

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

2/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



The Hungarian government invites tenders for the restoration of WWI memorials abroad

Through the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd., the Hungarian government is inviting tenders for the restoration of World War I memorials in neighboring countries. The call for tenders is available on the website of the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. Speaking on the public media's M1 channel, Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that applicants can receive financial assistance of between HUF 500,000 (EUR 1,600) and 2 million (EUR 6,500). The primary aim is to enhance the renovation of monuments in small towns and villages abroad. Applicants can be municipalities, local governments of nationalities, historic churches, church communities, civil society organizations or state institutions. The state secretary added that the supported programs or projects must be realized by the end of March 2018.



Meleşcanu would settle Romanian-Hungarian relations

The nominee for Romania's minister of foreign affairs Teodor Meleşcanu said that it is his "moral responsibility" as a minister to develop relations between Romanian and Hungary, since in Temesvár/ Timișoara in 1996 he was the person from Romania's side who signed the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty. Speaking before the Romanian parliament's expert committees, Mr. Meleşcanu highlighted that he considers Romania's foreign policy to be a series of concentric circles, among which the primary and most important circle is the relationship with neighboring countries. Concerning Hungary, the future minister said that two decades ago when the basic treaty between the two countries was signed, he was the Foreign Minister of Romania (1992-1996). He added that the agreement on strategic partnership was another crucial document, but unfortunately it remained "at the level of a document". He added that, as a minister, his first action will be the settling and strengthening of relations with neighboring countries – and Hungary will be one of the first of these.

Ervin Tőke wins the lawsuit in the Szekler flag case

The Csíkszék chairman of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Ervin Tőke has won a lawsuit against the Police Office of Harghita County and the gendarmerie of Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc. In June 2016 Mr. Tőke was fined by the Police Office and the gendarmerie because he raised a Szekler flag in a public place in Csíkszereda. In the judgment of the court of first instance (the Court of Csíkszereda), issued at the end of December, the court annulled the RON 10,000 (EUR 2,000) fine imposed on Mr. Tőke by the Romanian authorities for the unlawful raising of a Szekler flag – which is considered to be the official flag of Harghita County. In addition, the court reduced the RON 1,000 (EUR 200) fine – which was imposed by the gendarmerie for organization of a prohibited event – to a warning. Informing the



Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Tőke stressed that Hungarians must prevent the removal of Szekler flags from Szeklerland's public places.

Coercive measures against Zsolt Tamási are still in force

The Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) has extended by sixty days coercive measures against Zsolt Tamási, director of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures. The director appealed against the decision. At the end of December Mr. Tamási announced that measures against him had been extended. He is not allowed to enter the Roman Catholic High School, is not allowed to contact other people involved in the case, and has to ask for the prosecutor's permission if he wants to leave the country. The Tribunal of Maros County set the date of the appeal hearing for Wednesday.

As has been reported, at the beginning of November the DNA launched proceedings against Zsolt Tamási, in 2014 the director of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely, and the chief superintendent of the county Ștefan Someșan. According to the prosecutor's office, Mr. Tamási and Mr. Someșan acted unlawfully in the establishment of the high school.



Official bilingualism is far from being complete in Slovakia

The government office report on the language use of national minorities in Slovakia was on the agenda at the inter-ministerial consultation in December. The report is issued in every two years and its aim is to present the situation of language use in the country. According to the report, municipalities and offices often do not meet the requirements of the law on minority language use and the members of national minorities also make little use of the opportunities offered by the law. The results of the survey show that in the examined period more than 1,700 infringements took place. The majority of them were cases when people were not informed about the possibility that they can communicate with the staff of the office both in oral and written form. Another frequent case was that no bilingual hazard warning signs were placed in offices. Municipalities also complain about capacity problems and lack of money. Government commissioner for minority issues László Bukovszky said that Hungarians in Slovakia should not wait for the state in this field. He stressed that the current situation is the result of a lag of several decades and they try to improve it step by step.



The victims of the 1942 massacre are commemorated in Csúrog

On Wednesday, people in Vojvodina commemorated the victims of the 1942 Hungarian massacre in Csúrog/Čurug during which 900-1300 innocent Serbs and Jews were executed. In 2013 – due to the Hungarian Government's support – the storehouse where hundreds of Serbs and Jews were killed was built into a museum.



The commemoration took place there. The event was addressed by the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the provincial house of representatives István Pásztor who stressed that it is one of the most important tasks of today's generations to preserve the memory of the victims of Csúrog and to remember those who rescued their neighbors and friends, risking their own life. The so-called "cold days" or Délvidék massacre started seventy-five years ago, in January 1942 in Csúrog. The bloodbath which took place in the 10,000-strong village had about 900 victims who were Serbs and Jews.



Lajos Gulácsy Memorial Park is inaugurated in Munkács

On Sunday, a monument and memorial park was inaugurated in Transcarpathia's Munkács/Mukachevo, remembering the late Transcarpathian Hungarian Reformed bishop Lajos Gulcsáy and all those people who were persecuted by the Stalinist terror because of their faith. The establishment of the memorial park was supported by the Hungarian Government. As part of the inauguration ceremony of the Lajos Gulácsy Emlékpark – which is situated in the yard of the Reformed Church in Munkács – a church service was held by the bishop of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Reformed Church Sándor Zán Fábián. In his speech, the bishop stressed that Lajos Gulácsy – who passed away two months ago – lived an exemplary life. He was born on 8 January 1925 and – for a long period – served in Munkács as a Reformed pastor. Mr. Zán Fábián stressed that the late bishop spent 7 years in the Gulag and can serve as a role model for Hungarian young people in Transcarpathia today, since "he showed how we can remain loyal to our homeland and our nation."

