

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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The “2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad” starts

Speaking at the opening conference of the 2017 thematic year of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad entitled “2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad”, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that the thematic year will include various programs: special training courses, a Carpathian Basin road show and research work. The opening conference was attended by almost 200 Hungarian entrepreneurs who live and operate their businesses in neighboring countries. Mr. Potápi said that at the last meeting of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) held on 1 December 2016, the MÁÉRT accepted the state secretariat’s proposal and decided to name 2017 the year of Hungarian family businesses abroad. The state secretary added that the Hungarian government will allocate HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.2 million) for the realization of the program. He said that this is an unprecedented sum – compared to the funding of previous thematic years – and stressed that Hungary’s aim is to make Hungarian enterprises abroad an engine of economic development. Mr. Potápi highlighted that the target groups of the thematic year are families in which two or more generations work together in the same business, the business was founded by the previous generation and is continued by the next generation, and several members of a particular generation are working in the business. Presenting the main planned programs for the year, Mr. Potápi said that a large-scale road show will be organized in the Carpathian Basin in the spring and fall. In the spring, a meeting will take place with the participation of multi-generation enterprises and the members of Hungarian family businesses abroad, who will have an opportunity to take part in a special entrepreneurial training course. In the fall, training courses for separate sectors will be held.

Árpád János Potápi: Communism killed the power of law and justice

Speaking at the central commemoration on the Memorial Day for the Victims of Communism held at the monument of the victims executed in 1945-56 in Újbuda, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that “with the arrival of communism, we saw the departure of a world where law and order ruled”. Mr. Potápi stressed that a system whose aim was the intimidation of society and the creation of tyranny failed because some “secret islands”, the “bastions of soul and mind” resisted: dictatorship could paralyze them, but could not destroy them. The state secretary stressed that “freedom and patriotism cannot be killed, because they are preserved in the innermost recesses of the soul.” Referring to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Mr. Potápi added that this was why “we Hungarians could not accept the unchangeable and we stood up against the largest military power in the world.”

Deputy State Secretary Péter Szilágyi receives children living in diaspora

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi received the participants of the Rákóczi Association’s diaspora program at the House of



Hungarians in Budapest. In the framework of the program, between September 2016 and June 2017 650 Hungarian children living in the diaspora and 1,850 children living in dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin are taking part in a study tour in Hungary. The primary purpose of the program is to strengthen ties between young Hungarians living in the diaspora, scattered Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin and the kin-state and to preserve their Hungarian identity.

A parliamentary subcommittee dealing with the Hungarian national minority is set up in Romania

For the first time, a subcommittee has been set up in the Romanian parliament to deal with the issues of the Hungarian national minority. The establishment of the subcommittee – which was formed within the subcommittee of human rights of the Parliament – was initiated by a member of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and county leader of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) József Kulcsár Terza. Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Kulcsár said that it was a condition for the subcommittee's establishment that at least three members of the 15-member human rights subcommittee join the initiative. He added that this condition was met, since in addition to him and another member of the RMDSZ Erika Benkő, two members of the Social Democratic Party and a member of the Roma party also joined the initiative.

The Slovak government adopts draft law on the establishment of a Minority Cultural Fund

A new public institution, the Minority Cultural Fund, might coordinate the financing of minority cultural projects in Slovakia in the future. The Slovak government adopted a draft law on the establishment of the fund and proposed the discussion of the draft law in Parliament. The Minority Cultural Fund might partly replace the current financing system, which means that minority cultural projects in Slovakia will be financed by an assistance program operating under the supervision of the Government's Office. According to the draft law, instead of the former EUR 4.5 million, EUR 8 million will be allocated for minority cultural projects from the public budget.

Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians remains a strategic partner for the Government

On Thursday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor in his office. At the meeting Mr. Pásztor informed the Prime Minister of Serbia's upcoming presidential election, and the



Council of the Alliance's decision that his party should support the campaign of Aleksandar Vučić, the current prime minister. With regard to the intentions behind the decision, Mr. Pásztor said that the most important goal is to preserve Serbia's internal political stability. He pointed out that the only reasonable way to assert the interests of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina is to maintain the coalition agreement of 2016, and to fully implement the plans expressed in it. Mr. Orbán assured Mr. Pásztor of the Hungarian government's support for his party's decision. At the meeting the Prime Minister said that in recent years the economic, educational and cultural development of the constituent parts of the Hungarian nation has begun to improve – as has cooperation between Hungary and Serbia. He stressed that this process must unquestionably be continued.



Levente Magyar: the Hungarian Government allocates HUF 30 billion for economic development in Transcarpathia

Speaking in Eastern Hungary's Tarpa, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that the Hungarian government has launched a HUF 30 billion (EUR 97 million) economic development program to support Transcarpathia. As a result of this, large-scale projects and developments will be realized in the region which might ensure long-term prosperity for the region. Mr. Magyar said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched the Transcarpathian economic development program at the end of 2016, and the fund allocated for the program can be used up until 2018. The state secretary added that the assistance will mainly cover enterprises in the field of the food industry, but the Hungarian government will also support those industrial companies which ensure jobs for Hungarians living in Transcarpathia.



Hungarian-Croatian minority joint committee holds meeting after four years

On Thursday, the Hungarian-Croatian minority joint committee held a meeting in Zagreb, after a four-year break. The last meeting was held in November 2012 in Budapest. Speaking before a press conference held after the meeting, co-chair of the committee, ministerial commissioner responsible for the development of Hungary's neighborhood policy Ferenc Kalmár, said that there were several causes of the four-year break, but the most important cause was the political situation in Croatia. The Croatian co-chair Zvonko Milas said that Hungarians in Croatia and Croats in Hungary enjoy the highest level of minority rights, which meet the requirements of international agreements.





Hungarian public media to launch programs in Australia

Leaders of Hungarian public content provider Duna Media Service Provider (Duna MSZ) signed agreements during a recent visit to Australia, according to which Hungarian news and cultural programs would be broadcast on Australian television. The general manager of Duna MSZ Menyhért Dobos told the Hungarian news agency MTI that their talks had been “successful and productive” and several agreements had been made. The director in charge of Duna MSZ television content Balázs Medveczky said that during their visit they managed to deepen relations between Hungary and Hungarians living Australia. He added that Duna MSZ will provide a weekly news summary about Hungary in the Hungarian language to Melbourne’s C31 television, and will also provide a similar program in English to WTV in Perth, while other cultural programs will also be made available to WTV. Mr. Medveczky added that fiction, documentary, musical programs and other genres will also be made available for Hungarian communities living in Australia.

