

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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2020 is declared the “Year of National Cohesion”

Parliament has declared 2020, the 100th anniversary of the post-World War I Trianon Peace Treaty, the Year of National Cohesion. The proposal from the Parliament’s National Cohesion Committee was passed with 166 votes in favor, five votes against and one abstention. The Parliament has passed the proposal in line with its responsibility enshrined in the Fundamental Law of Hungary. The year will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the peace treaty signed on June 4th 1920 that ceded two-thirds of Hungary’s territory to the sovereignty of neighboring countries. It will reflect the political, economic, legal and moral problems that the treaty caused and which have not been resolved. In the meantime Hungary’s faith in the continued existence of Hungarian communities abroad and the results of the policy for uniting the nation introduced after 2020 can give Hungarians strength. The Parliament has declared its intention to support programs and commemorations organized in Hungary, in the Carpathian Basin and elsewhere in the world, as well as training materials with the aim of strengthening the cohesion and identity of Hungarian communities.

Potápi: Körösi Csoma Sándor and Petőfi Sándor Program are flagships of policy for Hungarian communities abroad

In Budapest on Monday the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad described Körösi Csoma Sándor and Petőfi Sándor programs as the flagships of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. At the closing conference of these programs Mr. Árpád János Potápi expressed his thanks for the work of interns, pointing out that both programs are aimed at preserving Hungarian identity. He said that the Körösi Csoma Sándor Program that supports the diaspora started in 2013 with the participation of 47 interns. The Petőfi Sándor Program was launched in 2015 to support dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin. The number of interns in these two programs has now increased to 225 participants, which is a result they can be proud of. Mr. Potápi said that these two initiatives can mirror the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. He pointed out that they are trying to take into consideration and serve the needs of Hungarian organizations abroad, even if sometimes it seems to be an impossible mission.



Romania’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs finds the declaration of “2020 Year of National Cohesion” to be unfounded

Romania’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has acknowledged that on Tuesday the Hungarian parliament declared 2020, the 100th anniversary of the Trianon peace treaty, the “Year of National Cohesion”, but finds the move unfounded. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest/ București has said that any attempt to “rewrite history and express revisionist points of view” is unacceptable, as they go against 21st-century European reality, the collaboration that was declared in the



strategic partnership document, and the basic regulation signed by NATO and EU Member States Romania and the Hungarian Republic on 16th September 1996. Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs finds the explanation unfounded and rejects it, saying that there are no "political, economic, legal and moral problems were caused by the Peace Treaty." Romania is of the opinion that, despite the statement of the Hungarian parliament, the peace treaty that designated the borders between Romania and Hungary represents neither a problem to be solved nor a tragedy.

"Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians' readiness for renewal has helped them to survive the hardships of the past 25 years"

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), that was established in Zenta on June 18th 1994 as the association of citizens, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. In the beginning it operated as an organization independent from parties and governments, but soon realized that if it wished to promote the political interest of Vojvodina Hungarians in a more effective way it would have to turn itself into a political party. In Szabadka/Subotica On Tuesday morning – the 25th anniversary – an ad hoc press conference was held by the President of VMSZ István Pásztor, who was re-elected six weeks ago. Present at the event were members of the Council of the Alliance, as well as some founding members. István Pásztor believes that the readiness of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians for renewal has helped them to survive the hardships of the past 25 years.

Chapel in the Children's Home in Rát/ Rativtsi, Transcarpathia built with nationwide collaboration sanctified

A chapel in the Szent Mihály Children's Home in Rát/Rativtsi near Ungvár/ Uzsgorod, which was built with the collaboration of civil organizations from Hungary and Transcarpathia and with the support of the Hungarian government, was consecrated and opened on Monday. The event was part of the charity run called "We share the same blood" (Egy vérből vagyunk) on the route from Verecke Pass to Budapest. At a ceremony at the Hungarian conquest memorial in Verecke on Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi gave an address. He told participants in the charity run, which started from the memorial, that over thirty children – who were rescued from incredibly difficult conditions – are being raised by foster parents in the family-like Szent Mihály Children's Home. Mr. Potápi added that thanks to the caring love they receive, the Catholic faith and Hungarian spirituality, fully-fledged people are being raised in the home who will be able to integrate into the society – regardless of their nationality or denomination. He said that the mentors deserve thanks and tribute for this.



Potápi: the Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia set an example of steadfastness to other parts of the nation

In Beregszász on Friday, At the inauguration ceremony of the Health and Sports Centre of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education built with the financial support of the Hungarian government, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the continuing development of the college represents the steadfastness of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. He added that the Hungarian government grants continuous support to ensure that children receive education in the Hungarian language from kindergarten to higher education. He said that "We do our best to ensure that education in the Hungarian language represents high-quality education." He added that the Hungarian government has proven its commitment by contributing HUF 426 million to the construction work on the sports center. The facility meets all the requirements of the 21st century, he said.



Ministerial Commissioner: policy for Hungarian communities abroad is of utmost importance for the government

In Budapest on Wednesday young people of Hungarian origin living in the United States and Canada were received by Péter Szilágyi, the Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking at the meeting Mr. Szilágyi pointed out that since 2010 the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has been of the utmost importance for the Hungarian government. Greeting the 21 young people arriving in Hungary as part of the Hungarian Birthright Program "ReConnect" Hungary, the Ministerial Commissioner said that 15 million Hungarians live in the world, 1.8 million of them in the diaspora in North America. During the two weeks, the second- and third-generation Hungarian participants will have the chance to see Budapest, the rural areas of Hungary and visit the places their ancestors came from. The Ministerial Commissioner added that in addition to learning Hungarian and attending cultural events, participants will have the opportunity to meet entrepreneurs and members of the Government.