

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Árpád János Potápi: EU visa waiver scheme for Ukraine is a breakthrough for Transcarpathian Hungarians

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the European Union's visa waiver scheme for Ukraine is a major breakthrough for Hungarians in Transcarpathia as it will greatly help them strengthen their links with the kin-state. The state secretary stressed that the visa waiver scheme represents a milestone in Ukraine's EU integration of which Hungary has been a dedicated supporter right from the start. Mr. Potápi recalled that Hungary was among the first countries to ratify Ukraine's EU association agreement and in recent years it made a series of efforts to prevent delays in the introduction of the visa waiver scheme. He added that for this reason, the fact that the scheme entered into force last night is also a success for the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi stressed that Hungary has a vested interest in a democratic, politically and economically strong Ukraine which respects national minority rights and the introduction of visa-free travel to the EU is crucial from this aspect.

The European Union's visa waiver scheme for Ukraine entered into force on 11 June. The visa-free scheme allows Ukrainian citizens with a biometric passport to enter the Schengen area – except for the UK and Ireland - without a visa for up to 90 days.

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad holds summer training course for young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad

Between 8 and 11 June, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad held a summer training course in Balatonfüred for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living in neighboring countries as part of the program entitled "2016 – Year of Young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad". The training course was attended by 129 Hungarian entrepreneurs under the age of 40 who came from different regions of the Carpathian Basin: Transylvania (51), Slovakia (34), Croatia (2), Vojvodina (22), and Transcarpathia (20). Most of them are working in the field of tourism, trade, IT sector, agriculture and construction sector. Within the framework of the thematic year, the state secretariat financed the implementation of 117 projects abroad and – due to continuous contact with the participants – has been following the professional development of more than 2,000 Hungarian businesses abroad.

4th Duna Day is held in Torockó

Duna Day was held for the fourth time in Transylvania's Torockó/Trascău, organized by the Duna Media Service Provider Ltd. The event included programs for children, exhibitions, book fairs, folk music performances and concerts. Opening the Duna Day, executive director of the Duna Media Service Provider Ltd. Menyhért Dobos said that the Duna House in Torockó which was inaugurated four years ago is not only a media



center but is the “guardian of Hungarian language, culture and traditions.” Speaking at the event, government commissioner István Grezsa said that it is the task of the Hungarian Government to “reunite the Hungarian nation into a big, 15 million-strong community”. Referring to the approaching centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, Mr. Grezsa stressed that “we are unable to forget the immeasurable loss of the Treaty of Trianon because it is impossible, however, continuous looking back and thinking about ourselves as victims is not good.” He emphasized that despite the tragedy, we should make every effort to survive and remain Hungarians in our homeland.

Saint Ladislaus is celebrated in Csíkszépvíz

The Saint Ladislaus Year officially began in Csíkszépvíz/Frumoasa with the meeting of towns bearing the name “Saint Ladislaus”. Every Tuesday in this month, different events will be organized commemorating the knight king which will be part of the Saint Ladislaus year launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking in Csíkszépvíz, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi recalled that the memorial year was launched to mark the 940th anniversary of Saint Ladislaus becoming a king and the 825th anniversary of his canonization. He stressed that Saint Ladislaus founded bishoprics and was the role model of courage, pride and Christian love. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that it is the merit of King Saint Ladislaus that Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin became Christians.



The MKP urges separate financing for the schools of national minorities in Slovakia

In its education strategy, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) is urging the introduction of the concept of “nationality education” and a separate financing system for the schools of national minorities. The MKP is also suggesting the establishment of a separate pedagogical institute to support the financing system of national minority schools. The vice-president of MKP responsible for culture and education Beáta Kiss stressed that it is very important to include the concept of “nationality education” in Slovakia’s law on public education. She added that it is necessary in order to realize the special needs of schools of national minorities: the number of mother tongue classes, special teaching material for history lessons and the methodology of the teaching of the Slovakian language.



Petro Poroshenko: the introduction of visa-free travel destroys the “paper curtain” between Ukraine and the EU



On Sunday, celebrating Ukraine's visa-free travel to the EU at the Ungvár/Uzhhorod-Felsőnémeti/Vyšné Nemecké Slovak-Ukrainian border, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko opened the "symbolic door" between Ukraine and Slovakia where he was received by President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska. Speaking at the ceremony, the Ukrainian President stressed that the first day of visa-free travel "was a historic moment when the paper curtain between Ukraine and the EU was destroyed." Mr. Poroshenko stressed that Ukraine has been waiting for this day for a very long time. He added that "with a united force, we changed our country and our European partners kept their words, therefore, the doors of the EU, the doors of our friends and partners are open for our nation, they are open for Ukrainian people." Speaking to Hungary's public media channel M1, Ukrainian foreign minister Pavlo Klimkin stressed that he is extremely grateful to Hungary who – over the recent years – was one of the "loudest spokesmen" of the introduction of visa-free travel for Ukraine.



Conference on the education of American Hungarian schools is held in New York

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi attended a conference in New York focusing on the education of Hungarian schools in the USA. The conference is organized every year by Hungarian schools operating in the United States of America in order to share experience and knowledge. This year's conference was held at Hungary's Consulate General in New York and was attended by the representatives of 15 Hungarian schools from eight federal states. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, deputy state secretary Péter Szilágyi said that it is a basic aim of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad to strengthen Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora. In order to realize this aim, in March 2017 the state secretariat sent questionnaires to all the 212 Hungarian schools in the world. He added that on the basis of these questionnaires, a financing system will be set up with the aim of supporting diaspora schools more effectively.

Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog attends end of academic year ceremony in Toronto

On Saturday local time, Minister Zoltán of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog attended a celebratory event marking the end of the academic year at Toronto's Szent Erzsébet Hungarian School, the largest Hungarian school outside Europe. The school has 200 students who received the minister and his delegation with a special program consisting of the works of the great Hungarian poet János Arany. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Balog stressed that it was "moving and uplifting" to witness that as far as some 8,000 kilometers from their country of origin, even second and third-generation Hungarians nurture their ethnic culture. The minister gave a



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speech at the event and - on behalf of President János Áder - decorated the head of the school, Csilla Perényi, with the Hungarian Silver Cross of Merit.

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