

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

37/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Semjén: the Hungarian language is essential for the existence of the Carpathian Basin

Speaking at the academic year opening ceremony of the Szent István University in Gödöllő On Monday, Zsolt Semjén, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Policy on Hungarian Communities Abroad, emphasized the importance of the Hungarian language. He said that in cultural, spiritual and economic terms “we will be able to exist at the scale of the Carpathian Basin” if “we do not let the Hungarian language fall apart”. Mr. Semjén added that “thinking and language are inseparable”, and one cannot think about something without being able to properly express oneself linguistically. He pointed out that the quality of the language we use for thinking is of huge importance, as is the question of whether it is our mother tongue or a second language.



Zsolt Németh: Transylvania must be made an alliance of Bucharest and Budapest

Zsolt Németh has said that Transylvania needs a “new Transylvaniam”: an alliance of Transylvania with Bucharest/București and Budapest, to counteract the globalist mainstream. The Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament spoke about this at the congress of deputies of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party (EMNP) in Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureș on Saturday. Mr. Németh pointed out that Hungary is stable and its international influence is growing, which means that the Hungarian communities abroad can “rely on it as a strong mother country”, while neighboring countries can regard it as both a strong neighbor and a partner.



Szili: Csemadok represents unity in Slovakia

On Monday, speaking at an event held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of Csemadok, the largest cultural-public organization of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili said that Csemadok represents unity in Slovakia. The event was held in the Prímás Palace in Pozsony/Bratislava. The Mirror Hall of the historic building was filled with the event’s guests, including some well-known public figures and politicians. Recalling the circumstances in which the organization was established, the Prime Ministerial Commissioner pointed out that in its first period the organization provided an intellectual and cultural arena for Hungarian communities in Slovakia that had been “beheaded” by population exchange. These efforts of the organization have helped the Hungarian communities to remain and preserve their identity.



István Pásztor: a more energetic enlargement policy is expected from the European Commission

István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), has described László Trócsányi's nomination for the post of EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement as one of the greatest achievements of Hungarian foreign policy. Mr. Pásztor was speaking on the Subotica/Szabadka Hungarian Radio show "Napindító". He said that this nomination can be viewed as recognition of Hungary's European policy. Talking about the situation at crossing points on the Serbian-Hungarian border, he said that conditions there are unfair on everybody. He called for the launch of a Serbian-Hungarian working group to find a solution to this problem of several years standing, and to come up with ideas that can ease the tangible pressure at the border.



Potápi: founding the Rákóczi College proves that the Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia are planning for the long term

Speaking at the academic year opening ceremony of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education in the Reformed church of Beregszász/Berehove on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that by establishing higher education in the Hungarian language, the Hungarian communities have proved that they are planning for the long term. Mr. Potápi received the Rákóczi Award as part of the ceremony. In his speech Mr. Potápi pointed out that the Rákóczi College – that has operated for over a quarter of a century – was established in a period which was not favorable for founding a higher education institution, and when "sowing the seeds was not easy at all". He stressed that, despite these difficulties, Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia decided not to wait any longer; he pointed out that they were the first Hungarian community abroad to establish a higher education institution.

Kindergarten inauguration ceremony in Karácsfalva/Karachyn

The Szent Mihály Greek Catholic kindergarten was officially inaugurated in Karácsfalva/ Karachyn on 18th September, nearly one year after it was built. Present at the ceremony were: Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad; József Buhajla, Consul General in Ungvár/Uzhhorod; and Mátyás Szilágyi, Consul General in Beregszász/Berehove. Aranka Dobsa, head of the Szent Mihály Kindergarten, opened the inauguration with some thoughts. She pointed out that kindergarten education plays the most important part in raising healthy children, as at this age they master the fundamental behavioral norms. In his speech State Secretary Potápi again pointed out that the kindergarten was not solely built for



Hungarian children with Hungarian parents. He concluded by saying that it is important that children from mixed marriages grow up and live their childhoods in a well-equipped, safe environment.



Péter Szilágyi: the relationship with the Hungarian communities in the diaspora must be strengthened

Speaking from Frankfurt on Saturday in a telephone interview, Péter Szilágyi, Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office, said that the relationship with the Hungarian communities living in the diaspora must be strengthened to draw them closer to the Carpathian Basin with stronger ties. Following the conference of the Confederation of Hungarian Organizations in Germany (Bund Ungarischer Organisationen in Deutschland, BUOD), Mr. Szilágyi announced that the Hungarian government will extend its support of Hungarian communities abroad and launch new programs for them. The Ministerial Commissioner said that BUOD provides the opportunity for the members of different parts of the nation to talk about the issues and challenges they face. The event this year has highlighted the problems of the Hungarians living in Ukraine, informing the general public about the situation in Transcarpathia.

