

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Szijjártó: Hungary firmly supports UN aspirations to protect language rights of indigenous and national minorities

At the UN General Assembly on Tuesday at a high-level event marking the end of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stated that the UN places great emphasis on the protection of the language rights of indigenous and national minorities. He added that Hungary firmly supports these aspirations of the world organization, and is taking action to protect the rights of Hungarian national minorities beyond the borders. Speaking on the telephone to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Szijjártó drew attention to the fact that Hungary is a country for which the borders of the nation do not coincide with those of the country itself. Therefore for Hungary it is particularly important for the UN to protect the rights of national and indigenous minorities. He stressed that for national communities and minorities the most important vehicle for preserving their identity and culture is clearly language, and so it is necessary to be vigilant in ensuring that no one should be able to curtail the rights of national communities beyond the borders in relation to use of the Hungarian language.

Potápi: Budget for the competition “For Hungarian Culture and Education” to be doubled

At a press conference in Budapest on Friday, the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad announced a doubling of the budget for calls for applications for support for Hungarian education and culture in communities – from this year’s HUF 1.1 billion to HUF 2 billion. Árpád János Potápi pointed out that central funding has been increased from HUF 700 million to HUF 1 billion, while regional funding has risen from HUF 400 million to HUF 1 billion. The State Secretary also mentioned that the amount of funding that can be claimed has also changed: for central funding it is between HUF 500,000 and HUF 10 million; and for regional funding it is between HUF 300,000 and HUF 3 million. The following areas are eligible for support: cultural and educational programs and activities for Hungarian communities; written and electronic media; book publishing; NGOs, churches, legal persons within churches; the operation of religious institutions; development programs and real estate investments.



Iohannis calls for legislative justice on the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Romanian Revolution

Speaking in the Romanian Parliament on Monday at a meeting commemorating the Romanian Revolution, Romanian president Klaus Iohannis called for justice and the holding to account of those guilty of crimes in the Revolution of December 1989. The Revolution marked the end of the communist dictatorship and claimed over 1,100



lives. As the President pointed out, over the past 30 years Romania has returned to democracy, but it still owes a great debt to the freedom fighters of 1989. He added that the country has joined the EU and NATO, its citizens have learned to protect their rights, and with their votes have defended the rule of law and Romania's commitment to Europe. As Mr. Iohannis highlighted, it is not enough to commemorate the heroes that brought democracy in 1989: Romania has taken an unacceptably long time in repaying its debt to them, and doing so will be a test for the country's judiciary.



István Pásztor: 2019 has been a successful year – 2020 will bring many challenges

In his annual review speech in Novi Sad on Thursday, István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and the Assembly of Vojvodina, called 2019 an important and successful year. Answering questions from the Hungarian and Vojvodinan press, he said that next year's greatest challenge will be the general election. He pointed out that the Alliance of Vojvodina has sought ideas to help Hungarian communities in Vojvodina be more successful, and that he considers the end of the first and the start of the second phase of Vojvodina's economic development program to be a success. He pointed out that the development program is one of the greatest national political achievements of recent years, and this has been the vehicle for Vojvodina to contribute to the toolkit of policies for Hungarian communities abroad. He stated that although the program started in Vojvodina, it has now extended to several areas across the Carpathian Basin. He also considered the EU elections a success. He stressed that the elections affected Hungarians in Vojvodina for several reasons: firstly, Vojvodinan politician Andor Deli stood as a Fidesz-KDNP candidate; and secondly, this was the first time that Hungarians without a residence in Hungary were able to vote in EU elections.



Equestrian statue of Ferenc Rákóczi II inaugurated in Transcarpathia

In Berehove (Beregszász) on Tuesday, Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás inaugurated a life-size equestrian statue of Ferenc Rákóczi II. Mr. Gulyás said that the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia – which is an integral and constituent part of the country in which it lives – has proved time and again that it not only has a past and a present in its native land, but also a future there. In his speech at the statue inauguration ceremony in one of the city's central squares, which is named after Budapest, Mr. Gulyás stressed that this was where Ferenc Rákóczi II entered Hungarian territory and where he bade farewell to his supporters, who had been faithful to him throughout. The erection of the statue was initiated by the office of the Mayor of Berehove and the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association.



President of the latter, László Brenzovics, gave a speech in which he said that the erection of the equestrian statue of Ferenc Rákóczi II has realized a 126-year-old dream of the people of Berehove, as many years ago the city's population started a collection for a statue in a public place immortalizing the great prince.



Árpád János Potápi inaugurates a youth center and training farm in Kopačevo, Croatia

In Kopačevo (Kopács), Croatia on Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi inaugurated a youth center and training farm created with the support of the Hungarian government. In his inauguration speech Mr. Potápi said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad spent HUF 180 million on building the 8,000-square-meter youth center. He stated that he was glad to be able to provide this support, as it is obvious that there are goals to achieve there, and the youth center represents the center of the Hungarian community there. He expressed the hope that Kopačevo could be one of the series of towns organizing camps for Hungarian communities abroad, which currently comprises Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), Gombasek (Gombaszög) and Martovce (Martos). Kopačevo will organize its first camp in 2020.

