

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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2020 will be the year of strong Hungarian communities in policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Last Sunday the Prime Minister's office informed Hungarian press agency MTI that this year will be one for building communities in policy for Hungarian communities abroad, with special focus on their prosperity and economic growth. According to the statement, the younger generations will be at the center of attention. A series of programs called "Year of Strong Hungarian Communities" will be launched. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the aim of these programs is to present the past century's achievements – from the local to the global – and to set an example for the Hungarian nation by presenting thriving Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin and all over the world. This year Hungarian communities abroad can continue to expect the support of regional economic development programs. Furthermore, last year's pioneering entrepreneurs' mentor training program, which aimed to strengthen the economy of the Hungarian nation, will be extended to other regions abroad in 2020.

Péter Szilágyi: relations between Hungarians in the diaspora and the kin state strengthened

As Minister for Hungarian Communities abroad Péter Szilágyi pointed out on Monday in Budapest, we have made great progress in policy for Hungarian communities abroad since 2010, and relations between Hungarians in the diaspora and the kin state have got stronger. Speaking at the opening ceremony of a training program for students who will travel to the Southern Hemisphere, he noted that before 2010 the diaspora was not central to policy for Hungarian communities abroad, but this has changed, with the kin state now focusing more support and attention on Hungarians in the diaspora. He added that Hungarians feel this increase in attention, and they have a closer and more active relationship with the kin state, partly due to the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor program. Mr. Szilágyi said that the program, launched in 2013, is gaining in success every year: at the beginning it could support 47 scholarship students, today this number is 150, and the period of service in the Southern Hemisphere has been increased from six months to nine. He added that in 2020 thirty-six students will be sent to the Southern Hemisphere – the same number as last year. Fifteen students are going to Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), eighteen to Australia, two to New Zealand and one to the Republic of South Africa.

Achievements of Mikes Kelemen Program summarized in a professional gathering

Researchers summarized the achievements of Mikes Kelemen Program in a professional gathering on Friday, which was attended by professionals from the National Széchenyi Library and the National Archives of Hungary. The program was launched in 2013 with the aim of collecting heritage artifacts and library archives.



The first items were collected in January 2014 and were transported to Hungary in December 2014. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the gathering, the Minister for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi recalled that at the outset seven overseas countries participated in the collection organized by Hungarian communities, and in 2015 researchers began travelling to the locations. He said that fifteen researchers have taken part in the program since 2015, and so far 3,747 boxes have been collected. The unique documents are transported to the National Széchenyi Library and National Archives, and copies are offered to Hungarian institutions, schools, libraries and cultural centers abroad.



Commemoration of Siculeni (Mádéfalva) massacre

The 256th anniversary of the events in Siculeni was commemorated with a Holy Mass. Those speaking focused on persistence, endurance and steadfastness and remembered the fate of Bukovina Szeklers and Csango people of Moldavia dispersed all over the world. Károly Pánczél, President of the Committee of National Unity and member of the National Assembly said it is a miracle that we are here, we speak Hungarian and we are able to commemorate the victims. It is enough to look back on the events of the 20th century, the two devastating wars, the partition of Hungary, the occupation called “liberation” and the labor camps. The representative noted that 2020 has been declared the Year of National Cohesion. He pointed out that “It has not been declared a year of grieving: we must move on. We said we want a day for commemoration and 364 days for cohesion. We expect our neighbors to respect us.”



Program of Unity of Hungarian Community announced

Unity of Hungarian Community announced its program in Révkomárom/Komarno on a day of historical significance: the 26th anniversary of the General Assembly of Komarno. As was declared in the press conference before the announcement, the program is meant to be sustainable and to serve the community. The community program of the three parties was presented to the press in Komarno on 8 January by Gyula Bárdos, Szabolcs Mózes, Zsolt Simon and József Menyhárt. As leader of the party, Gyula Bárdos said that they would like to make some crucial changes that the Hungarian communities in Slovakia need: “We are at the beginning of a new era, as after a long time, three political parties formed an alliance to address Hungarian communities and citizens in Slovakia.” He added that they see honorable politics and community interests to be crucial.





Victims of Čurug raid commemorated

The victims of the raid of 1942 were commemorated in the Topalov warehouse in Čurug today. After praying together in the place of execution that now operates as a museum, visitors paid their respects at the memorial by the banks of the Tisza. Those responsible for the events in Šajkaška were tried in 1943 during the Horthy regime in Hungary. After the Second World War, Budapest extradited the main perpetrators to Yugoslavia, where they were executed for war crimes. Deputy Secretary Milan Micić said a few words on behalf of the provincial government, MPs of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians and President of the Hungarian National Council Jenő Hajnal also participated in the commemoration.

