

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Gergely Gulyás: Hungarian communities scattered in the world represent a resource for the motherland

In his address at the All-Hungarian University camp of the Rákóczi Association, Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás said that the Hungarian government regards the situation arising from the geographical segmentation of the Hungarian community as a resource for the motherland. He added that if we succeed in raising commitment to the Hungarian nation in Hungarians who were born in other countries or even on other continents, this could also benefit the Hungarian nation as a whole. Gergely Gulyás pointed out that Hungary's economy is getting stronger, which is proven by the growing number of people catching up to the middle class. He added that the family policy is an important asset to this process, as helping couples have children will not mean that they become poor. Before an audience of students coming from the Carpathian Basin, the diaspora as well as students representing student groups from the motherland, the minister said that the media in Western Europe and the United States of America gives a false image of Hungary. He added that most of these reports are generated by ideological debates which arise from the different processes of evolution in societies in Eastern and Western Europe.

A record number of applications received in the "Without Borders!" program

Speaking at a press conference presenting the results of the Without Borders! program in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that over two-thousand applications were received as part of the program and the amount of the requested support exceeds HUF 6.3 billion/EUR 19 million. This year more than 101 000 pupils will have an opportunity to take part in the program which supports the school trips of pupils living in Hungary to Hungarian-populated areas outside Hungary. The state secretary added that the Hungarian Government has granted an extra fund of HUF 590 million, as the requested support exceeded the amount allocated for the program. Chief Executive Officer of the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. responsible for the implementation of the program Rudolf Zalán Erdélyi said that 20 % more applications were submitted this year than in 2018 which is largely due a recently introduced "innovation": an information tour which was held in Hungary for the first time this year.

The Without Borders! program was launched in 2010 with the aim to provide an opportunity for pupils studying in Hungary to visit Hungarian-populated areas in neighboring countries, to establish relations there and strengthen ties between Hungarians living in the kin-state and Hungarian living abroad.



Árpád János Potápi: Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and Petőfi Sándor Program are exemplary and unique

Speaking in Budapest on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and the Petőfi Sándor Program are exemplary and unique at an international level. Addressing the opening ceremony of the training week of the two programs' scholarship holders, the state secretary said that the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program supporting Hungarians in the diaspora and the Petőfi Sándor Program focusing on dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin are flagships of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. He added that though there are programs similar to the Hungarian ones, "no other programs or national policy exist that are as well-coordinated and well-thought-out as the Hungarian model." The state secretary pointed out that the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program was launched in 2013 with the participation of 47 interns. The Petőfi Sándor Program joined it in 2015. By today, the number of interns taking part in the two programs reaches 225 a year. He added that the rise in the number of interns represents a jump in the quality as well. The interns of the two programs participate in the work of Hungarian communities in the world for a period of six or nine months. Their work includes community building, educating children, teaching Hungarian language, folk music and folk dance.



Mayor of Marosvásárhely initiates the renationalization of the building of the Roman Catholic school

The Mayor of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş Dorin Florea has announced that he would initiate the re-nationalization of the building of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely which is currently owned by the Roman Catholic Church. The leader's words were quoted by the news agency Agerpres on Thursday. According to the media report, the mayor said that he would take every possible legal step to achieve that the town regains ownership of the property. He accused the church of not having complied with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement and of having bribed the local government at the beginning of every academic year. The mayor gave no precise explanation for what he accuses the church of or how the church has breached the lease agreement.



Árpád János Potápi: Hungarian culture and folk traditions are the foundation for Hungarian communities to survive

Speaking in Nagyida/Veľká Ida in Slovakia on Saturday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that leaning on the Hungarian culture and folk traditions can be the foundation for



Hungarian communities to survive. He was talking about this in his speech delivered at the inauguration ceremony of the Ilosvai House in Nagyida, a small town near Kassa/Košice. The building was inaugurated as part of the 12th Ilosvai Festival and was constructed with the financial support of HUF 200 million/EUR 630,000 from the Hungarian Government. Out of the total costs of the construction of the institution, an amount of HUF 185 million/EUR 585,000 was covered by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The building will operate as a museum house, event and folk art center. In his speech the state secretary recalled the history of the town as well as the Hungarian community there that has managed to survive the storms of history – as he said – leaning on the firm foundation of the Hungarian culture.



Ministerial Commissioner Péter Szilágyi attends August 20 celebration in South Africa

On Sunday, Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi attended the central August 20 commemoration of Hungarian communities living in South Africa. Giving a telephone interview to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the ceremony, the ministerial commissioner stressed that the times when the Hungarian motherland rejected diaspora communities are over. Mr. Szilágyi was invited by the Hungarian Alliance of South Africa on the occasion of the Hungarian national holiday, St. Stephen's Day. The Ministerial Commissioner said that the Hungarian community was established in South Africa in the middle of the 20th century and has been lucky enough to maintain a Hungarian House with the name Magyar Tanya where they can commemorate national holidays and organize Hungarian programs, cultural events from week to week.

