

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

26/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Zsolt Semjén: the scholarship holders of the KCSP and the PSP have done an excellent job

Speaking at the closing conference of the 2016/2017 year of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and Petőfi Sándor Program, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the scholarship holders taking part in the program have done an excellent job in the strengthening of linguistic and cultural identity of Hungarians living in the diaspora, the development of Hungarian-language education and also the field of simplified naturalization. Evaluating the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program (the main aim of which is to support the Hungarian diaspora) and the Petőfi Sándor Program (which focuses on dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin), Mr. Semjén said that since 2010 the Hungarian government has been thinking in terms of a unified Hungarian nation. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that both the diaspora and dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin are an integral part of the unified Hungarian nation. Praising the scholarship holders' work, Mr. Semjén said that they have truly managed to strengthen Hungarian culture and identity throughout the world. He added that – due to the two program's interns – considerable progress has been made in the field of Hungarian-language education. Considering the unification of the Hungarian nation under common law, Mr. Semjén said that by the 2017 meeting of the Hungarian Standing Conference, the number of new Hungarian citizens might reach the desired number of one million. Speaking at the conference, government commissioner István Grezsa said that taking part in the two programs last year were 150 scholarship holders, who spent either six or nine months among Hungarian communities in different parts of the world. He added that this year the number of participants has been increased, and therefore 180 young people will travel to Hungarian communities.

Deputy State Secretary Péter Szilágyi receives participants in the ReConnect Hungary Program in Budapest

In the House of Hungarians in Budapest on Wednesday, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi received participants in the ReConnect Hungary Program: young Hungarians of Hungarian descent from the USA and Canada. Speaking about the Hungarian government's diaspora policy, Mr. Szilágyi said that one of the most important aims of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad is to strengthen Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora and increase financial assistance for diaspora communities. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that since 2010 the Hungarian government has paid particular attention to the strengthening of ties between the kin-state and Hungarians living in the diaspora. He added that one of the most important tools of this strengthening is the Hungarian Diaspora Council and a new strategic document entitled "Hungarian diaspora policy – Strategic Directions",



which was adopted at the last meeting in 2016. This document sums up Hungary's most important programs and measures launched so far to support the diaspora and the main future goals. The deputy state secretary expressed his pleasure that for six years the ReConnect Hungary has been serving the building of relations between Hungary and the diaspora, and he expressed the hope that the young people taking part in this immersion tour will not forget their Hungarian roots, will preserve the heritage of their Hungarian ancestors and will become real "ambassadors" of the Hungarian nation in their local communities.



The Romanian Left-Liberal Coalition dismisses its own government

On Wednesday, the left-liberal coalition of the Romanian Parliament voted in favor of the motion of no-confidence against its own government. Instead of the necessary 233 votes, the motion of no-confidence received 241 votes in favor, therefore the government of Sorin Grindeanu has been dismissed. Opposition parties, as well as the members of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) – which has been cooperating with coalition parties in Parliament – did not take part in the debate and did not vote. During the debate, the head of the left-liberal coalition Liviu Dragnea stressed that the Government – which was formed at the beginning of the year – must stand down, because it had not realized even 25% of the aims pledged in its election program.



According to a new survey the MKP is more popular than Most-Híd

According to an opinion poll published on Thursday by Polis, the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has become more popular than Most-Híd – the Slovak-Hungarian mixed party. In addition, the survey shows that if a parliamentary election were held now, both parties would reach the threshold necessary to win seats. This is the first time that the MKP has overtaken the Most-Híd in popularity since 2010, when Most-Híd managed to win seats. The survey – in which 1,200 people were questioned – shows that the MKP, led by József Menyhárt, would receive 5.3 per cent of the vote, while Most-Híd, led by Béla Bugár, would receive 5.2 per cent. This result would guarantee eight parliamentary seats for both parties.



Hungarian language courses for Ukrainians have been successful

On 24 June, more than 2,000 Ukrainians received certificates on the successful completion of Hungarian language courses. The ceremony was held at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute. The certificates were handed over by



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government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa to the teachers who led the courses. On behalf of the Hungarian government, the government commissioner expressed his gratitude to every participant, stressing that these language courses might do more than any political cooperation to build a much stronger bridge between two nations, cultures and states.



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