

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

44/2014



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Semjén: Hungarians have every reason to be proud

Opening the visitor center and exhibition “We, Hungarians” (Mi, magyarok) in the House of Hungarians (Magyarság Háza) in Budapest on Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that Hungarians should regain their self-esteem, since they have every reason to be proud of themselves. The Deputy Prime Minister added that “The nation can survive only if every member of it knows that being Hungarian it is a source of pride and fulfilment.” Mr. Semjén added that “Our task is to develop the self-esteem of the nation, and we have to start the realization of this task at the most susceptible age: among teenagers.” The Deputy Prime Minister said that “The most important message of the exhibition – which places its main emphasis on the Hungarian language – is that we have reason to be proud of our nation, and this is the basis of the nation’s survival.” Director General of the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. Koppány Lélfa said that the visitor center is hosting a unique exhibition which answers a need. It presents the values of the Hungarian nation, the treasures of the Carpathian Basin and the intellectual achievements of Hungarians in a way that can influence the younger generation by speaking their language: that of the 21st century’s digital and mobile culture.

Preparation of the “Year of Hungarian vocational training abroad” program has started

On Monday State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi had talks with the leaders of Hungarian vocational schools abroad about the program entitled “2015 – the year of Hungarian vocational training abroad” in the House of Hungarians (Magyarság Háza) in Budapest. At the meeting organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the parties discussed the problems of Hungarian vocational training abroad. The participants presented their proposals concerning the necessary steps which should be taken for the renewal, efficiency and competitiveness of vocational training abroad, thus laying down the funds and directives of the State Secretariat’s program for the next year.

Hungarians around the world commemorate the anniversary of 23 October 1956

On the anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence, several commemorations were held both in Hungary and abroad. In Transylvania the locations of commemorations included Csíkszereda/ Miercurea Ciuc, Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca and Nagyvárad/Oradea. The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) held its central commemoration in Slovakia’s Szepesi/Moldava nad Bodvou, where the head of the party József Berényi said that the message of the 1956 Revolution for the Hungarian community in Slovakia is that it is worth fighting for one’s freedom and survival. In keeping with tradition, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in



Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) held its central commemoration at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Ukraine's Beregszász/Berehove. Speaking at the event, the head of the party László Brenzovics said that 1956 gives strength to Hungarians in Transcarpathia and shows them that even in the most hopeless circumstances a nation can express what it wants: freedom, a free life and the end of despotism. The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) also held commemorations at different venues, including Serbia's Palics/Palić and Szabadka/Subotica.

Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó participated in a ceremony organized by the Hungarian community in Ottawa on Thursday, where he said that Hungary's policy for Hungarian communities abroad has to pay a debt of more than two decades in the field of strengthening relations with the diaspora. Hungary's Consul General to New York Ferenc Kumin said that on Wednesday 55 new Hungarian citizens took their oaths of citizenship in New York before the 1956 ceremony and reception. The Hungarian communities of the West Coast of the US held commemorations between 19 and 25 October in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Laguna Woods and San Diego.

Hungarian communities in Europe also paid tribute to the victims of the 1956 Revolution. State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi commemorated the 58th anniversary of the Revolution in Switzerland, where he met the leaders of the Hungarian communities of Basel and Zürich.



EMTN joins European Language Equality Network

At a conference entitled "Autonomy draft laws and regionalism on the table of political representation" organized by the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) and the Szekler National Council (SZNT) on 25 October in Targu-Mures/Marosvásárhely,

the EMNT joined the European Language Equality Network (ELEN) as a full member. The partnership agreement between the two organizations was signed on the sidelines of the conference by David Hicks, general secretary of ELEN, which represents 44 language communities, and executive chairman of EMNT Krisztina Sándor. Ms. Sándor said that the EMNT has joined an organization that will help them place pressure on Bucharest in the interest of protecting the rights of language communities. Mr. Hicks said that the aim was to have the Hungarian language declared an official regional language in Romania. He added that a further aim was to realize that the condition for the minority community to use its mother tongue in the administration was that its ratio in the relevant region reaches 6 %, instead of the current 20 % threshold.





Slovakia's Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Ambassador Csaba Balogh at a farewell visit

On 23 October, Slovakia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák received Hungary's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovakia Csaba Balogh on the occasion of the end of his term in office. The Minister emphasized that during Mr. Balogh's term bilateral cooperation between Hungary and Slovakia had become closer, as a result of which more high-level meetings had taken place. In the future Csaba Balogh will continue his work as State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"Hungarian Unity" list wins national minority council elections in Vojvodina

The head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor has announced that according to preliminary results, the list entitled "Hungarian Unity" (Magyar Összefogás) has won almost 90 percent of the votes in national minority council elections. At 10.30 pm. on Sunday, after 98 percent of the votes had been counted, Mr. Pásztor – supporter of the "Hungarian Unity" list – told journalists that the Hungarian Unity list had won 31 out of the 35 mandates, the list of the Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMDK) – Áron Csonka list had won two mandates, and the "Másként Magyarágunkért" – László Fodor list had won one mandate, as had the Hungarian League – New Hungarian Alternative – Tibor Vass list. According to these results, the "Hungarian Unity" list will have three more mandates in the National Minority Council than four years ago. Mr. Pásztor added that the personal achievements of the candidates who participated in the list also contributed to this huge success.

Early parliamentary elections in Ukraine

In Ukraine's early parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk's People's Front and President Petro Poroshenko's bloc are neck and neck on 21.7 percent and 21.59 percent respectively, with 30 percent of ballots for party lists counted. According to preliminary results published on the website of the Central Election Commission on Monday morning, the party Samopomich – led by Andriy Sadovyi the mayor of Lviv in Western Ukraine – is in third place with 10.79 percent. One of the election's most important questions from the point of view of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia is whether the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics will win a seat, since previously he had been offered the 62nd place on the party list of Petro Poroshenko's bloc; this is considered to represent a safe seat in Parliament.