

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad hosts online meeting for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad

Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad, has said that more than 200 participants can attend useful seminars and network with experts from the kin state. The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad says it is crucial to keep in touch and strengthen relations with Hungarian communities abroad, which is why it was decided to host this event for entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin. The State Secretary posted a video message on his Facebook page, in which he says that every Hungarian is responsible for every other Hungarian, and it's even more important to stand together in this financially changed and difficult situation. This is why the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad decided to provide professional help to Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad.

Number of participants in online competition "Poetic Carpathian Basin" breaks records

Scholarship students in the Petőfi Sándor Program of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad organized an online poetry competition entitled "Poetic Carpathian Basin." The deadline for applications was April 11, the Day of Hungarian Poetry. The initiative reached many people in several countries and regions, covering the entire Carpathian Basin and parts of the diaspora. In total, 464 applications were submitted, and 447 of them were accepted. The applications are examined by a jury of experts, the members of which are accomplished artists in the kin state and abroad. In accordance with 2020 – The Year of National Cohesion and the Year of Strong Hungarian Communities, the aim of this initiative is to strengthen relations and identity, especially in these hard times.



RMDSZ has collected nearly 150,000 signatures for SZNT's European civic initiative

On Thursday the press service of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) pointed out that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) has collected nearly 150,000 signatures on paper supporting SZNT's civic initiative concerning national regions. Addressing the Hungarian News Agency (MTI), SZNT expressed their gratitude to the organizers, volunteers and signatories. They concluded that due to the coronavirus, RMDSZ could fulfil 75% of their earlier commitments to collect 200-220,000 signatures. According to SZNT, the verifiable number of supporters increased to 412,000, and according to partners collecting signatures, this number exceeded 500,000. The council added that the number of signatures in Hungary and Romania both surpassed the EU's expected threshold.



Government program accepted: law on minority rights passed, and this could be a partial solution on the issue of dual citizenship

In accordance with the deadline set by the constitution, the government will present its program to the legislature on Monday. Representatives of the coalition party negotiated on the content of the document until dawn on Sunday. Prime Minister Igor Matovič mentioned the request of the moderation of dual citizenship: Slovakian citizens residing abroad for a longer period can consider taking up the citizenship of that country without losing their Slovakian citizenship. They emphasized that they would pay special attention to minorities, they would not limit the rights they have already acquired, and they wouldn't support assimilation; instead they would like to create an environment in which minorities can preserve their language and identity. They are considering creating a new institute – the Office for Ethnic Minorities – which would deal with minority rights, support and public affairs.



8.5 tons of protective equipment arrives to Transcarpathia with the support of the Hungarian government

On its Facebook page the Hungarian Consulate in Beregszász/Berehove posted that 8.5 tons of protective equipment arrived in Ukraine on 18 April 2020. The action was initiated by Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA). The organization has been doing humanitarian work and developments in many Ukrainian regions and organized this action in response to an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) expressed their gratitude to Hungary for the equipment, which is a significant help in combatting the coronavirus for every citizen living in the countryside – regardless of ethnicity. They highlighted that in their healthcare system coronavirus unfortunately presents a great threat.



Hungarian cooperation in Canada against CoViD-19

STAY home! SEW masks! SAVE lives! – this is the slogan of the program against coronavirus in Canada, initiated by the Embassy of Hungary in Ottawa with the support of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the Hungarian Diaspora Council and the Hungarian diaspora organizations in Ottawa, which is supporting efforts against COVID-19. The basic idea of the initiative, in the Year of National Cohesion, was to show that Hungarian communities living in the Canadian diaspora, living anywhere in this vast country, are ready and able to help those in need or on the front line – even in the midst of a pandemic. The catalyst for this



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positive attitude and plan of action was the statement by the Chief Medical Officer of Canada that wearing a mask is recommended for everyone in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus in Canada.