

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Potápi: Outstanding interest in Without Borders! program

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that the Without Borders! program attracts great interest. Over 2200 applications have been received and half of them have won. As part of the Year of Strong Hungarian Communities, the program has a budget of HUF 3.8 billion this year. Mr. Potápi recalled that 3 applications were announced in February 2020, and the deadline was postponed from 30 March to 30 April. He said that the “target groups” of the program are seventh grade students and secondary school (high school) students. He added that due to the program, 400,000 students have already had opportunity to take part in trips in neighboring countries. The aim of Without Borders! program, which is one the oldest programs of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, is to build and strengthen relations between Hungarian communities abroad and the kin-state.



The Council of the EU also supports extension of deadline for civic initiatives

According to the newsletter of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) published on Friday, the Council of the European Union, which brings together the governments of the member states, adopted the European Parliament's proposal to extend the deadlines for civic initiatives. This action affects the initiative of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) on national regions. On behalf of the European Parliament, the meeting was chaired by Vincze Loránt, RMDSZ member of the European Parliament. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the amendments approved by the European Parliament by a large majority on 19 June; the extension of deadlines of civic initiatives concerning the collection, monitoring and investigation phases. According to the RMDSZ statement, the Council was represented at the meeting by Ambassador Maja Adamic on behalf of the Croatian Presidency and the European Commission – by Rudigert Boogert, Head of the Unit for Civic Initiatives.



MKP and Unity agrees on cooperation

At their meeting held in Komárom/Komárno, the presidency of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and Unity of Hungarian Community (Magyar Közösségi Összefogás) agreed on cooperation and joint action. Leaders on both side agreed that a unified Slovak-Hungarian party is needed, which provides a platform for different ideas. They agreed on cooperation and unity, stating that they would stand up together for important issues both at the Hungarian and Slovak Government and would create common Hungarian and Slovak forums.



Gombaszög LITE takes place at the end of August

The camp of Gombaszög/Gombasek takes place between 21 and 23 August this year, in spite of the pandemic. The easing of the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus epidemic provides an opportunity to organize the biggest meeting of Hungarians in Slovakia this summer as well. Named Gombaszög LITE, the event awaits those interested in concerts, folk music, arts and the usual friendly atmosphere.



István Pásztor: VMSZ will at least double their number of seats in the Parliament

Speaking at the morning show 'Good Morning Hungary' of Kossuth Radio, president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that VMSZ will at least double the number of their seats in the Serbian parliament, as instead of 4, they will have 8 to 9 representatives. He added that they are still waiting the final results of the local and regional elections, but it already seems that they achieved historic results. Mr. Pásztor highlighted that the VMSZ will have 11 representatives instead of 6 at a regional level and the party increased the number of their municipal representatives by 80%, from 109 to 172.

István Pásztor: VMSZ gains 6000 votes

Speaking at the morning show 'Starting the Day' (Napindító) of the Szabadka Hungarian Radio, István Pásztor pointed out that at the local elections, the VMSZ gained around 60-70% more votes than earlier. According to Mr. Pásztor, 70,000 people supported the Hungarian party, so they were able to "retain" Zenta/Senta, Topolya/Bačka Topola and Magyarkanizsa/Kanjiža with a significant majority. He evaluated the Óbecse/Bečej and Ada results successful, as well: the VMSZ won 11 seats in both municipalities. Speaking about Szabadka, Mr. Pásztor claimed that one third of the votes were given to VMSZ.



All road crossing points along the Ukrainian-Hungarian border will be opened on Monday

Speaking at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced that "All five road crossing points along the Ukrainian-Hungarian border will be opened on Monday morning at the latest". The two Ministers spoke to reporters following the first session of the Hungarian-Ukrainian Joint Economic Committee on Hungarian-Ukrainian economic cooperation held after an interval of seven years. Following the meeting, the two ministers signed the minutes of the proceedings. In reply to a



question from Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Szijjártó said the border crossing points will be opened while maintaining existing travel regulations.

Hungary is prepared to assist Ukraine with relation to flood protection efforts

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced on his social media page on Friday afternoon that “The Hungarian soldiers of the ‘Tisza’ Multinational Engineering Battalion are ready to travel to the location of the floods that are affecting Ukraine, if the Ukrainian authorities require their assistance”. In his post, the Minister pointed out that “Flooding has developed in several areas in recent days as a result of the adverse weather that has affected certain parts of Ukraine”. He added that “In the interests of successful protection and damage mitigation, we have offered our assistance to our neighbors”. As he explained, the Hungarian soldiers of the ‘Tisza’ Multinational Engineering Battalion, which is trained to perform tasks following natural disasters, are ready to travel to the designated location if the Ukrainian authorities require their assistance. The goal of the Hungarian-Romanian-Slovakian-Ukrainian Tisza’ Multinational Engineering Battalion is to assist the population and participate in the mitigation of damage following flooding and other natural disasters or ecological disaster situations within the water catchment area of the River Tisza.



Potápi: Hungarian communities abroad must be certain they have a kin-state

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the renovated Hungarian country house in Várdaróc/Vardarac, Drávaszög on Sunday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that in the past ten years, the Hungarian government did everything in its power to make Hungarian communities abroad feel that they have a kin-state. The state secretary stressed that Hungarians abroad must feel that they have a responsible government which pays attention to their lives and provides them every opportunity they would have if they lived in Hungary. Mr. Potápi highlighted that on 5 July, early parliamentary elections will be held in Croatia and asked Hungarians living there to take part in the elections and vote for the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK).

