures from seven Member States, which would mean that the EU is obliged to proceed with the



initiative. Mrs. Szili stressed that, regarding the autonomy efforts of the Hungarians living abroad, it is an important issue that in the European Parliament elections the political powers which reject the concept of a United States of Europe and are in favor of a Europe of Nations should form a majority in the EP.



Viktor Orbán in Kolozsvár: the elements of Hungarian family policy can be extended over the borders

In his speech delivered at the Kolozsvár Faculty of the Sapientia-EMTE University on Wednesday, Viktor Orbán said that in the coming ten years Hungary will definitely stay in the Christian cultural area, and can offer a secure life to young people who remain Hungarians. On his 3-day tour in Transylvania the Prime Minister said that he hopes that some forms of his government's family support system will be available outside Hungary as well, but later than in the motherland. The Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania was established during the first Orbán government in 2001. In his address to students, university professors and politicians, the Prime Minister spoke about Hungarian national affairs mainly in relation to the European Parliament elections and the challenges the continent is facing. Mr. Orbán pointed out that Hungarian policy is basically determined by three eternal factors: size, place and spirit.

Viktor Orbán encourages Hungarians to speak with one strong voice in the European Parliament elections

On Wednesday The Prime Minister urged Hungarians in Romania to vote for the candidates on the list of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in the upcoming European Parliament elections. At a joint press conference with the president of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen, the Prime Minister stressed that Hungarian people who wish to strengthen the representation of every Hungarian in Brussels to have a strong Hungarian voice there should vote for the RMDSZ. At the press conference the President of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen pointed out that both the RMDSZ and Fidesz are in the campaign, and it is "the clearest thing in the world" for them to support each other. He declared, "Finally there is a place, the European Parliament, where we can jointly represent Hungarian matters. We would like to have a strong representation of the Carpathian region." The Hungarian prime minister arrived at the EU summit held on Thursday in Nagyszeben, but also spent Wednesday and Friday in Transylvania. He delivered a speech in Kerelószentpál in County Maros on Friday at the opening ceremony for a feed mixing factory owned by UBM Feed Romania. In his speech he pointed out that Hungary is using its energies to strengthen Central European collaboration, and everybody will benefit from cooperating with Hungarians.



A training kitchen constructed with the support of the Hungarian government was dedicated at the Bethlen Gábor Reformed High School

A training kitchen constructed with the support of the Hungarian government was dedicated at the Bethlen Gábor Reformed High School. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi participated in the opening ceremony. Following the event he told the Hungarian news agency MTI that the principal's former residential quarters was converted to a training kitchen for the students. Funding of HUF 15 million from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office was used to renovate the walls of the ruined building, to replace windows and doors and to install a training kitchen.



The law on national anthems is voted on again

The Slovakian parliament has passed the amendment of the Act on state emblems submitted by the Slovak National Party which includes controversial provisions on the playing and singing of foreign national anthems. The plenary body overruled the veto of President Andrej Kiska, who had sent the whole Act back to the Parliament to be debated again. This time 86 MPs voted in favor of the Act. No amendment could be made, and the Act could only be either rejected or re-accepted. Therefore it still includes the disputed provision on the playing and singing of foreign national anthems. Mr. Kiska found that the law interferes with the principles of legal certainty and the rule of law. According to critics, the law forbids the playing or singing of the national anthems of other countries at public events, if the official delegation of the given country is not present.



Szijjártó: Vojvodina's economic development program strengthens the Hungarian and Serbian economy as well

In Topolya on Tuesday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stressed that the investments of Vojvodina's economic development program are contributing to the improvement of the Hungarian and Serbian economies. He was participating in the inauguration ceremony of two priority agricultural developments in the town. The investments were realized as part of the Hungarian government's Vojvodina economic development program. At the inauguration ceremony for a logistics center of the KITE Agricultural and Service Provider Ltd. in Topolya, Mr. Szijjártó said that the political relation between the two countries has never been as good as now, which is enabling the Hungarian government to participate in the investments of Hungarian businesses in Serbia. The minister said that today what counts most is not the number of new jobs, but the technological quality of the investments.



Potápi: support aimed at encouraging the birth of more children are growing popular

State Secretary Árpád Potápi believes that the Hungarian government is caring for children outside Hungary and is also encouraging parents across the Carpathian region to have more children. The support aiming at having more children are growing more popular in the Carpathian region, about one fourth of applications come from Vojvodina – stressed the state secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi on Tuesday in Zenta, where he presented baby packages to 80 families from Vojvodina as part of the program “2019 – year of Hungarian children abroad”. He said that 6600 baby packages had been put together throughout the Carpathian region, and most of them have already been distributed. He pointed out that they targeted mainly the children born in 2017 and 2018 and their parents. He added that those who applied for the maternity benefit and the so-called baby bonds were and are entitled to get the baby packages. The value of the package is around 15-20,000 HUF and includes personal articles that are useful for the family when a baby is born.



István Grezsa: the education received in kindergartens and primary schools is increasingly appreciated in Transcarpathia

Speaking in Transcarpathia’s Sislóc, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program is increasingly appreciated in the light of the recently adopted Ukrainian law which restricts the use of national minorities’ languages in kindergartens and schools. In his address at the inauguration ceremony of the mixed-language kindergarten renovated as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, Mr. Grezsa said it is very important that children in Transcarpathia – living either in towns with Hungarian population or towns with mixed population – receive education in their mother tongue, since this way they can be connected to Hungarian culture.



John Lukacs served the entire world with his knowledge and ability to grasp the essential

On behalf of the admirers of historian John Lukacs who passed away on Monday and the whole of Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán offered his condolences to the mourning family. In his message Mr. Orbán wrote he was shocked to learn that “the internationally renowned authority on history and owner of the Hungarian Corvin Chain Award for Merit is no longer with us”. The prime minister said that John Lukacs, “with his wide-ranging knowledge and perception, served not only his homeland and adopted home, but the whole world.” Mr. Orbán added that “We are grateful that he remained proud of his Hungarian origin even as a renowned



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professor and represented the central European perspective without which we could barely understand 20th-century Western and European history.”



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