

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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250,000 Hungarians abroad will receive educational aid

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Tamás Wetzsel said that the payment of educational aid for Hungarians abroad will start soon. The Deputy State Secretary said that due to personnel and structural changes in the Government, certain changes were also necessary in the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. The fund will hold its session on 8 September, after which the payment of educational aid for the 250,000 Hungarians applicants living abroad (as a part of the program Szülőföldemen magyarul!) will start as soon as possible, being realized in phases.

Incorporating economic policy in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad could halt emigration

Speaking on Pannon RTV's show Szubjektív, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that one of the main tasks of economic policy and the policy for Hungarian communities abroad in the near future will be to halt emigration, and to attract back those who have already left their homeland. The State Secretary said that the most important aim is to keep Hungarians in their homeland, and building economic policy into the policy for Hungarian communities abroad could help in this. He added that "If we support Hungarian companies, and they are able to employ more people and ensure better salaries, we can contribute to keeping people here and help them make a living in their homeland." Mr. Potápi said that the other important goal is to attract home those people who have emigrated in the past decade.



László Kövér receives the leaders of the EMNP and MPP in his offices

The Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér received the head of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Tibor T. Toró and the party's vice-president and presidential candidate Zsolt Szilágyi in his office in Parliament. Mr. Toró gave Mr. Kövér information about the developments of the election campaign, the procedure for collecting supporting signatures, the developments in Hungarian-Hungarian relations in Transylvania and the current situation of autonomy efforts in Transylvania. Mr. Szilágyi emphasized the importance of cooperation during the election campaign between those who support autonomy. The Speaker of the Parliament agreed that the European concept of autonomy should be present during the campaign, and offered his support for every initiative targeting the self-determination of the Hungarian community in Transylvania.

The Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament also held talks with the head of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) Zsolt Bíró. During their talks, Mr. Bíró gave Mr. Kövér information about his party's intention to support efforts for Szeklerland's autonomy and its proposals to amend the Romanian Constitution. In order to continue a



responsible policy for Hungarian communities abroad, the Speaker of the Parliament assured the head of the MPP of his further support.

[RMDSZ submits laws on the use of the mother tongue and symbols to the Parliament](#)

The reelected chairman of the RMDSZ's house of representatives András Máté said that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) would like the Romanian Parliament to adopt laws on the use of the mother tongue and symbols during the fall parliamentary session. He added that the draft law on the local use of symbols prepared by the RMDSZ's coalition partners the Social Democrats will soon be on the agenda, and the RMDSZ would like it to be adopted by Parliament and to enter into force during the fall session. Regarding the party's draft law on Szeklerland's autonomy, Mr. Máté said that it is first being discussed within the party and then will be modified, if necessary.



[The head of the MKP writes to the President](#)

The head of the party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi has sent a letter to the President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska in connection with the increasing number of attacks on Hungarians. In his letter Mr. Berényi asked the President to enact measures – within his sphere of authority – against xenophobic manifestations of this kind. Anti-Hungarian phrases in a Slovakian dictionary of slang (also reported in the press), a passenger who was rebuked for speaking Hungarian when he wanted to buy a ticket in Párkány/Štúrovo, Hungarian scouts attacked by drunken young Slovaks, and the vandalizing of the statue of St. Stephen in Kassa/Košice all show that, although the Constitution protects the rights of national minorities, this is not always realized in practice.



[The first Hungarian list for the election of national councils is presented](#)

On Friday the first Hungarian list for the election of national councils was presented in Belgrade. This is the first step in the process by which Hungarians in Vojvodina will elect their 35-member minority council, the Hungarian National Council (MNT). The list, entitled "Hungarian Union" (Magyar Összefogás), includes – in addition to the 17 candidates chosen by the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) – representatives from historical churches, as well as intellectuals and citizens who have realized major achievements in Vojvodina Hungarians' intellectual, educational or cultural life. After presenting the list, the President of the VMSZ István Pásztor told journalists that with the list the Hungarian community will be able to continue the building work started by the previous national council.



Transcarpathia's governor requests the creation of a Hungarian electoral district

On Monday the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) issued a statement strongly condemning a decision by the Central Election Commission of Ukraine which has deprived the 150,000-strong Hungarian community in Transcarpathia the opportunity of having a Hungarian representative in the Ukrainian parliament. The KMKSZ also called on the Commission to modify – in compliance with Ukraine's laws – the borders of the Transcarpathian electoral districts by putting Hungarian-inhabited areas in one electoral district. At the request of the KMKSZ, the governor of the county Valeriy Lunchenko has also sent a letter to the President of Ukraine, requesting the creation of a Hungarian electoral district.

As previously reported, on 27 August 2014 the Central Election Commission of Ukraine defined the borders of the electoral districts, splitting up the block of the county's Hungarian community into smaller districts. Earlier, the KMKSZ concluded an agreement with Petro Poroshenko (who was at that time a presidential candidate), in which Mr. Poroshenko promised that if he was elected President of Ukraine he would give the Hungarian community the opportunity to have representatives in the Ukrainian parliament.



Árpád János Potápi: Aid policy for Hungarian communities abroad to be simplified

Speaking at the 13th Kufstein conference held in Oberpullendorf/Felsőpulya in Austria on Saturday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the most important task of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is to define its new direction, which would include the simplification of aid policy and the restructuring of the tendering system. Representing Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén at the conference, Cabinet Chief Zoltán Csallóközi said that vital questions which serve the interest of the nation must be kept alive, and this is why the Kufstein conference was particularly important. "We must not let Hungarians who have emigrated lose contact with the kin-state, but we must help each other," he said.

