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The Hungarian Government supports the renovation of Hungarian schools in Szeklerland

Speaking in Transylvania's Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, State Secretary for Church, Ethnic and Civil Society Relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész said that after successful programs launched to help educational institutions of Hungarians living in the Partium (a historical and geographical region in the Kingdom of Hungary during the early modern and modern periods) and gyimesi Csángó Hungarians (Hungarian-speaking ethnic group living in the valley of river Tatos and the Gyimes pass), the Hungarian Government will support the renovation of three Hungarian religious schools in Szeklerland. On Thursday, after talks with the recently elected Hungarian representatives of Transylvanian municipalities, the state secretary said that in 2017 Viktor Orbán's government will allocate a fund between HUF 10 and 20 million (EUR 31,000-62,000) for the renovation of the dormitory of the Segítő Mária Catholic High School in Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc which hosts more than 100 children. Mr. Soltész added that the Baczkamadarasi Kis Gergely Református Kollégium in Székelyudvarhely will receive HUF 20 million (EUR 62,000) as a continuation of this year's aid., while the Tamási Áron High School – the building of which is in very bad condition and which has not received any assistance yet and – will get HUF 50 million (EUR 157,000) from the Hungarian Government.

World Meeting of Csángó Hungarians living in Barcaság starts in Brassó

Addressing the World Meeting of Csángó Hungarians living in Barcaság and Királyföld (geographical-cultural regions in Romania) held in Brassó/Braşov, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that the "fight of Hungarian Csángós is a typically European fate". The house speaker said that "the key of European, Hungarian and Csángó Hungarians' future lies in demography and identity, therefore, will hinge on our respect for the sanctity of birth and the family, in line with our Christian morals, our ability to preserve the identity of our communities as well as an ability to promote the interests of those communities." Mr. Kövér stressed that the winners of the 21st century's battles will be those who have more faith and stronger national identity.

Csángó Hungarians or Csángós are an ethnographic group of Hungarian-speaking communities living in Romania. They have three main groups: Csángós living in Moldva, Gyimes and Barcaság (geographic-cultural regions in Romania).



The MKP is willing to have talks with the Most-Híd

Speaking to the Slovakian news agency, the recently elected president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that the MKP is willing to have talks with the Slovakian-Hungarian mixed party Most-Híd ("Bridge") about the possibilities of future cooperation. The head of the MKP added that they have not had



an opportunity yet to set the date of the meeting with the Most-Híd, because the new presidency of the MKP has just been elected. Mr. Menyhárt added that first he would like to get acquainted with the situation of the regions, and negotiations with the Most-Híd should come only after that. He added that the MKP is also planning to initiate talks with other right-wing parties whose value system is similar to that of the MKP.

14th Summer Open University begins in Vojvodina's Kishegyes

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi opened the 14th Vojvodina Summer Open University in Kishegyes/Mali Idoš. Speaking at the event, the state secretary said that one of the most important current problems in the Carpathian Basin is the demographic situation of Hungarian communities. He added that the main goal is to help Hungarians stay in their homeland. Mr. Potápi highlighted that due to several measures of the Hungarian Government there are some "encouraging signs", but economic tools must also be used to help Hungarian communities prosper in their homeland. Mr. Potápi stressed that economic development is a key requirement, tool and purpose of the kin-state's policy for Hungarian communities abroad. He also recalled that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad announced a call for applications for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living outside Hungary, in which they can apply for non-refundable grants under the "2016 - Year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad" program. Young entrepreneurs can submit their applications until 15 July 2016, and the total amount of funding available is HUF 525 million (EUR 1.6 million). The state secretary encouraged young Hungarians to submit their applications. Mr. Potápi also recalled that in 2016, the Hungarian Government spent HUF 21 billion (EUR 66 million) on programs and measures connected with the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, adding that according to the plans this sum will be increased to HUF 30-31 billion (EUR 94-97 million) in 2016 and 2017.

Speaking at the event, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that it is promising that Hungary has a government which thinks in a united nation not only at the level of words, but also at the level of deeds. He also expressed his pleasure that after many years, the Hungarian community in Vojvodina has another partner - in addition to the Hungarian Government - in Serbia which accepts it and - regardless of the fact how small the Hungarian community in Serbia - handles it as an equal partner. Mr. Pásztor also said that at the elections held on 24 April, the aim of the VMSZ was to preserve Hungarian advocacy in Serbia, and it managed to realize this aim. He added that "in minority politics there are no easy battles, only hard battles".

The head of the Committee on National Cohesion of the Hungarian National Assembly Károly Pánczél said at the event that the Carpathian Basin should be treated as a coherent space. Mr. Pánczél added that it was an important "change of direction"



when the Hungarian Government realized that beside the field of education and culture, the field of economy of Hungarian communities abroad is also crucial which should be supported in order to enhance Hungarians' prosperity in their homeland.

Financial assistance worth 580 million dinar approved by the Prosperitati Foundation

In Vojvodina's Palics/Palić, a press conference was held to evaluate the first phase of the implementation of the Hungarian Government's economic development program in Vojvodina. As is known, in November 2015 Hungary launched a HUF 50 billion (EUR 157 million) economic development program in order to strengthen economic life in Serbia's Vojvodina. Speaking at the press conference, the head of the board of the Prosperitati Foundation Dr. Imre Nagy – a foundation established to coordinate the implementation of the program – said that in the first round of tenders, 34.5 % of the applicants were successful (that is, 825 out of 2,405 applicants won). Mr. Nagy said that in 80% they managed to realize the priorities and tasks laid down in the regional and economic development strategy. He added that at the current phase, it is possible to talk only about partial results. Final results can be summed up at the end of the year, since only the first round of applications has been closed, a call for applications for the second round has just been announced, while the third round will be announced in the fall. In the first round, Hungarian entrepreneurs had an opportunity to submit applications for purchasing equipment necessary for plant production, farm animals and bees, agricultural machinery and other equipment, houses in the countryside and equipment necessary for small and medium-sized enterprises.



24th Transcarpathian Summer Open University in Felsőszinevér

On Thursday, the 24th Transcarpathian Summer Open University was opened in Western Ukraine's Felsőszinevér/Synevyr's'ka Polyana, where important issues affecting the life of Hungarians in Transcarpathia were discussed like different forms of financial assistance Hungary ensures for the Transcarpathian Hungarian community, opportunities for the development of aid schemes and other issues. The event was attended by officials of the Hungarian Government, representatives of charity organizations and the leaders of Hungarian organizations in Transcarpathia. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi introduced the activity of his state secretariat, including the different programs and measures the state secretariat launched to help Transcarpathia. Mr. Potápi expressed his pleasure that the simplified naturalization procedure is extremely successful in Transcarpathia. The state secretary also talked about the economic development program the Hungarian Government launched some months ago for the region, under which the kin-state allocates HUF 32 billion (EUR 100 million) for Transcarpathia in 2016-2018 which



consists of HUF 12 million (EUR 31 million) of non-refundable grants and HUF 20 million (63 million) of preferential credits. Mr. Potápi stressed that by means of financial assistance ensured for Transcarpathia, Hungary would like to help every social class in order to contribute to the Transcarpathian Hungarian community's permanence in its native land.

Speaking at the event, government commissioner responsible for the government coordination of cooperation and accorded development tasks of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and Transcarpathia Dr. István Grezsa stressed that Hungary ensures financial support for a community which is not a member of the European Union, and by means of this support it helps this community prosper in its homeland.

At a round-table discussion on the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics said that the cooperation agreement the KMKSZ and Democratic Union of Hungarians in Ukraine (UMDSZ) concluded before municipal elections held in October 2015 was extremely important, since due to this cooperation the political representation of Hungarians at different levels of local governments in Ukraine became much stronger. Mr. Brenzovics also expressed his gratitude – on behalf of the entire Hungarian community in Transcarpathia – to the Hungarian Government for the support due to which Hungarians in the region managed to survive the current crisis in Ukraine and strengthen their institutional system.

On the last day of the summer open university, a round-table discussion was held on Ukrainian-Hungarian relations. Opening the section, the president of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh said that it is a crucial question for Ukrainians what is Hungary's attitude like towards their formation into a nation. He added that in order to help Ukrainians realize this goal, it is important that Hungary continues its gesture politics.

