

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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Hungarian teachers in Transcarpathia will receive increased support from the Hungarian government

On Tuesday, speaking at a press conference in Budapest, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén announced that the Hungarian government will raise the amount of income supplement for Transcarpathian Hungarian teachers. Instead of the former HUF 180,000 (EUR 585) extra pay, they will therefore receive another HUF 270,000 (EUR 877) annually. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the total amount of funding available for the program is HUF 800 million (EUR 2.6 million), from which Hungary can help almost 5000 teachers in Transcarpathia. Mr. Semjén stressed that the Hungarian government is also supporting Hungarian-speaking doctors, church workers and the employees of art schools. In addition, Hungary is also supporting the catering of almost 6000 nursery school children in Transcarpathia. Mr. Semjén stressed that Hungary is allocating more than HUF 4 billion (EUR 13 million) for the operation of the Hungarian-language institutional system in Transcarpathia, and last year a further HUF 2.7 million (EUR 8.7 million) was added to this sum. Mr. Semjén said that Hungary has also launched a large-scale economic development program for Transcarpathian Hungarians which consists of non-refundable grants and preferential loans.

Calls for applications are open for Hungarian businesses abroad

As part of the thematic year entitled “2017 – Year of Hungarian Family Businesses Abroad”, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad organized a summer training course for the members of Hungarian family businesses operating in neighboring countries. Speaking on the opening day of the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that three new calls for applications are open for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad. The state secretary highlighted that the aim of these calls is to help Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad prosper in their homeland and preserve their Hungarian identity. He added that the first call (HUF 600 million – EUR 1.9 million) is for Hungarian family businesses abroad, and is aimed at supporting micro- and small enterprises. The applicants can win between HUF 4 and 6 million (EUR 13,000–19,000). Mr. Potápi said that the second call for applications (HUF 120 million, or EUR 390,000) focuses on young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad and is open to those people who were born after 1 January 1977 and started their businesses after 1 January 2016. In this call, the applicants can win between HUF 2 and 3 million (EUR 6,500–9,700). Mr. Potápi added that there is a third application (HUF 110 million, or EUR 357,000), which aims to strengthen cooperation between young Hungarian entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin.



Government commissioner István Grezsa receives the delegation of the KMKSZ in his office

István Grezsa, Government commissioner responsible for cooperation between Hungary's Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and Ukraine's Transcarpathia, received a delegation from the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) – chairman László Brenzovics and deputy chairman Géza Gulácsy – in his office. In the meeting, the parties reviewed the most important projects which have recently been realized in Transcarpathia in the field of health care, culture and the social sector, as well as developments related to the establishment of new Hungarian houses in the region. The government commissioner stressed that the role of the KMKSZ is essential in the development of bilateral relations between Hungary and Ukraine, and praised the positive role of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community in Ukraine's EU integration process. Mr. Grezsa also announced that his cabinet will allocate HUF 285.7 million (EUR 841,000) on asset an infrastructure development for Hungarian general medical practitioners in Transcarpathia.



Motion of no-confidence is submitted against the Romanian government

On Sunday the Romanian parliament held an extraordinary sitting, in which the country's ruling party – the Socialist-Liberal coalition – submitted a no-confidence motion against the Government. The reason for initiating a no-confidence vote was that Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu refused to resign after support had been withdrawn from him for his delay in implementing the Government's program. According to the Romanian Constitution, there must be a gap of three days between submitting a no-confidence motion in Parliament and voting on it. The vote will be held on Wednesday. The legislators from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) – who could tip the balance – did not take part in the session on Sunday. After a meeting of the Standing Conference of the Alliance held on Saturday, the chairman of the party Hunor Kelemen said that the RMDSZ does not intend to intervene in the conflict within the Romanian government coalition and, would only decide on Sunday whether to vote for or against the no-confidence motion.



Péter Szilágyi: Hungary is ensuring increasing support for Hungarian communities abroad

On 16 June, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi took part in a conference in Slovakia's Kékkő/Modrý Kameň, where he presented Hungary's policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that the Hungarian government is pursuing a "practical policy". In recent years, the



Government has increased the amount of support for Hungarian communities abroad year by year; therefore the amount of funding allocated to these communities in 2016 was ten times more than in 2009. Mr. Szilágyi added that financial support provided to Hungarians in neighboring countries and the diaspora will further grow in 2017. Concerning the Petőfi Sándor Program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the deputy state secretary said that the number of scholarship holders taking part in the program was raised in 2016. Instead of the former 50 people, 65 scholarship holders will travel to the main target areas: the territory of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire and Macedonia.



More than 100,000 Hungarians in Vojvodina have applied for Hungarian citizenship

Extramural consular days have been held in Vojvodina's Ada. Speaking at the event, the consul of Hungary in Szabadka/Subotica Erika Kollár said that "the number of Hungarians in Vojvodina who have acquired Hungarian citizenship under the simplified naturalization procedure is over 100,000. This number shows that the interest in acquiring Hungarian citizenship is undiminished." Ms. Kollár added that an adequate level of Hungarian language knowledge continues to be an important aspect in this process. She added that "those who submitted their applications today will receive Hungarian citizenship in 6–8 months. This means that they will be able to take part in the 2018 parliamentary election after they have registered at the National Election Office."

