

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

13/2020



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Coronavirus – Orbán: Not a single Hungarian will be left alone

In a video message posted on his official Facebook account on Sunday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that not a single Hungarian will be left alone. In the post shared on the eighteenth day of the “state of danger” declared by the Prime Minister due to the coronavirus pandemic, football supporters from Hungary and beyond the borders could be seen singing the song ‘Without You’ (Nélküled) by the band Ismerős Arcok in a broadcast from multiple locations. The video footage features Marco Rossi, the Hungarian national soccer team’s Italian coach, who is currently in Italy, and the captain of the Hungarian team Balázs Dzsudzsák, who logged in from the United Arab Emirates. In the video message, Mr. Orbán recalls that between 28 March and 11 April there are restrictions on movement throughout the entire territory of the country. As the Prime Minister commented in the video, “for two weeks, we are only allowed to leave our homes or places of residence to go to work or to fulfil essential needs.”

Potápi: In the time of coronavirus, we remain in touch with Hungarian communities abroad

On Friday the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi told the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) that nowadays the primary aim is to preserve the health of ourselves and others and therefore to preserve the nation itself. In spite of coronavirus, we remain in touch with Hungarian communities abroad. He added that earlier announced programs will be kept, but many of them will be modified due to the state of emergency. Mr. Potápi emphasized that in order to slow down the contagion, no events organized or supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will be held until 31 August. The majority of the programs within the 2020 – Year of Strong Hungarian Communities will be launched online.

“Without You” sung without a match and borders

Responding to a call from FC DAC, their anthem was sung not only in Dunajská Streda/ Dunaszerdahely, but all over the Carpathian Basin. The football team was supposed to play a home league match at 5 pm on Saturday, but in spite of the cancellation of the match, “Without You” was sung. The initiative was also supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. State Secretary Árpád János Potápi took part in the singing with his family. On his Facebook page he emphasized that in these desperate times it is important to show compassion in every possible way.

Hungarian diplomacy is helping all Hungarians stranded abroad to return home

On Monday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó wrote the following above a video posted on his Facebook page: “All Hungarians stranded abroad are being given assistance to return home, no matter where they may be in the world. We



are continuously monitoring the requests that are submitted to our embassies, and the working group is working 24 hours a day.” In the video Mr. Szijjártó and the Ministry’s Parliamentary State Secretary Levente Magyar discuss how to bring home Hungarians who are stranded abroad. During the conversation it is stated that some 1,500 Hungarians were provided with assistance to return home over the weekend, and roughly the same number are awaiting help. Mr. Magyar says that everyone who has requested assistance from the Ministry in one form or another is being traced.



Hungarian-Transylvanian border reopens for commuters

Addressing the Hungarian News Agency (MTI), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stated that commuting between Hungary and Transylvania is possible again. Mr. Szijjártó reiterated that, like many other countries, Hungary and Romania introduced some restrictive measures at the border, which are completely legitimate and introduced to protect Hungarians and Romanians from the infection. He added that in spite of all this, the two countries closely rely on each other in terms of work, with many people commuting between them, and “our task, in addition to protecting people’s health, is also protecting of economy.”



Szijjártó: We will keep on working on improving the Hungarian situation in Transcarpathia

Following talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Mr. Szijjártó explained that originally the Ukrainian politician had been meant to make an official visit to Budapest on Thursday to come to an agreement on language use among the Hungarian minority in Ukraine and its members’ access to native language education, as well as to engage in further discussions related to the Prime Minister’s visit to Ukraine. He said that in view of the coronavirus situation, however, the forms of foreign policy contact have also changed, and the parties held a video conference, which regrettably provides a limited opportunity to discuss difficult and sensitive issues. “Hungary and Ukraine agree that Transcarpathia must be a success story from the perspective of both countries, and this mutual understanding provides hope that we will also be able to resolve the difficult issues”, he highlighted. “However, Hungary will not lift its blocking of NATO-Ukraine Council meetings until a solution is found for the enforcement of the rights of the Hungarian community”, the Foreign Minister emphasized.

KMKSZ is initiating a fundraising activity for medical equipment

According to the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ), local healthcare conditions mean that coronavirus is a major threat to Transcarpathian communities. According to the President of KMKSZ László Brenzovics, the Association



is initiating a fundraising drive for vital medical equipment that are indispensable for medical workers and the people of the community. In the announcement he highlighted that given Ukrainian medical conditions, the Transcarpathian community is acutely threatened by the coronavirus. Currently Ukrainian healthcare does not meet any of the basic medical requirements: there is no equipment, medication, masks or enough ventilators.

