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The Ministry of Human Capacities launches a new scholarship program

Hungary's Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog has announced that the Hungarian Government will launch a HUF 375 million (EUR 1.2 million) scholarship program for Hungarian young people living in the Carpathian Basin. Speaking at the founding session of the Round Table for Higher Education in the Carpathian Basin, the minister said that the program will consist of two parts: mobility programs for students and those for teachers. The former part comprises HUF 234 million (EUR 755,000) for the next academic year, while the latter one – HUF 140 million (EUR 452,000). Mr. Balog stressed that the permanence of Hungarian intellectuals, as well as the cultivation and maintenance of mother tongue culture is of key importance.

The Forum of Hungarian Representatives in the Carpathian Basin holds its session

The session of the social working group of the Forum of Hungarian Representatives in the Carpathian Basin (KMKF) – which was held in Budapest on Wednesday – focused on the situation of Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin and the role of churches in preserving the nation. Informing the Hungarian news agency MTI after the session, the co-chair of the committee István Szávay (Jobbik party) recalled that two years ago they had invited the Research Institute for National Strategy (NSKI) to prepare a comprehensive report on the situation of Hungarian youth living abroad. Last year, when the NSKI presented its report, Mr. Szávay proposed that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad should prepare a government strategic plan examining what measures are necessary to support Hungarian young people living outside the kin-state. This issue was one of the points State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi touched upon in his presentation during this year's session. Among other issues, the state secretary said that 2016 might be dedicated the thematic year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad with the aim to enhance Hungarians' permanence in their homeland. Mr. Potápi added that if people start local businesses, they are likely to remain in their homeland, they will help their region, will have a vision, and will also be able to create new workplaces. The state secretary added that the Hungarian Standing Conference which will hold its annual session on 3 December, will decide upon the proposal of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad concerning the next thematic year.



Voting by post is constitutional

On Wednesday, the Romanian Constitutional Court found that the law providing an opportunity for Romanian citizens living abroad to vote by post is not unconstitutional. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (ALDR) led by former Prime Minister Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu lodged a protest against the law which was voted for by the Parliament on 28 October. In their protest, the RMDSZ and the ALDE drew attention



to the fact that the law on voting by post will not guarantee the secrecy of voting, and it is also discriminative with voters living in Romania. In addition, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians (RMDSZ) in Romania Hunor Kelemen highlighted that the law also increases the chances of electoral fraud.

Zsolt Németh: We want a strong Central Europe

Speaking at the second Visegrad Four International Youth Conference organized by the Fidelitas and the Hungarian Youth Conference from Romania (MIÉRT) in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca on Friday, the head of the Hungarian Parliament's Committee of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh said that "if we want a viable Schengen area, we must protect the external borders of Europe". The conference was attended by more than one hundred representatives of youth organizations from the countries of the Visegrad Group, as well as from Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine, which have links with the European People's Party. The main topic of the conference was the Central and Eastern European identity and the strengthening of cooperation. Mr. Németh stressed that they want a strong Central Europe, and it is in everyone's interest that this region is strong both as a community and as a separate constituent.



The Party of the Hungarian Community continues to collect signatures

Since the beginning of October, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has been collecting signatures against quotas regulating the reception of migrants, as well as in support of making the results of local censuses in Slovakia decisive. At a press conference held in Révkomárom/Komárno, the head of the MKP József Berényi announced that so far 12,000 signatures had been collected. The original aim of the party was to have 10,000 supporting signatures. This is the number necessary for obliging the Ministry of Interior to hold consultations with the representatives of the Party of the Hungarian Community about the issue.



Hungary launches HUF 50 billion economic development program for Vojvodina

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar announced that the Hungarian government is expected to launch a HUF 50 billion (EUR 160 million) economic development program in Serbia's Vojvodina. The state secretary said that the scheme comprises HUF 30 billion (EUR 96 million) in credit, while the remaining HUF 20 billion (EUR 64 million) forints will be offered as non-refundable subsidies. The primary purpose of the scheme is to help Vojvodina, a region which has the world's best agricultural soil, and local farmers in the region to export their products to remote destinations. The head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians



(VMSZ) István Pásztor said the program will span a five-year period and is adjusted to development plans in Serbia, Vojvodina and Hungary.

Európa College in Újvidék is officially opened

The official opening ceremony of the Európa College was held in Serbia's Újvidék/Novi Sad on Friday. Addressing the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the building must serve as the intellectual and spiritual home of Hungarian intellectuals living in Vojvodina in the future. Mr. Potápi stressed that "the future of the nation depends on the youth", adding that the Hungarian Government supports the operation of the Európa College. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that the college has three important pillars: professionalism, the sense of community and social responsibility. Mr. Pásztor added that these are the three main directives along which the Európa College might further develop.



We believe in the unity of Hungarians in Transcarpathia

Addressing a commemoration in Ukraine's Szolyva/Svaljava to remember Transcarpathian Hungarian men who were deported to Soviet labor camps in November 1944, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that "Commemoration means a lot, and I would like to believe that Hungarian in Transcarpathia are able to joint forces here, upon the graves of the martyrs." At the commemoration which was held at the memorial park established at the site of a former concentration camp, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed that "the place where we are standing is a cemetery; it is the mass grave of our 15,000 innocent compatriots." Mr. Semjén added that "for forty years, it has been prohibited to commemorate the victims, while there is no Hungarian family in Transcarpathia which was not affected by the postwar reprisals. The Deputy Prime Minister added that "the world is changing, and the Soviet Union has been consigned to the dustbin of history".

