

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



A fund of over HUF 600 million to Hungarian organizations and businesses abroad to support child-friendly activities

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that the state secretariat will ensure more than HUF 600 million/EUR 1.9 million for Hungarian civil and church organizations as well as businesses abroad which offer child-friendly services. The state secretary stressed that a record number of applications were received this year and nearly half of them will receive support. Mr. Potápi recalled that the state secretariat had launched thematic years since 2012 and after 2014 these years focused mainly on economy: the strengthening of vocational education and Hungarian enterprises abroad. The State Secretary said that this year HUF 1 billion/EUR 3.1 million is allocated for the thematic year (year of Hungarian children abroad), adding that that the vast majority of this sum, sixty per cent is spent on calls for application. He stressed that the aim is to increase the intention of parents abroad to raise more children, so that an increasing number of children were born who can prosper in their homeland.

Prime Minister's Office to organize conference for Hungarian university and college students abroad

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad organizes a conference and further training named "Our Story" for Hungarian university and college students abroad. The conference will take place at the end of November in Eger. The application is open for Hungarian university and college students abroad who are planning their future in their homeland. Students who successfully apply will have an opportunity to take part in lectures and round-table discussions. In addition to the training of students, the event's aim is to strengthen relations between young Hungarians living in different parts of the Carpathian Basin.



Martyrs commemorated in Arad

Speaking at the October 6 commemoration (the 170th anniversary of the execution of the leaders of Hungary's 1848-49 revolution and freedom fight) at the Statue of Liberty in Romania's Arad, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the grief of 6 October in Arad can be understood only together with the celebration of the outburst of the 1848 revolution and the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 following the defeat of the revolution. Mr. Semjén highlighted that "it is a celebration, pain and responsibility to be in Arad", as Arad inscribed its name in the Hungarian history forever. Mr. Semjén added that the judgement of the actors of the history is not coherent within one nation; Austrians have a different opinion on the Hungarian freedom fight, so do the Romanians. The



event was also addressed by the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen.

“This building is a small Hungary” – János Bólyai College inaugurated in Temesvár

On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén attended the inauguration ceremony of the Bólyai János College for advanced studies in Temesvár/ Timișoara. The institution that is situated near the Hungarian language Bartók Béla High School provides accommodation and training in Hungarian language for thirty per cent of the Hungarian students studying at universities in Temesvár. The Catholic Church offered the building – which was in a ruined state – and the Hungarian government ensured HUF 150 million/EUR 478.000 for its renovation and operation. In his address to the students, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén wished them to spend happy and useful years there, “to prosper in knowledge and spirit, and never to forget that this building is a piece of the homeland, Hungary”. Speaking at the event, President of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that education is not only a strategic issue for Hungarians in Transylvania, but also a question of existence. He added that Hungarian education must be improved in Romania to provide a competitive knowledge.

László Kövér: Szeklerland deserves restitution from both Budapest and Bucharest

The Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér has argued that Szeklerland and Szeklers deserved historical restitution from Budapest and Bucharest. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a renovated building of the Education Centre of the University in Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, the house speaker stressed that the Szeklers could expect “a good word” from both capitals because both Romania and Hungary were in debt morally to Szeklerland and the Szeklers. He added that “in Romania’s case the timeline was one hundred years.” Mr. Kövér said that “Neither Romania nor Hungary wanted to lose control over their own economic resources or their value-creating workforce, so it was incumbent on both countries to take action to prevent this from happening in Szeklerland.” Kövér referred to the past mistakes of Budapest and Bucharest which had resulted in the gross neglect of Szeklerland in terms of the development of infrastructure and the input of capital. He said the self-government of Székelyudvarhely had been ahead of the Hungarian state when in 1998, three years before Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania was established, it hosted an external branch of the Hungarian university, expanding higher education in Odorheiu Secuiesc, adding that the time had come for the Hungarian state-maintained Sapientia University to launch degree courses in Székelyudvarhely.





Összefogás (Fellowship) conducts discussions with the Most-Híd (Bridge)

Following the discussions with the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and Hungarian Forum (MF), the Összefogás (Fellowship) tried to agree with the Most-Híd (Bridge) party on a collaboration. In order to achieve this they offered the Most-Híd that their candidates shall be nominated on the list of Fellowship in the parliamentary elections next year. The member of the preparation committee of the movement Szabolcs Mózes added that they would not welcome divisive people on their list. He did not reveal, however, who he was talking about, and highlighted only the personal responsibility that Béla Bugár would take. Mr. Bugár said that he will convey the offer of Fellowship to the presidency of Bridge. Mr. Mózes declared that their candidates will not be on the electoral list of any other parties. Speaking about their own list, Mr. Bugár said that they wish to support not only the Hungarians, but all the other minority groups in Slovakia.



6 October is commemorated in Vojvodina

The Hungarian national day of mourning, 6 October was commemorated in almost every town and village in Vojvodina. Speaking in Elemér/Elemir (the birth town of Lieutenant General Ernő Kiss), the president of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal said that the secret for the Hungarians to remain is that “our nation has always been able to overcome the destructions and disasters”. Mr. Hajnal pointed out that we can often hear that the nation is increasing in number, that the Hungarian community in Vojvodina will disappear, but in fact there are still enough people there who endure and trust in the remaining of the Hungarian community. In Ada, a statue was erected for János Damjanich in 2011 where commemoration is held every year since then. Speaking at this year’s event, the Vice President of the Committee on National Cohesion Zoltán Fenyvesi said that the importance of the events of Arad is that “we need reconciliation with each other”.



Potápi: The example of the life of Zsigmond Perényi carries the message that preserving our Hungarian nation has to be a priority

Speaking in Nagyszőlős/ Vynohradiv at the central commemoration ceremony on the national day of mourning, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the example of the life of Zsigmond Perényi carries the message that preserving our Hungarian nationality has to hold priority above all other interests, and we have to do our best to fight for in the most efficient way. In his speech delivered at the memorial of martyr count of Ugocsa Zsigmond Perényi who was executed on 24th October in Pest, the State Secretary said that we are lucky to have people in every community, including our own community, who can be regarded as examples after centuries. He added that Count Zsigmond Perényi is still a



prominent figure of the Hungarian communities in Beregszász/Berehove, Nagyszőlős/ Vynohradiv and Transcarpathia. Mr. Potápi pointed out that the descendants of the heroes who were executed a hundred and seventy years ago are the members of a free nation not only in the Carpathian Basin, but also in every part of the world, having not only a past, a present but also a secure future. Mr. Potápi concluded by saying that today we can say that the Hungarian community is coherent, strong and convergent, and the Hungarian governments regards these organizations as its partners.
