

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Árpád János Potápi: Hungarians beyond the borders should register for voting in largest possible numbers

On Monday, speaking at the opening of the summer university entitled Minority Protection in Europe organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) and the Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights (KJI) in Gödöllő, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that it is important that Hungarian citizens from beyond the borders should register for participating in the parliamentary elections to be held next year in the largest possible numbers. Mr. Potápi said that some 350,000 people have already registered, and as one million Hungarian citizenship requests have been received to date, the number of those registering for the vote may reach half a million. Mr. Potápi stressed that "It is a historic opportunity for Hungarians living abroad to exercise their right to vote, and they should not only register, but should also take part in the elections." He added that Hungarian communities beyond the borders should also be represented in the Hungarian Parliament and the Hungarian Government in office at any time should be aware that its legitimacy stems from the entire Hungarian nation including communities living abroad. Mr. Potápi also stressed that a number of countries and nations are closely observing Hungary's policy for Hungarian communities abroad and wish to adopt several elements of the Hungarian model.

Árpád János Potápi opens summer camp for Hungarian church districts in Slovakia

On Monday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi opened the 7th Summer Camp of Hungarian church districts in Slovakia. The opening ceremony was held in Esztergom. Addressing the event, the state secretary said that Hungarians in Slovakia are those who know the significance of Esztergom the most since after 1918-1919 Slovakia was separated from Hungary and Hungarians who lived in that territory "could watch the Esztergom Basilica only from the other side of the border". The state secretary expressed the hope that the 200 young Hungarians who are taking part in the camp "will go home with stronger faith and stronger Hungarian identity." The event was also addressed by State Secretary for Justice Pál Völner. The participants of the camp are young people between the age of 14 and 25 who came from 30 Hungarian towns in Slovakia.



The situation of the Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely continues to be uncertain

Csengele Csíky, the head of a group of parents called "Civilians for the Catholic school" has announced that "the school network of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș adopted at



the end of June – which reassigns the classes of the Roman Catholic Theological High School to the Bolyai High School – has been declared unlawful by the prefecture of Maros/Mures county.” Ms. Csíky added that as a result of this decision, the situation of the Ferenc II Rákóczi Roman Catholic Theological High School of Marosvásárhely continues to be uncertain and it is not clear where the 300 students of the institution will start the new school year. Ms. Csíky underlined the local council was not entitled to adopt a new school network.

As has been reported, the Romanian National Anti-corruption Directorate (DNA) arrested the Chief Superintendent of Maros county Ștefan Someșan, on suspicion of abuse of office and two counts of exceeding his power, stating that the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely was unlawfully formed in 2014. The DNA has also brought the director of the school József Zsolt Tamás under official supervision for 60 days. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, Mr. Potápi expressed solidarity with the chief superintendent and the director of the school, and said that Hungary strongly condemns the DNA’s action and supports those teachers, students and parents who “became the victims” of this situation.



Post WWII Hungarian-Slovak population exchange anniversary marked in Tótkomlós

On Saturday a commemoration was held in Tótkomlós, in south-eastern Hungary, to mark the 70th anniversary of post WWII Hungarian-Slovak population exchange. Addressing the event, the chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh said that although Hungarian-Slovak relations had significantly improved over the past 27 years of democracy, there were still some issues waiting to be addressed before “complete reconciliation” can be achieved between the two countries. He mentioned compensation payment for the victims of deportation and ensuring minority rights as examples. Concerning the 70th anniversary, Mr. Németh noted that in 1947 some 170,000 Hungarian residents of Czechoslovakia had been forced to leave their homeland with around 80,000 of them deported to Hungary. He said that around 1,500 settled in Tótkomlós.



Hungarian Government supported more than 6,200 entrepreneurs in Vojvodina

Speaking in Szabadka/Subotica, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that the Hungarian Government has to date placed some HUF 9 billion/EUR 29 million in Vojvodina through its economic development program, and as a result, it has supported more than 6,200 entrepreneurs. Mr. Magyar addressed a forum where contracts were signed with the latest awarded applicants of the Hungarian Government’s economic



development program in Vojvodina with a view to major agricultural developments. The state secretary said that the amount distributed so far is less than a quarter of the total allocation, and attempts will be made to distribute the rest of the sum during the course of next year. Mr. Magyar underlined: in the past almost two years, they have reached almost every Hungarian in Vojvodina, they have visited every Hungarian-inhabited locality, and therefore those who intended to take part in the program had every opportunity to do so, and no one was left out due to a lack of information. Speaking at the event, the head of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor stressed that the Hungarian Government and VMSZ are making history in Vojvodina with the economic development program.



Interest in Hungarian language has increased significantly in Transcarpathia

Speaking at a press conference at the Zánka Erzsébet Camp where Ukrainian children are learning Hungarian, Government Commissioner of the Prime Minister's Office responsible for the governmental coordination of the cooperation and development responsibilities of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that interest in the Hungarian language has increased significantly in Transcarpathia. Mr. Grezsa said that during the recently closed school year, 1,235 Ukrainian children learnt Hungarian in Ukrainian schools in Transcarpathia. The Government Commissioner also highlighted that in addition to children, more than four thousand adults enrolled for courses of voluntary adult training to start in July so that they learn Hungarian within the framework of a four-month intensive language course in 62 locations throughout Transcarpathia.

