

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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2021: The Year of National Restart

The simplified naturalization procedure celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, as Hungarians abroad are entitled for it since January 2011. Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi presented the main results of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad at the plenary session of the Hungarian Standing Conference and the Hungarian Diaspora Council in November 2020. They pointed out that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has 4 pillars: the unification of the nation under common law, strengthening Hungarian identity, relations with Hungarian organizations abroad and the economic development of Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Potápi talked about this and the 2021 – Year of National Restart (the new thematic year adopted by the MÁÉRT) in his interview for Transylvanian newspaper Hargita Népe (People of Harghita).



RMDSZ nominated 6 state secretaries

The standing council of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) nominated 6 state secretaries in 6 ministries on Tuesday. They nominated Zoltán Kallós in the Ministry of Education and Research, András István Demeter in the Ministry of Culture, Csongor Oltean in the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Róbert Szép in the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests, Csilla Hegedüs in the Ministry of European Funds and Péter Makkai in the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

Minority SafePack fails, European Commission lets down autochthonous national minorities

The European Commission will not pass a bill on the protection of autochthonous national minorities. The decision was made public on Friday. In its statement issued on Friday, the RMDSZ said that the EC “decided to ignore over one million citizens’ demand and the position of the European Parliament when deciding not to pass a bill on the protection of autochthonous national minorities based on the Minority SafePack initiative.” According to RMDSZ, with their decision, the EC let down the minorities, one million citizens, the EP and all supporting regions and governments.

Potápi: we will continue fighting; the issue of national minorities is a European issue that is worth fighting for

In his interview for Hungarian news portal PestiSrácok (Lads Of Pest), State Secretary Árpád János Potápi called it “outrageous, shocking and unacceptable” that the EC, with Věra Jourová at the forefront, ignored the issue of autochthonous national minorities in spite of the EP’s support. Mr. Potápi stated that it is outrageous that those who only came to our continent a few months or years ago and contributed to



our civilization in no way have more rights than the autochthonous national minorities.

MKP calls for a meeting with Híd and MKÖ

According to the decision of the management of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Krisztián Forró sent a letter of invitation to the leaders of Híd (Bridge) and the Unity of Hungarian Community (MKÖ) for a meeting early next week. The leader of the MKP pointed out that he had been listening to the MKÖ's communication in the past few weeks and prepared for the meeting with two specific suggestions which might answer their questions.

"We support the people of Transcarpathia while serving Ukrainian interests"

The vice president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) József Barta gave an interview to the Transcarpathian daily Kárpátalja. In the interview, he said that "There's a witch hunt against KMKSZ, its president and charity funds are accused of separatism. Meanwhile, though the association gained historical success in the local elections in October, the government prevented the Hungarian fraction from participating in the Transcarpathian Regional Council as part of the coalition." József Barta talked about the current situation in details. As Mr. Barta pointed out, "KMKSZ received 39 thousand votes, 12 per cent of the citizens of Transcarpathia are registered Hungarians at the last census, but many of them live and work abroad and the pandemic made the odds even worse, so not just us but all Transcarpathian political actors were surprised by this success which is indeed historic."

2021 will be an eventful year with the support of both governments

The National Community of Hungarian Local Governments in Slovenia (MMÖNK) plans to launch 3 completely new projects this year with the help of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Furthermore, the government of Slovenia approved the organization's four-year economic growth program and the implementation of the agreement with the government has begun. Among others, this was the topic of the annual online press conference of MMÖNK held by president Ferenc Horváth.