

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Hungary ensures HUF 600 million for young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad

Speaking at a press conference organized to announce the results of the “2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi said that the Hungarian Government allocates HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million) to support young Hungarian entrepreneurs living outside Hungary. Presenting the results of a call for applications which was launched as part of the 2016 thematic year, the deputy state secretary said that 967 young Hungarian entrepreneurs living abroad submitted their applications and 117 of them won. Mr. Szilágyi added that Hungary allocated HUF 750 million (EUR 2.4 million) for the thematic year, out of which HUF 525 million (EUR 1.7 million) was devoted to the call for application, but - with respect to the large number of applicants - the state secretariat raised this sum to HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million).

The Role Model Foundation launches road show for Hungarian entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin

As part of the “2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, a new road show begins in the Carpathian Basin. During the program series, Hungarian “role models” (successful entrepreneurs) of the Role Model Foundation will hold presentations and lectures for young Hungarians living in neighboring countries. The aim of the road show is to set an example – with the help of the role models – for young Hungarians living outside the kin-state to realize their dreams, creativity and start their own business. The Role Model Foundation is a civil initiative the purpose of which is to introduce successful young entrepreneurs to young Hungarians in order to inspire them through their example.



The Central Electoral Bureau approves the RMDSZ' participation in parliamentary elections

On Monday the Romanian Central Electoral Bureau approved the participation of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in the 2016 Romanian parliamentary elections, after the members of the RMDSZ submitted the list of supporting signatures necessary for the participation in the elections. According to the Romanian laws, parties or minority organizations which intend to take part in parliamentary elections with a national list must receive the support of at least 1 % of the country's population, that is, have to collect at least 190,000 supporting signatures. By the deadline, the RMDSZ managed to collect 230,000 signatures out of which 226,000 were verified by the Central Electoral Bureau. As a result of this, the RMDSZ can nominate candidates in every county of Romania and electoral districts abroad as well. Speaking at a press conference, the president of the RMDSZ Hunor



Kelemen said that his party will “make use of this right” during the elections scheduled to take place at the beginning of December.

László Kövér and Jenő Szász on official visit to Nagyvárad

On Thursday, the House Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér and the President of the Research Institute for National Strategy Jenő Szász made an official visit to the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District in Nagyvárad/Oradea. During their visit, Mr. Kövér and Mr. Szász got acquainted with the everyday life of the church district and the situation of the members of the Reformed Church in the Partium (a historical and geographical region in the former Kingdom of Hungary). On behalf of the church district, bishop István Csúry expressed his gratitude to the kin-state for the support Hungary ensured for the church, which contributed to the realization of several projects including the building of the church district’s headquarters in Nagyvárad, the establishment of the Kölcsey Center in Szödemeť/Săuca and the workshops of the Lorántffy Zsuzsanna Reformed High School.



The municipal free university is a unique initiative

The 6th municipal free university was organized in Slovakia’s Nagymegyer/Veľký Meder. The event was opened by Ambassador of Hungary to Pozsony/Bratislava Éva Czibalmosné Molnár. The free university is organized regularly by the Pro Civis association and is attended by Slovakia’s Hungarian mayors and members of municipalities. Speaking at the event, the president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt highlighted that there is a serious step back in the field of language rights in Slovakia compared to the period between the two world wars. The head of the MKP stressed that the Hungarian language is oppressed, and – in his opinion – this phenomenon will lead to the assimilation of the Hungarian community. Speaking at the conference, government commissioner at the Prime Minister’s Office dr. István Grezsa said that a lot of Hungarians living in diaspora – members of third of fourth generations – do not speak Hungarian but still declare themselves of Hungarian nationality. The government commissioner stressed that we must recognize that people living in diaspora are Hungarians as well. He added that the kin-state ensures remarkable financial support for these communities.



Újvidék will be one of the European Capitals of Culture in 2021

On Thursday, a decision was made in Brussels according to which Újvidék/Novi Sad will be one of the European Capitals of Culture in 2021, in addition to Temesvár/Timișoara and a Greek town. In the competition for the title, the greatest rival of Újvidék was Herceg Novi. The Serbian delegation representing Újvidék – which consisted of artists, professors, urban developers and scientists – held a long



presentation introducing why their town should win. The delegation was led by the mayor of Újvidék Miloš Vučević and the head of the town's candidacy organizers committee Nemanja Milenković.

4th Bethlen Day in Huszt

On 9 October, the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia's Huszt/Hust held the 4th Bethlen Day to commemorate the ruler inauguration of Gábor Bethlen, uncrowned King of Hungary, and the golden age of Transylvania and Máramaros/Maramureș (a geographical, historical and ethno-cultural region in northern Romania and western Ukraine). The festival was organized by the Pro Cultura Subcarpathica civil association, and – unlike the previous years – was held at a new venue, in the center of Huszt. Speaking at the event, government commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office and main patron of the festival István Grezsa said that Gábor Bethlen was a Hungarian politician who proved that peaceful and constructive work can bring greater achievements than war. The government commissioner also spoke about the current difficult situation and economic crisis in Ukraine and wished a fast “recovery” for the region.

The future of Hungarians abroad depends on Hungarian-language education

On Saturday, the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia celebrated its 15th anniversary in Eszék/Osijek. Addressing the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “when we talk about the policy for Hungarian communities abroad and the future of Hungarians, we cannot leave mother tongue education and schools without a word, since the most important condition of the Hungarian communities' permanence is the availability of mother tongue education. The state secretary said that the recognition of the importance of Hungarian-language education was the impetus which brought to life Hungarian teachers' associations after the change of regime. He emphasized that this was a very difficult period in Croatia, due to the war, but in spite of this, the local Hungarian community was able to survive and serve the issue of Hungarian education.