

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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66 products from 60 companies receive Hungarian Quality Product Award

This year, 66 products from 60 companies received the Hungarian Quality Product Award or the right to use the Hungarian Quality Product Award certification mark. The awards were presented for the 19th time in a ceremony held in the Hungarian National Assembly building. This year for the first time the products of Hungarians living abroad were awarded. Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the Hungarian Quality Product Award contributes to the strengthening of the Hungarian economy in the Carpathian Basin. He added that in addition to the strengthening of the educational and cultural institutions of Hungarian communities abroad, we must also pay particular attention to economic development in these regions. In 2016, the Hungarian Quality Product Award's Merit Award for the Carpathian Basin was presented to the Kincses Kolozsvár Association (Transylvania), the Pro Cultura Subcarpathica (Transcarpathia) and the Union of Hungarian Students of Vojvodina (VaMaDisz). In addition, three Hungarian economic operators abroad acquired the right to use the Hungarian Quality Product Award certification mark.



The issue of trilingual place-name signs in Kolozsvár will be reconsidered

The Court of Appeals of Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca has sent back the dossier of multilingual place-name signs in Kolozsvár to the Kolozs County Law Court, which made the decision in the first instance. In its decision in February 2016, the Kolozs County Law Court refused the petition of the Minority Rights Association in which the association asked for permission to install trilingual – Romanian-Hungarian-German – place-name signs in Kolozsvár. The association appealed against the court's decision, and its action was also joined by 370 citizens living in Kolozsvár. The spokesman of the Court of Appeals of Kolozsvár announced that the issue was sent back to the Kolozs County Law Court for reconsideration.

According to Romania's law on public administration, bilingual place-name signs can be installed in towns in which a national minority group forms at least 20% of a town's population. Despite this, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which was ratified by Romania, means that this right can also be exercised in towns where a significant community of an autochthonous minority preserves cultural values which "have left a mark on the image of the town." According to data from the latest census, the Hungarian community in Kolozsvár is the second largest Hungarian community in Transylvania after that in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş. However, the almost 50,000-strong Hungarian community in Kolozsvár constitutes only 16 percent of the town's population (310,000 people).



The MKP draws up proposal ensuring bilingualism in Slovakian transport



After the disintegration of the Siet' party, former state secretary of the Most-Híd ("Bridge") Slovak- Hungarian mixed party Árpád Érsek became Slovakia's new minister of transport. According to Slovakia's largest Hungarian party, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), as a result of the appointment of Mr. Érsek, the Hungarian community in Slovakia will have more opportunities to realize bilingualism in the field of transport. For this aim, the MKP drew up a proposal which would ensure complete bilingualism in Slovakia's transport. Among other things, the proposal initiates the mandatory installation of bilingual railway station signs in every town in which minority groups live, adding that these signs should be financed by the state. In addition, the MKP highlights in its proposal that bilingualism in transport should include not only place-name signs, but should also be extended to written and oral information for passengers.



Nursery school in Slovakia's Rozsnyó expands after kin-state support

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi took part in the year-opening ceremony of the Zoltán Fábry Nursery, Primary and Vocational School in Slovakia's Rozsnyó /Rožňava, during which a recently-expanded part of the building was inaugurated. Speaking at the event, the Deputy State Secretary greeted the Hungarian kindergarten children, and expressed the Hungarian government's pleasure to those parents who chose a Hungarian-language institution for their children. Mr. Szilágyi also expressed his gratitude to Hungarian teachers in Slovakia who have not given up their fight and have managed to realize the expansion of the nursery school.

The first independent Hungarian nursery school in Rozsnyó was established in 2005, as a result of the initiatives of Hungarian parents. In the beginning, the nursery school could host 24 children, but later this number was reduced to 18. This year, the institution's leaders managed to increase the number of children to 36, after HUF 13.5 million (EUR 43,000) in financial support from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy State Secretary expressed his pleasure that their state secretariat could contribute to the expansion of the institution.



National media stresses the value of work done for the community

Speaking at a ceremony in Serbia's Palics/Palić, marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Pannon RTV (Vojvodina's the most popular television), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that "televisions and radios of nationalities – like the Pannon RTV – show that work done for the community is a value, and it is a moral duty to do everything for the permanence and prosperity of our community." The state secretary said that the Pannon RTV is working for the service of the Hungarian nation, praises



the cohesion and strong identity of the 250,000-strong Hungarian community in Vojvodina, and contributes to Hungarians' unity in the Carpathian Basin by sending 100 reports per month to Hungary's public media channels. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that during the recent years, the Pannon RTV underwent intensive developments, and today it is an important factor in the shaping of public opinion, as well as in the field of information and culture.

The first reports of the Pannon RTV were broadcast on 14 August, and today it is the most popular medium in Vojvodina.



Viktor Orbán receives László Brenzovics in his office

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics in his office. The parties discussed current problems affecting the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, and topical issues of the kin-state's policy for Hungarian communities abroad. During the talks, Mr. Orbán and Mr. Brenzovics paid particular attention to the results of the Ede Egán Transcarpathian Hungarian Economic Development Program which was launched by the Hungarian Government, infrastructural developments at the Hungary-Ukraine borders, including the renovation of border-crossing points and the opening of new ones, as well as the building of a highway bypassing Beregszász/Berehove, for the building of which Hungary had already offered its help.



Economic development is the most important task of the Consulate General in Lendva

On Monday, speaking at the opening ceremony of the new Consulate General in Lendava/Lendva, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that "Economic development will be the most important task and mission of the Consulate General in Lendava". The state secretary stressed that the region had seen great progress recently; Slovenia and Hungary have been connected by several new cross-border roads and many new development projects have been launched that facilitate the increasing prosperity of the region. He added that "an unprecedented scale of development projects are still under development, for the realization of which we are counting on the Consulate General and our Slovenian friends."



"A small community is fighting for survival"



On Wednesday, a recently renovated Reformed church supported by Hungary and Croatia was inaugurated in Croatia's Karancs/Karanac, in the presence of Hungarian President János Áder and Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic. The inauguration ceremony was part of a church service, and was also attended by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. Speaking to journalists after the event, the state secretary said that Hungary allocated HUF 5.5 million (EUR 17,000) for the renovation of the church. In his address before the service, protestant pastor János Hájek said that the number of Hungarians in Croatia is decreasing. He added that "if this process continues, the Hungarian community in Croatia will disappear". Mr. Hájek said that in spite of this sad process, the small community is fighting for its survival."

Early parliamentary elections in Croatia – Conservatives win

On Sunday, 11 September, early parliamentary elections were held in Croatia. After 99 % of the votes were processed – which can almost be considered a final result – the right-wing Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) won, therefore, it will remain in power. In the "fight" for the Hungarian minority seat Róbert Jankovics from the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) won 53.02 %, while his rival, Sándor Juhász from the Alliance of Hungarian Associations (MESZ) received 46.98 %.