

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

22/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Árpád János Potápi: the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is defined in the Basic Law

Speaking in Hungary's Bonyhád on Saturday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad is defined in the Basic Law of Hungary. The state secretary stressed that "the Basic Law declares that Hungary bears responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living abroad, and this is what we try to realize." Addressing a conference marking the 70th anniversary of the settling of Szeklers of Bukovina, Mr. Potápi said that the Bethlen Gábor Fund is allocating 17.5 billion HUF (EUR 57 million) for Hungarian communities abroad this year, but more broadly, Hungary dedicates 60 billion HUF (EUR 193 million) for the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. The state secretary added that over the past twenty-five years, the institutions of the field have been established, mentioning the adoption of the status law as a positive example, and the unsuccessful referendum on the adoption of the simplified naturalization procedure on 5 December 2004 as a negative one. The state secretary recalled that a new area in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad was opened by József Antall, who had declared himself to be the Prime Minister of 15 million Hungarians in spirit. Mr. Potápi added that the year of 2010 brought a new impetus for the policy of Hungarian communities abroad. By today almost 700,000 people have taken their oaths of citizenship due to the simplified naturalization procedure, and almost 727,000 have applied for Hungarian citizenship.

Zoltán Balog: we will not give up the idea of the peaceful unification of the nation beyond borders

At the inauguration ceremony of a memorial in Hungary's Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county's Vállaj, Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog stressed the importance of the peaceful unification of the Hungarian nation beyond borders. The minister emphasized that Hungarians who have been separated from Hungary due to historical reasons must not be forgotten, and whatever happens, "Hungary will not give up the idea of the peaceful unification of the Hungarian nation beyond borders and thinking of the Carpathian Basin as a coherent unity." Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a memorial dedicated to Sándor Becsky, former recorder of the town, Mr. Balog said that peaceful coexistence of Germans and Swabians in this area of Hungary is exemplary, adding that Hungary's policy for nationalities "has no equal in Europe."

Forty thousand children will take part in the Students without Boundaries program

State Secretary for public education Judit Czunyné Bertalan has told the Hungarian news agency MTI that more than 40,000 children and teachers – the students and teachers of Hungary's schools or Hungarian-language schools located abroad – will have an opportunity to take part in the Students without Boundaries program in the



2015/2016 academic year. The state secretary added that 1.2 billion HUF (EUR 3.9 million) will be allocated for the program. Mrs. Czunyiné said that the aim of the program is to strengthen Hungarian-Hungarian relations, “dismantle borders”, build and deepen personal relations among students of secondary schools. Under the program, students of Hungarian-language schools of neighboring countries will visit Hungary, while the students of Hungary’s schools will travel to the Hungarian regions of neighboring countries, which provides an excellent opportunity for them to gain personal experience from their compatriots abroad. She added that the target regions will include Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina, Transcarpathia, Slovenia and Croatia.



Zsolt Semjén: Transylvanian Hungarians are entitled to a state-run Hungarian-language university

The 70th anniversary of the foundation of a Hungarian-language medical university – the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Targu Mureş (MOGYE) – was marked in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures, Romania, on Friday. Addressing the participants in a letter, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that the Hungarian community in Transylvania is entitled to a state-run Hungarian university, and to an autonomous medical faculty in Marosvásárhely. The deputy prime minister noted that MOGYE’s original status as a Hungarian-language university had been changed by coercion during the communist rule, without any consultation with the academic community. Mr. Semjén assured Transylvanian Hungarians of the Hungarian Government’s support.

The head of the Hungarian faculty of the MOGYE Béla Szabó stressed that the institution which was established seventy years ago had been originally a Hungarian-language institution, it had become bilingual in 1962 under a verbal verdict by Romania’s then communist leaders, with practical instructions held exclusively in Romanian since then. The commemoration held on Friday was organized by the Transylvanian Museum Society, after the Romanian leaders of the university had held a similar commemoration last week, withholding the Hungarian-related details of the university’s establishment and history.



Annual report on the situation of national minorities is approved by the Slovak Government

On Wednesday the Slovak Government approved the annual report entitled “The situation and rights of national minorities in 2014” and found that the Government did not receive any report about the violation of minority language use in Slovakia in 2014. The annual report on the situation and rights of national minorities consists of five parts. The first part cites domestic and international agreements and laws



connected with the protection of rights of national minorities, listing the institutions which deal with this issue. The third part focuses on the support of the identity and cultural activity of national minorities. The fourth part is dedicated to the issue of education and culture, while the last part deals with minority language use.

Regarding the report, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has pointed out that the most important point, the presentation of problems has been omitted from the report. There are only indirect references to the existing problem, for example, a sentence stating that the last session of the Slovak-Hungarian Joint Commission was interrupted due to open questions. The MKP added that it is difficult to find a solution to a problem without admitting the problem itself, this is why the Slovak government commissioner has failed – for the third time – to realize this aim.

26,452 people have signed the petition on education

The collection of signatures aimed at making Hungarian-language education in Slovakia more effective, has been successful. Instead of the planned 20,000 signatures, 26,452 supporting signatures were collected during one month. The initiators of the action submitted the signed forms at the Ministry of Education on Thursday. The collection of signatures was initiated in April by three civilians – Sándor Fibi, Katalin Vojtek and Fili Zacher – who demanded the increase of the number of elective classes and that of mother tongue writing and reading, as well as the education of Hungary's history as a separate subject. The reason of signature collection was that the curriculum of Slovakia's Ministry of Education (which will be in effect from September 2015), assigns a significantly lower number of classes for the education of mother tongue in Hungarian-language schools than the number of mother tongue classes in Slovakian schools.



MTVA inaugurates its first media center in Transcarpathia

On Thursday the Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund (MTVA) inaugurated its first correspondent center in Transcarpathia's Uzhhorod/Ungvár. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the chief executive officer of the MTVA Zsolt László Szabó stressed that "with the opening of the media center in Uzhhorod, an old plan has been realized." He said that "After we have established two media centers in Transylvania and one in Vojvodina, the correspondent network of the Carpathian Basin has been further expanded with a modern studio located in a country outside the European Union, in Ukraine." Addressing the event, Ministerial Commissioner at the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad (Prime Minister's Office) István Grezsa stressed that "Hungarians living in different parts of the world belong together, regardless of the country they actually live in." He added that the inauguration of the media center in Uzhhorod is an excellent example of this unity.



The Hungarian Government allocates HUF 200 million for a Hungarian-language high school in Transcarpathia

Speaking at the school leaving ceremony at the Sándor Sztojka Greek Catholic High School of Karácsfalva in Transcarpathia, State Secretary Miklós Soltészt stressed that the church plays a prominent role in the permanence of Hungarians and the education of children among Hungarian communities of neighboring countries. The state secretary said that the church is often the only place where national identity can be strengthened. Mr. Soltész highlighted that in 2014 and 2015 the Hungarian Government allocated a considerable sum, HUF 200 billion (EUR 646,000) for the building of a dormitory, gym and swimming pool at the Sándor Sztojka Greek Catholic High School of Karácsfalva.

