

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Value and Quality Grand Prize competition announced

Value and Quality Grand Prize Competition founder Ildikó Károlyné Kiss has announced the launch of the 2021 Value and Quality Grand Prize competition; until 31 May applications can be submitted for more than 100 topics in the 41 main groups covering almost the entire range of the economy. When announcing the competition, Vice-President of the Parliament and the event's main patron János Latorczai said that the Value and Quality Grand Prize encourages awareness-raising manufacturers and service providers to create products representing quality and product safety. The main sponsor of the tender is the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the professional sponsor is the Ministry of Agriculture and the foreign sponsor is the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out that over the past decade Hungarians have been able to strengthen and once more become the engine of the Carpathian Basin. In this process, he said, it has been crucial that we recognized the need for the unified development of our region and the role of Hungarian companies in the kin-state and abroad.



Szekler politicians have called on the European Commission to correct its error in the Minority SafePack case

In a joint statement submitted to the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) on Thursday, local council leaders in Szeklerland called on the European Commission to put the European civic initiative – the Minority SafePack – back on the agenda. The statement, signed by the presidents of the local councils of Hargita/Harghita, Kovászna/Covasna and Maros/Mureş counties, as well as the mayors of the cities of Szeklerland, states that the Hungarian community in Romania had looked forward to the country's accession to the EU. They expected not only economic development and prosperity, but also rights to ensure the protection and enforcement of their mother tongue and culture, as well as free and uninterrupted use of their community symbols.

This year the Mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe will again be fined RON 10,000 for the use of Hungarian flags

In 2021 the Prefecture of Kovászna/Covasna County has again fined Árpád Antal, Mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, a total of RON 10,000. The fine was for decorating the city with Hungarian flags and Hungarian tricolor (red-white-green) hearts to mark the Hungarian national holiday of March 15. Mayor Árpád Antal received the written verdict from the government office on Wednesday. Concerning the fine related to the flag, Mr. Antal stated that he will appeal the prefecture's verdict again this year.



Matovič is willing to resign

PM Igor Matovič has announced that he is willing to resign as Prime Minister and hold another position in the Government if his coalition partners keep their promises and also leave their positions. Mr. Matovič pointed this out after a board meeting of his party Ordinary People and Independent Personalities. He stated that he will resign on condition that the people who have been the loudest in demanding his resignation do the same.

The three parties are nearing agreement

At the end of January, meetings between the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Híd (Bridge) and Unity of Hungarian Community were suspended. At the time members commented that there were conflicts of interest in relation to leadership positions. President of the MKP Krisztián Forró said that the three parties had met regularly in the past few weeks, but that there was no exact deadline yet for when their meetings would come to a conclusion. Mr. Forró said that even though they have never come this close to an agreement, there are still important questions to discuss.



The province is supporting the national councils with more than RSD 61.5 million

Zsolt Szakállas, secretary for education, administration and the national community, received the presidents of the national councils in the Vojvodina Parliament building on Thursday. At the event it was announced that the 17 national councils based in Vojvodina are supported by the secretariat with RSD 61.5 million. In connection with the program activities, President of the Hungarian National Council Jenő Hajnal said that they would like to help the media and the smaller regional organizations that in this situation are most in need.

Chess playground and chess palace – developing skills with games

The Chess Playground Complex Skill Development Program was held in Vojvodina for the third time. Due to the pandemic the event was hosted online via ZOOM application. According to Anikó Jerasz, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian National Council (MNT), the popularity of the program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is growing every year. Thirty-six school educators and teachers from Vojvodina joined the Chess Playground program.





Andrea Bocskor: the EC stands up for the rights of Hungarians in Ukraine

On Wednesday MEP and Fidesz-member Andrea Bocskor informed the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) that the European Commission has confirmed that it will stand up for the rights of Hungarians in Ukraine, and that the EU will monitor the respect of human rights – more precisely minority rights – in Ukraine. After the extremist Ukrainian website Mirotvorec posted Ms. Bocskor's name on a death list, Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, assured her of their immediate support – which they have since confirmed in a letter. Ms. Bocskor highlighted that, based on the letter, the EU has the strong expectation that if Ukraine seeks closer EU integration, it will protect minority rights and continue cooperation with Hungary.
