

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Potápi: Policy for Hungarian communities abroad changed radically in 2010

On Monday, speaking at the opening ceremony of the summer internship training of the participants of the Szász Pál Szász scholarship program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, which had been fluctuating earlier, changed radically in 2010. The state secretary pointed out that the aim of the Hungarian Government is to achieve that the sector of culture, economy, education, healthcare and media operate as a cohesive whole in the Carpathian Basin. He stressed that the main objective of the Szász Pál scholarship program is to give a clear view of the Hungarian legal order for those who graduate outside Hungary. He added that it is of great importance to educate Hungarian lawyers abroad who know not only the Hungarian legal order, but also the customary law of the successor states. The state secretary said that this year 30 students were granted scholarship: 21 students – from Transylvania, 7 – from Vojvodina and 2 – from Slovakia. The mastermind of the program András Levente Gál said at the event that since the beginning of the program, 177 students have been granted the scholarship.

The Szász Pál scholarship program for lawyers was established by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad in 2012, in cooperation with the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. The Budapest Bar Association agreed to take part in the implementation of the professional part of the program, and to also evaluate the professional tasks. The purpose of the scholarship program is for Hungarian communities beyond the borders to have highly qualified lawyers committed to the nation who are equally familiar with the relevant terminology in Hungarian and in the language of the majority state and have gained experience in both countries. Scholarship grants may be awarded within the framework of the program to students who are engaged in legal studies in their native countries, and are interested in business law.



Hungary's and Romania's Defense Ministries start talks on Úzvölgye Cemetery

Talks on the Úzvölgye/Valea Uzului memorial cemetery in Romania, a resting place of Hungarian World War One soldiers, started between Hungarian and Romanian authorities, Colonel Vilmos Kovács, the head of the Hungarian delegation has informed the Hungarian news agency MTI.

In April this year, the council of Dormánfalva/Dărmănești erected a memorial site for Romanian soldiers fallen in the second world war within the cemetery. Ahead of the site's inauguration on June 6, the visitors of that event clashed with Szekler demonstrators and eventually forced their way into the cemetery. Hungary has slammed the incident as "blasphemous, in violation of laws and international



agreements and also deeply immoral” and demanded the site’s restoration, where they said the memorial had been erected over the ashes of Hungarian soldiers.

At the meeting of officials from the two countries’ authorities responsible for war grave maintenance, the Hungarian party reiterated its request for restoration. The talks will continue in September, with the officials’ visit to the cemetery, Kovács, who also heads the Hungarian Institute and Museum for Military History, said. He added that hopefully the September talks will bring “a professional and mutually satisfying solution”.



The Party of Hungarian Coalition (MKP) seeks ways to the parliament

The meeting of the National Council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) was held on Saturday. At the meeting, the leaders of the party made a decision according to which they will hold talks with every Hungarian political movement and civil organization on a possible cooperation at the approaching Slovakian parliamentary election which are scheduled to take place in 2020. Speaking at the event, the head of the MKP József Menyhárt stressed that an acceptable solution for the MKP would be the establishment of an election party or an election coalition. Mr. Menyhárt added that his party has received the invitation of the Most-Híd (Bridge) party as well as that of the Hungarian Forum. He added that the MKP will hold talks with both of them.



New kindergarten center to be built in Vojvodina

On Friday at the ground-breaking ceremony of a new kindergarten center in Vojvodina’s Maradék/Maradik, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that the aim of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program is to strengthen Hungarian identity, stressing that as long as children can learn in the Hungarian language, the future of Hungarian communities is ensured in the Carpathian Basin. The kindergarten will be built as part of the Hungarian Government’s Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program. The State Secretary said that the investment receives a funding of 80 million HUF/EUR 250,000 from Budapest. The new building will have a total floor space of 200 square meters with two group rooms and a hall in the basement adequate for 150 people, suitable for other community events. Árpád János Potápi added that the institution will be operated by the Reformed Church.





Potápi: The aim of financial support in the field of health care serves the permanence of Transcarpathian Hungarians

On Thursday In Csap/ Čop, at the inauguration ceremony of a clinic and surgery renovated by the Hungarian Government, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister' Office Árpád János Potápi said that the salary supplement to Hungarian-speaking doctors and healthcare workers in Transcarpathia and the local healthcare development programs both aim at keeping doctors and local people in their motherland. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the healthcare institute which provides care to two-third of the inhabitants of Ungvár district, Árpád János Potápi stressed that the Hungarian Government provides all possible support to Hungarian and non-Hungarian inhabitants, regardless of their nationality, including healthcare, which is of utmost importance for everyone. The state secretary said that it is extremely important to re-strengthen the cooperation between the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and the Hungarian Democratic Union in Ukraine (UMDSZ) which started a few years ago. He stressed that thanks to this Hungarian-Hungarian cooperation, past years have been successful for Hungarian and non-Hungarian people living in Transcarpathia. The state secretary asked the participants of the event to support the candidates of the Hungarian cooperation in the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine which will take place on 21 July, in order to ensure further successful work and collaboration.

Greza: there is a giant leap forward in the development of Hungarian tourism in Transcarpathia

In Transcarpathia's Beregszász/Berehove, presenting certificates to qualified Transcarpathian guest houses, Ministerial Commissioner István Greza said that there has been a giant leap forward in the development of Hungarian tourism in Transcarpathia as a result of 400 village tourism guest houses from Ungvár/Uzshorod to Körösmező/Jaszinya have received a qualification in line with the Hungarian evaluation system. At the certificate presenting ceremony István Greza stressed that the importance of the certification of village guest houses can be understood only if we know that in 2014, following the outbreak of the Eastern Ukraine fights, Hungarian tourists and Hungarian students participating in the Határtalanul! (Without borders) Program stopped visiting Transcarpathia. After that the Hungarian Government – together with the Transcarpathian Hungarian Tourism Council – made serious efforts to draw back tourists to Transcarpathia. In connection with this, Mr. Greza stressed that travel programs operated together with the Rákóczi Association – like the program for pensioners and church groups – as well as the launch of trainings for tourist guides have been extremely successful.

