

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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New nursery schools to be built in Transylvania with the Hungarian government's support

As part of the Hungarian government's nursery school building and renovation program in the Carpathian Basin, which was launched in November 2016, new Hungarian nursery schools and day care centers will be built at 26 venues, in 18 towns and six counties in Transylvania. The building and renovation of nursery schools will be implemented by the Transylvania Reformed Church District (EREK) by the end of 2018. From the total amount of the program – HUF 17.2 million (EUR 56,000) – HUF 2.8 million (EUR 9,000) will be provided for the building and renovation of Transylvanian nursery schools. In Transylvania the program will mainly focus on areas inhabited by dispersed Hungarian communities. According to the plans, the target areas will include Brassó/Braşov, Fehér/Alba, Hunyad/Hunedoara, Hargita/Harghita, Kolozs/Cluj and Maros/Mureş counties.

Hunor Kelemen in Martos: 2016 will be the year of restart in Transylvania

On Saturday, speaking at a roundtable discussion focusing on the situation of Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin held at the 5th Martos Summer Open University in Slovakia, the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that the past century was the century of “construction” for the Hungarian community in Transylvania, while the past year was the year of restart. Mr. Kelemen stressed that “Hungarians must remain firm if they want to preserve the identity of their community: they must be strong both economically and socially.” The head of the RMDSZ stressed that one of the most important problems in Romania is the lack of trust between the minority and majority communities. He added that Hungarians must grasp every opportunity – even in periods of government crisis – to assert their rights.



The aim of the MKP is to strengthen its positions in county elections

Speaking at a roundtable discussion of the 5th Martos Summer Open University, the leaders of Hungarian organizations abroad presented the most important current events and goals of their communities. The forum was attended by the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor and the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics. Speaking at the forum, the head of the MKP József Menyhárt said that during the past year, the MKP has managed to strengthen dialogue with local Hungarian organizations, the civil sector and churches, and took steps to improve relations with the Most-Híd (Bridge) Slovak-Hungarian mixed party in order to



promote joint thinking on issues affecting the Hungarian community in Slovakia. Mr. Menyhárt stressed: it is an essential aim to improve the economic situation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, adding that the conscious “impoverishment” of areas populated by Hungarians was a clear and worrying phenomenon of recent years. Mr. Menyhárt stressed that the Baross Gábor plan (the economic development plan of Slovakia) – which will be released for public debate in August – is an important step forward in this field. Concerning the approaching county elections, which are scheduled to take place in Slovakia in November, he said that Hungarians must preserve and increase their current presence at county level, since regional politics can play a significant role in the prosperity of Hungarian-populated areas.



The Hungarian economic development program in Vojvodina is a historic breakthrough

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly. The parties discussed the results of the Vojvodina economic development program launched by Hungary and important issues of national strategy. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Pásztor summed up the main results of the work done by the Prosperitati Foundation – which is responsible for the realization of the economic development program in Vojvodina – and agreed that it had played a significant role in halting social and economic segregation. The parties also agreed that the results of the economic development program are already seen and it is the joint achievement of the Prosperitati Foundation and the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians. Mr. Pásztor informed the Hungarian prime minister about the further planned steps of the program, and Mr. Orbán pledged that Hungary will continue to support the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, the members of which can look forward to further developments in the region.

Árpád János Potápi: Hungary’s assistance serves the permanence of Hungarian communities

On Wednesday, speaking at the 15th Vojvodina Summer Open University in Kishegyes/Mali Idoš, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungary’s assistance to Hungarian communities abroad is growing year by year, by means of which the Hungarian government intends to serve the permanence and prosperity of these communities. Mr. Potápi stressed that the Hungarian community in Vojvodina is in the best situation compared to other Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, since over the past 25 years the majority of positive changes took place in this region. The state secretary stressed that the Hungarian community in Vojvodina is an important bridge between Hungary and Serbia. Mr. Potápi added that last year the Hungary community in Vojvodina received HUF 2.5 million (EUR 8,000) from the Hungarian government from which



several projects have been financed – like the scholarship program of the Hungarian National Council (MNT), the Europa College and the programs of youth communities.



László Brenzovics: despite the current crisis in Ukraine, Transcarpathian Hungarians preserve their community

Speaking at the 25th Transcarpathian Summer Open University in Felsőszinevér/Synevyr's'ka Poliana, the chairman of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that despite the current difficult situation in Ukraine, the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia has managed to survive and remain as a community, and this is the result of both its own efforts and the kin-state's help and solidarity. Mr. Brenzovics stressed that although the social situation in Ukraine is grave, migration among Transcarpathian Hungarians is below the Ukrainian average. Concerning the future of the community, Mr. Brenzovics stressed that it is a promising sign that in the most recent municipal elections the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia managed to unite its forces and strengthen its representation at county level.

Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that although Hungary has achieved considerable success in the field of policy for Hungarian communities abroad, the number of Hungarians in neighboring countries is decreasing. He added that in order to improve this situation, Hungary must continue the strengthening of Hungarian families, identity and economic life in the Carpathian Basin.

István Grezsa: economic assistance for Hungarians abroad is not wasted money

Speaking at a roundtable discussion at the 25th Transcarpathian Summer Open University, government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that financial assistance provided for Hungarian communities in neighboring countries is not wasted money, it is a profitable investment both in a moral and economic sense. Mr. Grezsa stressed that “it is high time for Hungary to think in a cultural and economic space in the Carpathian Basin. He added that the more than HUF 50 billion (EUR 162.3 million) economic development program in Vojvodina and the HUF 32 billion (EUR 103.9 million) economic development scheme in Transcarpathia provide an opportunity for Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin to become a determining nation both culturally and economically.