

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Gergely Gulyás: we can only protect minorities if we grant them their rights

Speaking at a Council of Europe (CoE) conference on the legal protection of national minorities of the organized under the CoE's six-month Hungarian presidency, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás emphasized that there are many people in Europe who belong to a national minority, so their rights need to be granted. He added that the CoE has 47 member states and has a number of documents and agreements that put special emphasis on minority rights.

Gulyás: the Hungarian government wants Hungarian nationality to be an advantage

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the Transylvanian School of Politics of Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC), Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás pointed out that the Hungarian government wants Hungarian nationality to be an advantage. Mr. Gulyás recalled that for decades, being Hungarian used to be a drawback, but the government will do everything in its power to make being Hungarian and preserving Hungarian values an advantage again.

Potápi: 112 students participated in the Without Borders competition

Speaking at the opening of the grand final of the Without Borders online competition on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stated that 112 Hungarian students from the kin-state and abroad participated in the competition hosted by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Mr. Potápi pointed out that 22 teams made it to the final: 11 from abroad and 11 from Hungary. He expressed his joy at the fact that young people find a unified Hungarian nation so important.

Once more, 30 law students abroad receive the Dr. Szász Pál Scholarship

According to a decision similar to the previous year, 30 talented foreign law students will also receive a Dr. Szász Pál Scholarship in the 2021/2022 academic year. The winners include 22 students from Transylvania, 6 from Vojvodina, one from Slovakia and one from the diaspora. At the launch of this scholarship, the annual amount was HUF 600,000 per student, and now it is HUF 1.2 million.

Potápi: Applications for the twin town programs open on 1 July

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi has announced that local governments may apply to twin town programs from 1 July. Mr. Potápi said that Hungarian municipalities and county municipalities, as well as settlements inhabited by Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria, may apply for support for cultural, educational and sports activities. The budget for this year is HUF 500 million.



Miklós Soltész visits Transylvania

A Catholic youth camp will be established in Szelterszfürdő, in Harghita County. The facility hosting the camp was blessed on Friday by Gergely Kovács, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia. Also present were young people from Szeklerland visiting the construction site and Secretary of State for Churches, Minorities and Civil Affairs Miklós Soltész. On Saturday Mr. Soltész inaugurated a Catholic daycare kindergarten in Gyergyószentmiklós/Gheorgheni, which was expanded with the support of the Hungarian state, and on Sunday he visited Gyimesközéplek/Lunca de Jos, where he inaugurated a sports hall – named after the former bishop of Transylvania, Áron Márton – built by the Roman Catholic Church.

Béla Kató: 400 churches and church buildings will be renovated with Hungarian support

On Thursday Bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District (EREK) Béla Kató stated that the number of Christian services held in churches dropped significantly during the pandemic, but construction work did not suffer from restrictions: with the support of the Hungarian government, nearly four hundred churches and church properties in the EREK were renovated or are being renovated during this period.

Kindergarten and nursery built with Hungarian support inaugurated in Arad

In Arad on Tuesday, there was the inauguration of a kindergarten and nursery school built by the Reformed Church District of Királyhágómellék with the support of the Hungarian state. The kindergarten and nursery will start operating next to Arad's only Hungarian-language secondary education institution, Csiky Gergely High School. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Ministerial Commissioner for the coordination of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program István Grezsa said that the Hungarians had been preserved throughout their history by their attachment to God, family and homeland.

Szilágyi: For survival we need bridges between generations and segments of the nation

Greeting the students in the final of the Benedek Jancsó Memorial Competition in Szováta/Sovata, Transylvania on Thursday, Ministerial Commissioner for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that we need bridges between the successive generations, and the divided parts of the nation need to be strengthened and rebuilt in order to survive. Mr. Szilágyi advised the students to stay true to their roots and to one another.



Reformed church of Nuşeni restored

The church of Apanagyfalu/Nuşeni, built in the 15th century, has been renovated by the local Reformed congregation with the financial support of the Hungarian government. The original building in Bistriţa-Năsăud County, renovated to its original beauty, was consecrated by Bishop Béla Kató at a service on Sunday. In her welcome speech, Réka Brendus, Head of the Department of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, said that within the walls of the church we can almost feel the Apafi's, the Bethlen's and the Bánffy's greeting us, and we can witness the centuries-old history of Nuşeni.



Orbán: Slovakia and Hungary have never had better relations

After receiving Prime Minister of Slovakia Eduard Heger in the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest, Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán Viktor commented that looking back at the past decade, Slovakia and Hungary have never had better relations. Speaking at a joint press conference with his counterpart, Mr. Orbán highlighted that Slovakia is Hungary's third most important trading partner, after Germany and Austria.



Growing interest for the “In Hungarian in the Homeland Support Program” in Kanjiža

Candidates can apply to the “In Hungarian in the Homeland Support Program” up until 30 September. The program includes support for education, training and the purchase of textbooks and teaching aids. In Magyarkanizsa/Kanjiža there is growing interest in this program, with about 30-40 people contacting the local Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) office every day.



The Ukrainian parliament passes the law on indigenous minorities

At its extraordinary meeting on Thursday, the Ukrainian parliament passed a bill on indigenous peoples initiated by President Volodymyr Zelensky. The previous day the bill was fiercely attacked by Russian President Vladimir Putin, and members of the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia expressed their disagreement with the bill. The motion was voted for by 325 deputies in the 450-seat legislature. According to the text of the submission, “the indigenous people of Ukraine, an indigenous ethnic community formed in the territory of Ukraine, a carrier of original language and culture, with traditional, social, cultural or representative bodies, identify themselves as the indigenous people of Ukraine”.





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Miklós Kásler: The Hungarian and Croatian governments also place great emphasis on national minorities

In Zagreb last Thursday, Minister of Human Resources Miklós Kásler and Croatian Minister of Science and Education Radovan Fuchs signed an agreement in the field of education and science for the period 2021-2025. Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Mr. Kásler said that the Hungarian and Croatian governments place great emphasis on ensuring that the nationalities living in their country can fulfill their opportunities in the field of education, as well.

