

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Viktor Orbán: The MKP is the partner of Fidesz in Slovakia

In Budapest on Tuesday, after meetings with the delegation of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Prime Minister and President of Fidesz Viktor Orbán said that in recent years Hungary has established exceptionally positive relations with the Slovak government and – though the fruits of these efforts are beginning to ripen – there are far more opportunities in Southern Slovakia than have been exploited so far. Mr. Orbán stressed that in order to exploit these opportunities much more intensively, Fidesz will propose to the Hungarian government that, similarly to the economic development programs in Vojvodina and Transcarpathia, “We should also enter into an agreement with the community of Hungarians in Slovakia.” The Prime Minister added that “By relying on the experiences gained in other regions, we may start with a good chance of success, and there may be significant economic development resources already available this year.” Mr. Orbán said that it is important that there should be an adequate network of relations between the political organizations of Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian Basin and Hungarian parties. Mr. Orbán stressed that the partner organization of Fidesz-KDNP in Slovakia is the MKP, and “this is how it was, how it is, and how it will be”. He added that “mixed parties” bring assimilation, while Hungarian parties ensure permanence in the homeland, and this is why Fidesz is supporting the Party of the Hungarian Community.

Our goal is to involve more and more young people in the Hungarian “bloodstream”

In the House of Hungarians in Budapest, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi received 50 young Hungarians who are participating in the Rákóczi Association’s Diaspora Program. Within the framework of the program entitled “Without Borders”, 650 young Hungarians living in the diaspora and 1,850 young people living in dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin between the age of 10 and 25 have an opportunity to visit Hungary between September 2016 and June 2017. The program is organized by the Rákóczi Association. In the presence of the president of the Rákóczi Association Dr. József Halzl and the association’s secretary general Csongor Csáky, the deputy state secretary welcomed the participants in the European group – Hungarians living in Spain, Sweden and France.



The Carpathian Basin tour of “2017 – year of Hungarian family businesses abroad” arrives in Transylvania

The Carpathian Basin tour of the program “2017 – year of Hungarian family businesses abroad” has arrived in Transylvania. At its plenary session on 1 December 2016, the Hungarian Standing Conference decided to declare 2017 the year of Hungarian family businesses abroad. As part of the thematic year, the State



Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is organizing a road show in the Carpathian Basin, the Transylvanian stops of which have been Nagyvárad/Oradea and Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc. During the road show, the participants have an opportunity to receive information about the thematic year's programs and get acquainted with local family businesses. In the 2017 thematic year, Hungarian family businesses in the Carpathian Basin – including family businesses in Transylvania – can also apply for financial assistance. The total amount of funds allocated for the program is HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.2 million). Speaking at the Transylvanian stops on the road show, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Dr. Péter Szilágyi presented the main planned events for 2017. He said that as part of the thematic year, Hungarian family businesses abroad can apply for non-refundable aid from a total fund of HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million). Mr. Szilágyi added that 200 Hungarian family businesses abroad will also have an opportunity to take part in special training courses in the summer. The deputy state secretary stressed that the Hungarian government intends to address those Hungarian enterprises in the Carpathian Basin in which several generations work together or which were established and are operated by spouses or siblings.



Gergely Gulyás: “the Hungarian language must live forever in Slovakia”

In December 2012 the Hungarian National Assembly declared 12 April the Memorial Day for Hungarians Deported from Slovakia. On this day 69 years ago the first train deporting Hungarians from Slovakia left the country. The agreement on Czechoslovak–Hungarian population exchange was signed in Budapest on 27 February 1946, and on 14 May the agreement was adopted by the Parliament. Speaking in the Hungarian parliament on the memorial day, the deputy faction leader of Fidesz Gergely Gulyás said that “remembrance is important, but it is also important that the Benes decrees never achieve their purpose, and that the Hungarian language lives forever in Slovakia.” He added that the decision which changed the lives of more than 100,000 Hungarians who were deported from their homeland was one of the largest and most tragic forced migration waves of the 20th century. Speaking at the event, the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that to this day Hungarians living in Slovakia have received neither apology nor compensation for the events of seventy years ago. He stressed that forgiveness is possible, but apology must come first.

Memorial plaque for Count István Széchenyi is unveiled in Pozsony

On Monday, after more than 20 years of efforts by Hungarian organizations in Slovakia, a memorial plaque was unveiled in Pozsony/Bratislava in memory of Count István Széchenyi. Since the fall of communism this is the first monument in the capital of Slovakia to pay tribute to a Hungarian historical figure. The memorial plaque was unveiled by Ambassador of Hungary to Pozsony Éva Czibalmosné Molnár and the



chairman of the Széchenyi Society András Rubovszky. The ambassador said that the plaque is the result of a successful cooperation between the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) and Hungary's foreign representation.



Hungary and Serbia have a mutual interest in each other's success

In Szabadka/Subotica on Thursday, contracts were concluded with more than 3,700 successful applicants within the framework of the Hungarian Government's economic development program for Vojvodina. Speaking at the event, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó highlighted that Hungary and Serbia have a mutual interest in each other's success, and the jointly written success story, which primarily concerns the success of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina and of the Serbian minority in Hungary, began a few years ago. Mr. Szijjártó declared that the signing of the winning tenders was tangible and irrefutable proof that relations and cooperation between Hungary and Serbia have never been so good, explaining that previous historical tensions between the two countries and the two nations have slowly been transformed into a historic friendship, and both countries regard the Hungarian community in Vojvodina as a link that connects the two countries and the two peoples.



Péter Szijjártó: It is our firm expectation with regard to Ukraine that it must guarantee the rights of the Hungarian minority

Speaking after joint talks with the foreign ministers of Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Ukraine held in Kiev, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that "Hungary has provided much concrete assistance to Ukraine, and in exchange it expects that the rights of the Hungarian community living there are not impaired". Speaking at a press conference after the talks, Mr. Szijjártó stressed that "It is Hungary's firm expectation that Ukraine's Parliament does not adopt the planned Act on Education which would curtail the rights of the Hungarian minority to receive education in their native language." The minister added that "We expect that no Ukrainian body should adopt any language legislation that restricts the use of the Hungarian language and that minority Hungarians should not be put in a difficult situation by any new laws on dual citizenship". Mr. Szijjártó emphasized that "Hungary expects the two countries to agree on the latter issue within at least the framework of a bilateral treaty".





Árpád János Potápi: Saint Ladislaus was able to address all peoples of Central Europe

On Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities at the Prime Minister's Office Abroad Árpád János Potápi opened an exhibition at the Zagreb Hungarian Cultural Institute presenting the life, cult and spiritual heritage of King Saint Ladislaus. The ceremony was attended by Hungarian President of the Republic János Áder and Croatian head of state Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic. Addressing the event, Mr. Potápi stressed that Saint Ladislaus was the first monarch who was able to address all the peoples of Central-Europe. At the opening of the exhibition which was organized on the occasion of the Saint Ladislaus Memorial Year launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, Director of the Hungarian Cultural Institute Dénes Sokcsevits delivered a welcome speech, which was followed by opening speeches by Árpád János Potápi and Croatian State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Zdravka Busic. Mr. Potápi stressed that with his brave valor, wise character, and strict, but yet just laws, King Ladislaus was the Central-European ideal of his time: the esteem in which he is held continues to connect Croats, Poles, Slovaks and Hungarians even today.

