

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

4/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Role Models of the Year Awards are handed over

The Role Model of the Year 2016 gala was held in Budapest on Friday. Unlike in previous years, the Role Model Foundation – together with the “2016 – year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad” program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad – presented its awards to young Hungarian entrepreneurs living outside Hungary. The Foundation selected five young Hungarian entrepreneurs living abroad who, because of their activity, can be role models for their contemporaries. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “the selected role models show us that it really is possible to be successful in the Carpathian Basin.” The state secretary added that the chosen role models will have a strong influence on the life of their communities, regions and the entire Hungarian nation. The main prize – Role Model of 2016 – was awarded to Tibor Rudolf Weber, a Hungarian entrepreneur and owner of a construction company in Romania.

In the afternoon on the same day the closing conference of the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs was held at the House of Hungarians in Budapest. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that from the HUF 750 million (EUR 2.4 million) program, the state secretariat managed to provide professional training for more than 2,000 young people abroad, and ensured financial support for 117 talented applicants who were chosen through preliminary selection. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the main aim of the program was to encourage young Hungarians living abroad to start their own business and to help those who are already entrepreneurs.

Katalin Szili: In terms of autonomy we are in the eleventh hour

Speaking at a conference on Wednesday, prime ministerial commissioner Katalin Szili said that “If we want to establish autonomy for Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin we are in the eleventh hour; if the autonomy concepts of Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin are not completed in the next years, we will lose a historic opportunity.” Ms. Szili added that Hungarians living abroad must decide what they want, and the kin-state’s task is to help them realize these goals. The prime ministerial commissioner said that we must persuade neighboring countries that autonomy is about the permanence of ethnic communities, and it serves equality. Speaking at the event, István Grezsa, government commissioner responsible for the coordination of development tasks in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and Transcarpathia, said that the demographic situation of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin is bad, but that of neighboring peoples is not better. He added that over the past 25 years, Hungary has come a long way, and the peak of this progress was the unification of the nation. The government commissioner added that today Hungary not only takes care of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin, but every Hungarian community in the world.



Miklós Soltész praises the cultural role of Hungarians abroad

Speaking at an event in Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc on the Day of Hungarian Culture, Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for church, nationality and civil society relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities, said that on the Day of Hungarian Culture we must remember the values Hungarians living abroad have given to Hungarian culture as a whole. The state secretary attended the opening ceremony of an exhibition at the local Rezső Haáz Museum presenting the work of Transylvanian ethnographer Zoltán Kallós. Mr. Soltész stressed that “we must strengthen the conviction that the preservation of faith, culture and mother tongue are the keys of Hungarians’ permanence.”

A subcommittee dealing with the issues of the Hungarian minority might be established in the Romanian house of representatives

József Kulcsár Terza, a representative of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and chairman of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) in Kovászna/Kovasna County, is initiating establishment of a subcommittee in the human rights committee of the Romanian house of representatives, to deal with the issues of the Hungarian minority. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Mr. Kulcsár Terza said that as a member of the human rights committee he saw that several members of the committee are planning to initiate the establishment of different subcommittees (for Roma, for the handicapped, for prisoners etc.). He added that he would also like to make use of the opportunities offered by the law and would initiate the establishment of a separate subcommittee dealing with the issues of the Hungarian minority in Romania. In this various unsolved problems –such as the use of national symbols, mother tongue and public signs – could be settled.



The Day of Hungarian Culture is celebrated in Galánta

In Galánta/Galanta, on the Day of Hungarian Culture, the Csemadok – the largest cultural-public organization of the Hungarian community in Slovakia – organized a large-scale event in which the organization’s awards for 2016 were presented. In addition to the organization’s lifetime achievement awards, the public education awards and the István Gyurcsó awards were also presented. Addressing the event, Gyula Bárdos, the chairman of the Csemadok, said that in the past year new officials were elected and the organization was “modernized.” Ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that the strong identity of young Hungarian people is a precondition for the community’s permanence in its homeland. The ministerial commissioner stressed that if we want to increase the number of Hungarian pupils, we must renovate Hungarian kindergartens in Slovakia. He added that an important



measure for this is the planned nursery school program in the Carpathian Basin, under which Hungarian kindergartens in Slovakia will receive HUF 7 billion (EUR 22 million)

The Day of Hungarian Culture in Vojvodina

Several events were organized throughout Vojvodina on the Day of Hungarian Culture. The central festival was held in Zenta, as part of which the awards of the Hungarian Cultural Association of Vojvodina were presented. The head of the association Károly Dudás said that “We Hungarians in Vojvodina have always had friends – even in the most difficult times. We have friends in the kin-state, friends in the Carpathian Basin and friends in the diaspora. They have always helped us survive the hardships of “minority life”.

László Brenzovics: 2017 will be a year of tough struggle for the protection of Hungarian education in Transcarpathia

Speaking to a Transcarpathian Hungarian daily, the chairman of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and MEP of the Ukrainian parliament László Brenzovics said that, after a year of mixed feelings, 2017 might be the year of changes in Ukraine. Mr. Brenzovics said that although 2017 might not bring the long-awaited peace for the country, some processes might start which could lead to consolidation in the long run. The head of the KMKSZ added that in this process the role and activity of the Hungarian community and its advocacy organization will be decisive. Mr. Brenzovics said that although 2016 was a hard year in Ukraine, the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia received significant help from Hungary, which helped it survive and contributed to the settling of several long-standing problems. He added that the economic development program Hungary launched in Transcarpathia in 2016 opened up new prospects for those Hungarians who wish to live and prosper in their homeland.

Hungarians celebrate the Day of Hungarian Culture worldwide

The Balassi Institute, which operates under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, organized several events throughout the world on the Day of Hungarian Culture. The series of events included concerts, exhibitions, film screenings and literary lectures. Hungarian cultural institutions abroad and educational and cultural diplomats organized commemorations in cities in more than 25 countries, including Vienna, Berlin, Brussels, Bucharest, Belgrade, Delhi, Helsinki, Paris, Rome, Istanbul and several others across the world.