

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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The online game for Hungarian children abroad called “The City is Ours!” launches on Friday, instead of autumn 2020

In order to help Hungarian families abroad, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is launching its online game for children called “The City is Ours!” in early April, instead of the planned start in the autumn. The program started on 3 April instead of the planned start in October. The aim of the rescheduling is to help Hungarian families abroad spend more quality time together within the context of learning and play. As in past years, children between the ages of 6 and 10 can participate, and they are given eight weeks to solve online tasks. The winners will receive valuable prizes.

Several programs of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will be rescheduled due to coronavirus

In spite of the closed borders and lack of personal contact due to the coronavirus, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is continuously working on keeping in touch with Hungarian communities. Nevertheless, due to the state of emergency, several programs will be rescheduled – such as the “Without Borders” program’s school trips and the “In Hungarian in the Homeland” program. Speaking in the weekly show “Carpathian Basin” on the M1 TV station, Árpád János Potápi commented that the government has not cancelled the Petőfi and Kőrösi programs, and every scholarship student is working from home. The state secretary pointed out that he trusts in a strong bond between the kin state and communities abroad that has been created through recent years’ policies for Hungarian communities abroad, and that bond will stand the test.



New nursery school built in Oradea

Even though we seem to be paralyzed in our everyday life because of the coronavirus, the Baptist church in Nagyvárad (Oradea) never stops working – the foundation stone for the new nursery school building has already been laid. The central Baptist church in Oradea built the kindergarten after the Revolution in 1989, it has been functioning but until now has not had proper headquarters. The kindergarten presently has 41–42 children; they are provided with a separate classroom and bathroom by the Baptist Union of Romania, but it does not seem to be satisfactory. The construction of a new three-story building with a playground is being supported by the Hungarian government.





Szijjártó: The number of border crossing points open along the Hungarian-Slovakian border could be further increased

In a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Monday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that “This week we will be attempting to increase the number of border crossing points open to Hungarian and Slovakian citizens and freight traffic along the Hungarian-Slovakian border”. Referring to neighboring countries, he stated that “It is in times of great trouble and difficult situations such as the current one that it becomes truly apparent how much we depend on each other”, stressing that “This is particularly true with regard to Slovakia, which is Hungary’s third most important trade partner, and we are Slovakia’s fourth most important”. Mr. Szijjártó stated that relations between communities living on either side of the border are particularly close; there are hundreds of thousands of Hungarians and Slovaks living near the border, and the supervised, suitably regulated permeability of the border is vital to them.

Mónika Filip: I consider Hungarian language in education to be crucial

Several state secretaries were named in the first meeting of the government led by Igor Matovič. The Ministry of Education named Mónika Filip as one of three state secretaries. Responding to Felvidek.ma, Ms. Filip talked about her function, tasks and the importance of Hungarian language, and she outlined several points of minority education. She pointed out that she is responsible for three areas – one of which is minority education, which is the responsibility of the state secretary. She added that her tasks would include reinforcing education financially. She stressed that one of her first steps was publishing the minority education on the official website of the ministry. She also emphasized the importance of communication in the Hungarian language in education.

Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) sends written response to the President of the European People’s Party

On behalf of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), executive chairman Péter Őry responded to a tweet by the President of EPP Donald Tusk, in which the latter said that “making use of the pandemic to build a ‘state of a permanent state of emergency’ is politically dangerous, and morally unacceptable.” In its letter sent on 30 March, MKP pointed out that the present situation must not be used for debating political values, Fidesz’s status within the EPP, or the government’s crisis management measures. On the contrary, everyone should do their best and focus their energy to fight the virus. He stated that this is the time for political alliances to trust one another, regardless of their political debates, which are natural and necessary.





István Pásztor reacts to Donald Tusk's message in an open letter

In an open letter on Thursday, István Pásztor, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), reacted to Donald Tusk's message. The President of the European People's Party had said that "making use of the pandemic to build a 'state of a permanent state of emergency' is politically dangerous, and morally unacceptable." EPP member István Pásztor pointed out that in the state of emergency caused by the pandemic, people in the Western Balkans and Central Europe expect determined action from their governments, which are creating an exemplary sense of community. One of the causes of discipline and community might be their history, which allows them to differentiate dictatorship from responsible governance, and crisis from stability. According to Mr. Pásztor, "the pandemic is about human lives, which is exactly why all political attacks on governments attempting to stop the infection weakens us in fighting the virus."

