

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

46/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Potápi: the Government does everything in its power to strengthen relations between Hungarian communities

Speaking at a conference entitled “Without Borders program – more than tourism”, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “The Government does everything in its power to strengthen relations between Hungarian communities, and these policies can mainly be built on young people.” The conference on the Without Borders program was held for the first time. The State Secretary added that a hundred years ago Hungary lost more than two thirds of its territories and one third of its people were stranded in newly foreign territories, therefore all Hungarian governments need to work on strengthening relations between communities in Hungary and abroad. As the State Secretary pointed out, thanks to the Without Borders program in the 2019-20 school year nearly 101,000 students have the opportunity to get to know the Carpathian Basin, and they can spend 450,000 nights abroad as guests.

Professional weekend for Hungarian students in higher education abroad

Speaking in Eger at a professional weekend and further training for Hungarian students in higher education abroad held, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “All capital invested in policies for Hungarian communities abroad is helpful in the development of the whole Hungarian nation.” The title of the conference was Our story. Árpád János Potápi emphasized that one of the most important missions of the Hungarian government is to render relations between Hungarian communities abroad indestructible. He said that whereas for this purpose the socialist government spent slightly over HUF 9 billion in its last year, the figure today is over HUF 100 billion per year.

Every year since 2014 the professional weekend organized by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has hosted over 80 Hungarian students from abroad. They come from various Hungarian-populated territories from Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina, Transcarpathia and Slovenia.

Tamás Menczer: Hungarian foreign policy always focuses on the interest of Hungarians

In the National University of Public Service on Thursday, at a conference held on the Hungarian Diplomacy Day, Tamás Menczer pointed out that Hungarians abroad are seen as a link between two countries, not a wall between them: “We assume and we hope that by achieving shared successes that build our trust in each other, we can also solve more sensitive issues together.” He said that there is a long road ahead, even though the Hungarian communities abroad are in a better situation than five years ago. He noted that Serbia treats Hungarian communities exceptionally well, and “we’ve never had better relations with Slovakia”: solutions for some issues concerning Hungarian minorities in Slovakia have been found, but there is a definite



need for comprehensive answers in Ukrainian-Hungarian relations. State Secretary Menczer emphasized that the Government will continue to support Hungarians in Transcarpathia and will never sacrifice the community in geopolitical games.



Final result approaching: Klaus Johannis receives 66 percent of votes

According to the official records of voting districts in Romania and abroad, Klaus Johannis won 66 percent of votes in the second round of the presidential election. So far 99.75 percent of the votes have been processed. The Permanent Electoral Authority declared on Monday morning that Johannis received 6,477,576 votes, whereas opposing candidate Viorica Dăncilă received 3,336,388. As votes have almost been processed entirely, it is safe to say that Klaus Johannis remains president, while the Social Democrats (PSD) have polled their weakest result in the past thirty years. According to Hunor Kelemen, the reports after the second round show the expected results. Mr. Kelemen expressed his best wishes, as well as those of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, for Klaus Johannis's second term. He expressed the hope that the coming five years will bring some changes, the President will be more future-oriented and more focused on the people and the community, and Hungarians will receive more respect.

State Secretary Árpád János Potápi inaugurates several renovated nurseries in Szeklerland

In an inauguration ceremony on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi declared that the renovation of nurseries in Barót (Baraolt) and Málnásfürdő (Malnaș-Băi) in Szeklerland were supported by the Hungarian government. The Hungarian Teacher's Association of Romania supported the renovations as the Transylvanian partner of the Government. After the event Mr. Potápi confirmed via phone to the Hungarian press agency MTI that the Government offered HUF 15 million in support for the renovation of the Cimbor nursery in Barót, but the amount of the whole investment was higher, as the local council contributed, as well as the parents. The majority of the provincial town joined forces to provide the seven nursery classes (consisting of 170 children). The State Secretary pointed out that this has created a good atmosphere in which to visit. The renovation of the nursery building and the equipment of its playground were provided HUF 30 million of funding by the Hungarian government.





Gyula Bárdos leads the list of the Unity of the Hungarian Community in Slovakia

At a press conference after the MKP's national council meeting it was declared that the President of Csemadok (the biggest Hungarian cultural and political organization in Slovakia) Gyula Bárdos will lead the list on which three Slovakian Hungarian parties – Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Hungarian Forum (Magyar Fórum) and the Unity of the Hungarian Community – will take part as one in the elections in February. Candidates of the three parties will take part in the elections as candidates of Unity of the Hungarian Community, which they formed by renaming the party “Unity” last October, after failing to unify five parties. The three parties decided to cooperate after the Hungarian Christian Democratic Association (MKDSZ) and Most-Híd (Bridge) Slovakian-Hungarian mixed party refused to rule out cooperation with Direction – Social Democracy (Smer-SD), which is the strongest ruling party at the moment.



Levente Magyar: economic development program in Vojvodina continues

As minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Parliamentary State Secretary Levente Magyar declared on Friday in Subotica (Szabadka), the economic development program in Vojvodina has brought nearly EUR 300 million support to Vojvodina, and this will keep growing – in the near future we can expect investment in the tourism sector. He evaluated the results of the economic development program. He stressed that Hungary has always launched programs in Serbia which have been beneficial and helpful for the whole country. As he explained, Hungary wants Serbia to be powerful, and supporting the Hungarian nation in Vojvodina can help Serbia become stronger. The Hungarian government wants to keep supporting Hungarian people, economics and Serbian-Hungarian relations in Vojvodina.



Presidents of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) discuss challenges that Hungarian communities in Transcarpathia face

Presidents of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) discussed challenges that Transcarpathian Hungarians face – such as ongoing administrative reforms and preparations for the upcoming local elections. The KMKSZ yearly conference was held on Saturday in Yanoshi (Makkosjányosi), near Berehove (Beregszász). Evaluating the current situation in Ukraine, President of KMKSZ László Brenzovics declared that in spite of the recent changes in the Ukrainian government, there is no sign of progress in the politics for Hungarian communities, and anti-Hungarian measures are still experienced. Education and language laws are



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD
DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFORMATION

depriving Hungarian communities of their rights, and according to Mr. Brenzovics this is not likely to change in the near future.
