

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Minority SafePack: the EU might start legislation in the protection of national minorities in July

The head of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and MEP of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Loránt Vincze has announced that the European Commission received positively the proposals worked out on the basis of the Minority SafePack European Citizens' initiative launched eight years ago and – on the basis of these proposals – it will decide by 10 July whether to start legislation or not. Speaking to Hungarian journalists after the presentation of the initiative at the European Commission, Mr. Vincze said that at the meeting they made it clear that the language and culture of national minorities – which are endangered by assimilation – are part of the cultural legacy of Europe, therefore, it must be protected.



Round-table discussion on the results of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program in Slovakia

A round-table discussion was held in Slovakia's Bős (Gabčíkovo) on the results of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program with the participation of mayors and directors of kindergartens of the region. The event was also attended by ministerial commissioner responsible for the program István Grezsa. The ministerial commissioner stressed that the total budget of the program is HUF 44.6 billion (EUR 143 million) out of which HUF 12 billion (EUR 38 million) is spent on nursery schools in Slovakia. He stressed that this is "positive discrimination" concerning the ratio of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Grezsa also said that this year 303 children more were enrolled in Hungarian nursery schools in Slovakia, adding that this is a positive feedback about the program. As part of the three phases of the program, altogether 175 nursery schools will be renovated and 5 new nursery schools will be built in Slovakia.

16 Hungarian schools in Slovakia receive gift packages

16 Hungarian schools in Slovakia won presents in the game named "We rule the town" launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad for Hungarian children between the age of 6-10 living abroad. The packages were handed over in Komárom. Speaking at the event, the president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) Irén Fekete thanked the Hungarian Government for organizing the competition for the seventh time, stressing that it is a modern and useful game which mobilizes children. She added that the game is very useful because it encourages families and teachers to work together with children. Speaking at the event, the head of the department responsible for Hungarian communities in Slovakia at the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad Éva Czimbalmos Molnár said that it is a great pleasure that the game launched in



2013 is still popular today across the Carpathian Basin. She added that the aim of the initiative is to strengthen Hungarian communities through children.

The VMSZ prepares for an intensive election campaign

Speaking to the Szabadka Hungarian Radio, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that his party will have a very intensive, one and a half month long election campaign before the 26 April elections. Mr. Pásztor stressed that they would like to meet as many people as they can in order to present the results of the previous period as well as future plans. The head of the VMSZ added that he hopes that the EU accession procedure of Serbia will speed up in next years. He stressed that the VMSZ managed to succeed in a lot of fields of life because it “sat at the table of decision-makers.”

Ukrainian Language Act: Good relations are still not up to the Hungarian government

“It is still not up to the Hungarian government whether we return to good Hungarian-Ukrainian relations”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó wrote on his Facebook page with relation to the Ukrainian Language Act issue. The Minister was reacting to the fact that, following their meeting in Kiev on Friday, Ukrainian Education Minister Hanna Novosad said she doesn’t regard any of the proposals that Mr. Szijjártó put forward at the meeting as feasible. Mr. Szijjártó wrote on social media that on Friday the Ukrainian Minister for Education had promised before several witnesses, including the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, to soon meet with representatives of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and discuss the proposals with them. “I hope she keeps her word. A return to good relations is still not up to us”, he emphasized in the post. During his visit to Kiev, Mr. Szijjártó informed his Ukrainian negotiating partner with relation to the Hungarian proposals concerning the possibility of the simultaneous teaching of the Ukrainian language for minorities and enabling Transcarpathian Hungarians to preserve their native language.