

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Orbán: One hundred years after the death sentence of Trianon we are alive

“One hundred years after the death sentence of Trianon, we are able to say that “we are alive, and Hungary still exists”, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed in his state-of-the-nation address delivered on Sunday at the Castle Garden Bazaar in Budapest. The Prime Minister started his speech by saying that today, He added that not only are we still alive, but we have also released ourselves from the clutches of the enemy. With Slovakia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia restored again to national foundations we can find a common voice, and can forge wide cooperation, even alliances, the Prime Minister stated. History has given the peoples of Central Europe a chance again to build a new system of alliance based on their own national interests, and so we can defend ourselves against threats from both the East and the West, Mr. Orbán said. He also highlighted that the success story of every rising nation begins with the strengthening of self-esteem, while the personal self-esteem of the citizens of countries in trouble can only return together with that of their nations. Therefore, restoring national self-esteem is the key to a nation’s rise, he said. He recalled the goal of 2010; “let us prove to ourselves and to the world that we are still somebody”. “We believed that either we would find a path, or we would make one. And as the paths designated by Brussels and Washington were not the right options for us, we were compelled to create a new one,” he said, adding that after ten years, he can say “with due modesty” that “we figured it out, and did it too”.

New calls for application of Without Borders! program published

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi announced that new calls for application of the Without Borders! program – a program as part of which students studying in Hungary can take part in school trips in neighboring countries – are available. The state secretary stressed that the number of applications received as part of the program last year were extremely high as a result of which 101,000 students (mostly of the seventh grade) can spend 450,000 nights abroad. As the State Secretary pointed out, the aim of this program is to strengthen young people’s patriotism, national identity and their relations with Hungarian students living abroad. He emphasized that the expenses of the program is a hundred per cent covered by the Hungarian government.



Potápi: sport is an important community building force

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Saturday in Hargitafürdő (Harghita-Bai), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that 2020 is the year of national cohesion and sport is an important community building force. The state secretary spoke about this at the “ski holiday” organized by the Consulate General of Hungary in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc). Árpád János



Potápi claimed that in the past years, the government made efforts to popularize sports in Hungarian communities abroad and to improve the conditions of sports. The ski association of Harghita-Băi was supported with new ski equipment to be able to provide appropriate conditions for the ski competitions. According to Mr. Potápi, sports are an important part of national identity and ice hockey and skiing are parts of the culture in Szeklerland.

Major setback in the field of language use: the new administrative code inconveniencing the use of mother tongue is now constitutional

The new administrative code passed last summer by the government in Bucharest which regulates the use of mother tongue, was proved to be constitutional and therefore is still valid. After several postponements, the constitutional court in Bucharest overruled the constitutional protest of the ombudsman last Wednesday. According to the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, the intervention in legal procedures with special methods (created for specific situations) of legislation was not grounded. His statement was not sustained by the constitutional court.



Elections in Slovakia: Fico's party might win, Hungarian coalition strengthened

According to the latest poll of MVK which was sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday, the party Direction – Social Democracy (Smer-SD) lead by Robert Fico is likely to win the general elections in Slovakia in late February and the support of the Hungarian list named Unity of Hungarian Community is growing. Over 1,100 people were asked between 5 and 10 February and according to them, 9 political parties will enter the 150-member Slovakian Parliament on 29 February – one more than in 2016. The general turnout is estimated around 57.4 %. According to the MVK poll, 21.6 % of the people asked would choose Smer-SD lead by Robert Fico.



Fidelitas organizes a collection for two Transcarpathian schools

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest last Friday, the president of Fidelitas pointed out that Fidelitas organizes collections for the schools of two Transcarpathian towns, Tizzasalamin (Solomonovo) and Mezőgecse (Hecha). Boglárka Illés emphasized that since its formation in 1996, Fidelitas has paid special attention to Hungarian communities abroad. As she claimed, “we believe that all Hungarian are responsible for each other, no matter where they live.” She stressed that they had chosen the beneficiaries of their collections after consulting the local communities. She added that the schools are mainly expecting financial support which allows them to buy school books, educational tools and materials for their students.