

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Commemorations on the Day of National Cohesion

On 31 May 2010, the Hungarian National Assembly declared 4 June, the day on which the Treaty of Trianon was signed, the Day of National Cohesion. Hungarians living in the kin-state and abroad held several commemorations on this day.

Addressing a commemoration in Hungary's Szarvas, the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár said that "it was high time for our neighbors, the leaders of Europe to acknowledge and make it a point of policy reference that Hungary and the Hungarian nation were not the cause for but the victim of the Treaty of Trianon." Speaking in front of the windmill symbolizing the center of the historical Hungary, the minister stressed that "the leaders of Europe and neighboring countries have no place saying it is time for Hungary to move past old grievances when they speak about this historical injustice."

Addressing the central commemoration held in the House of Hungarians in Budapest, the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that "national cohesion is not nationalism, belonging to a nation means loyalty, virtue and humility." He stressed that over the past centuries, the members of the Hungarian nation had to suffer a lot because of their nationality. Mr. Menyhárt recalled the deportations of Hungarians from what is now Slovakia, highlighting that in spite of the hardships, the majority of Hungarians did not deny their nation and Hungarian identity.

Speaking at a commemoration in Bonyhád which marked the 70th anniversary of the deportation of Hungarians from what is now Slovakia and the 97th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that "Hungary will spare no effort to achieve that the Benes decrees – which were adopted after the Second World War and deprived Czechoslovakia's ethnic Hungarian minority of its rights – be annulled." The state secretary stressed that "the memory of the victims obliges us to pass the flame of cohesion of the torn-apart Hungarian nation to the next generations." Mr. Potápi stressed that the period after the Second World War was the most difficult one for the Hungarian community living in Slovakia: they became homeless in their own homeland.

On the Day of National Cohesion, Hungarian communities held several commemorations throughout the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora.

Zsolt Semjén: Hungary provides unprecedented support for Hungarian communities abroad

Speaking on the Kossuth Radio's Sunday program on 4 June, the Day of National Cohesion, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that Hungary is providing unprecedented support for Hungarian communities abroad. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the amount of support allocated for Hungarians abroad is ten times more than it was in 2010, and if we take into account economic development programs, it is twenty times more than seven years ago. Mr. Semjén stressed that "there has been no government which has done as



much for Hungarians abroad as Viktor Orbán's government." Mr. Semjén added that in addition to assistance in the field of culture and education, Hungary is supporting economic development abroad, ensuring non-refundable grants and preferential loans for Hungarians living outside the kin-state. Mr. Semjén stressed that the Hungarian Government is focusing on "demography and is thinking in a unified nation." Among further examples of support, he mentioned the expanded maternity allowance and the expansion of baby bonds to Hungarians abroad. The deputy prime minister stressed that the results are already seen: the Hungarian Government managed to slow down assimilation in many Hungarian communities abroad.

Ady Endre Diákkör from Prague receives Youth for a Civic Hungary Award

The Ady Endre Diákkör – which is an association of young Hungarians living in Prague – received the Youth for a Civic Hungary Award. The award was presented by Dalma Mádl, widow of late President Ferenc Mádl and Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog to the president of the association Ágnes Erdélyi. Speaking at the ceremony held in the Hungarian capital, Mr. Balog said that the association received the award because it managed to address young Hungarians living in the Czech Republic, strengthen Hungarian community life in Prague, regularly organizes outstanding Hungarian programs and makes every effort to cultivate Hungarian traditions. Addressing the event, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that since the establishment of the association, every member of the Ady Endre Diákkör has proved that "being Hungarian is not a mere state, it is an attitude." He added that until 1989, the Hungarian community living in the Czech Republic could not enjoy the rights it was entitled to. Mr. Kövér added that although experts had predicted that the Hungarian community in the Czech Republic would disappear, the Ady Endre Diákkör disproved this.

János Áder: we should listen to the message of the Csíksomlyó Pentecost Pilgrimage

Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims took part in 450th Pentecost Pilgrimage in Szeklerland's Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc which is one of the largest Christian celebrations of the Hungarian nation. The holy mass was celebrated by the bishop of Győr and president of the Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference András Veres who called on Hungarians to stop discordance and unite their forces in order to ensure a better future for the nation and their homeland. Speaking after the mass, President of Hungary János Áder – who has been a returning participant of the event for five years – highlighted those parts of the bishop's speech which focused on peace. Mr. Áder stressed that "We must be in peace with ourselves and must establish peace in our families, communities, towns and countries. This is the most important message of today's preaching."



As part of the Csíksomlyó Pantecost Pilgrimage, an installation called Misericordia (Clemency) was exhibited at the venue of the event which was Hungary's present to Italy, Rome and homage to the Holy See. Marking the Holy Year of Clemency (Misericordia), the installation was exhibited near the Castle of the Holy Angel in Rome between 13 October and 11 November 2016. The completion of the installation and its transportation to the Csíksomlyó Pilgrimage was supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad of the Prime Minister's Office and the Bethlen Gábor Fund.

The Saint Ladislaus travelling exhibition arrives in Szeklerland

The travelling exhibition of the Saint Ladislaus Year – which was launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad of the Prime Minister's Office – has arrived in Szeklerland. Opening the exhibition entitled “King Saint Ladislaus – the champion of faith and the hero of the homeland”, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that Saint Ladislaus was such a figure of the Hungarian history who united the holiness of Christianity and national spirit. The deputy prime minister stressed that following King Ladislaus' heritage, Hungarians continue to be the defenders of the Christian Europe. He stressed that Saint Ladislaus strengthened Christianity in Hungary and his heritage has always been a preserving force for the Hungarian nation in the hardest times, similarly to Prince Csaba who played the same role for Szeklers.



Hungary supports the network of village farmers in Vojvodina

Hungary is allocating HUF 25 million (EUR 810,000) to support the network of village farmers in Vojvodina. The main task of village farmers is to provide information for producers and help them in every necessary field. The network of village farmers has been expanded with eight new members whose contracts were signed at the closing event of a training course organized for the old and new members. Speaking at the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that “agriculture is playing an important role in Vojvodina's Hungarian towns and villages and it is important that through this field we can help Hungarians living in this region find jobs and remain and prosper in their homeland – this is the most important aim of the Hungarian government.” Mr. Szilágyi added that Hungary is committed to continue the expansion of this network and transfer this service to every Hungarian-populated area in Vojvodina.”

