

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
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The Hungarian Government continues the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and the Petőfi Sándor Program

Speaking at a press conference, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that the Hungarian Government continues the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (KCSP) aimed to support Hungarian diaspora communities and the Petőfi Sándor Program focusing on dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin. The state secretary added that the Hungarian Government allocates HUF 1.5 billion (EUR 4.8 million) for these programs. Mr. Potápi said that the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program has been running for 4 years. In 2013, 47 interns were sent to the Hungarian diaspora, while in 2014 and 2015 this number was increased to 100 (in 2015 Hungary ensured HUF 667 million (EUR 2.1 million) for the program). In 2016, Hungary sends 100 young Hungarians to the diaspora again. The aim of the program is to develop the Hungarian language skills of Hungarians living in the diaspora, to enhance their community activity, to strengthen their Hungarian identity and their ties with the kin-state. On 15 March 2015, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad launched the Petőfi Sándor Program which follows the pattern of the KCSP. The purpose of the Petőfi Sándor Program is to support dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin including Hungarians living in Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Southern Poland. Under the program, 50 young Hungarians are travelling to the target countries to stop the assimilation of Hungarian communities and strengthen their Hungarian identity.

Hungary launches call for proposals to support Hungarian civil youth organizations abroad

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi announced at a press conference held on Tuesday that the Hungarian Government launched call for proposals to support Hungarian civil youth organizations in neighboring countries. The deputy state secretary said that Hungary allocated HUF 50 million (EUR 161,000) for this aim. He added that youth organizations can submit their applications until 18 March. He added that in the recent period, Hungarian communities living abroad drew the state secretariat's attention to the fact that it would be necessary to launch call for proposals which aims to support Hungarian youth organizations outside Hungary. Mr. Szilágyi said that the current competition is a gap-filling initiative since it is the first one to support Hungarian civil youth organizations and church legal entities abroad. He added the target group of the competition includes Hungarian youth organizations in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora as well.





The mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy is prohibited from exercising his office

The Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) has found a further “victim” among the leaders of the Transylvanian Hungarian community. On Wednesday, the DNA searched the house and office of the mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe Árpád Antal, on suspicion of abuse of office. The DNA suspects the mayor of having caused a damage of half a million euros. After the search in his home and office, Mr. Antal was transported to Bucharest where he was interrogated and then allowed to go home. The Romanian authority did not order the arrest of Mr. Antal, but placed him under judicial supervision for 60 days and prohibited him from exercising his office during this period. The mayor was also prohibited to leave the territory of Romania. At a press conference held on Thursday in connection with the issue, Mr. Antal said that “he feels himself strong, and if the prosecutor wants to know the truth, he is not afraid of it.” He added that if his judicial supervision is prolonged after 17 April, he will not be able to participate in local elections.

Dorin Florea allows the organization of a march on the Day of Szekler Freedom

On Wednesday at a press conference, the mayor of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş Dorin Florea announced that he would allow the organization of a march planned to be held in the town on the Day of Szekler Freedom. He added, however, that he expects the organizers of the march to hold it “in a civilized form”. The mayor said that the aim of his former statements connected with the event was to prevent incidents. He added that the issue of movements of this kind has to be settled not at courts, since it belongs to the municipality’s sphere of competence.

Commemorations on the Day of the Szekler Freedom are regularly organized by the Szekler National Council (SZNT). Last year the SZNT requested permission to organize the march, but since it did not receive an answer, it brought the issue before the court. At the beginning of the year, the court obliged the mayor of the town to allow the organization of the event. Mr. Florea said he would consider the preservation of the court decision since he would not like the SZNT’s march to give rise to ethnic conflicts in Marosvásárhely.



One billion HUF Hungarian Government support for the Slovakian Reformed Church

Speaking in Slovakia’s Révkomárom/Komárno, Hungary’s Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog announced that the national strategy of the Hungarian Government focuses on the strengthening of Hungarian communities abroad, and it is so in the framework of the Visegrad cooperation as well. Mr. Balog delivered a speech at a ceremony during which he signed an agreement with the bishop of the Slovakian Reformed Christian Church László Fazekas on a HUF one billion (EUR 3.2 million)



support for the Hungarian congregations of the Reformed church in Slovakia. The minister said the government support is a “message of cohesion”, while bishop László Fazekas called it a support “of historical significance”. The support will be spent on the strengthening of Hungarian congregations, the development of education and the establishment of different institutions.

Árpád János Potápi: the Pro Civis' electronic corpus of law is unique in the Carpathian Basin

The Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) and the Pro Civis Civic Association held a joint conference in Slovakia's Révkomárom/Komárno entitled Economic and lingual prosperity. At the event, the organizers presented the electronic corpus of law of the Pro Civis which is unique in the Carpathian Basin. This is the first electronic corpus of law of Hungarian communities living abroad which includes the Hungarian translations of 50 laws and documents of almost 10,000 pages. In addition, the data base is expanding continuously. The aim of the Pro Civis Civic Association was to make the Hungarian translations of the laws available to a wide circle of people, thus, to encourage the practical use of the existing language laws. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the electronic corpus of law is a unique initiative in the Carpathian Basin, and expressed the hope that similar corpora will be established in other neighboring countries as well.



The VMSZ, VMDP and the MEP will have joint lists in three towns

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), the Democratic Party of Hungarians in Vojvodina (VMDP) and the Party of Hungarian Unity (MEP) have continued the coalition talks started earlier. At a meeting held in Serbia's Újvidék/Novi Sad, the members of the three organizations noted with satisfaction that in three towns of Vojvodina – in Óbecse/ Opština Bečej, Topolya/Bačka Topola and Temerin – agreements were reached in all questions of cooperation. Therefore, in these three towns the VMSZ, the VMDP and the MEP will have joint lists during the elections. The parties also agreed that during the next ten days they would draw up joint election programs.

Local and provincial elections in Serbia are expected to be scheduled for 24 April, together with extraordinary parliamentary elections the organization of which was announced at the end of January.

