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16th conference of Hungarian teachers working in the diaspora is held in Győr

The 16th annual conference of Hungarian teachers working at Hungarian weekend schools in the diaspora was held last week at the István Széchenyi University in Győr. Speaking on the closing day of the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that there are almost 15-16 million Hungarians in the world, and "it is not all the same whether we preserve them or give them up." The state secretary said that there are 212 Hungarian schools in the diaspora in which children can learn Hungarian language and culture. He stressed that one of the kin-state's aim is to "unite these schools into a system." He added that a potential direction of development in this field would be the integration of Hungarian weekend schools into Hungary's education system while another field of development would be the integration of diaspora schools into the education system of host countries. Mr. Potápi stressed that an important step in this process would be the recognition of the Hungarian language as a subject for school-leaving examinations abroad. The state secretary praised the work of teachers and volunteers teaching Hungarian language and culture in the diaspora and stressed that the kin-state is grateful for their work.



Hunor Kelemen: "Romanian-Hungarian cultural dialogue is necessary but not sufficient"

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Váráshely Forгатag – a large-scale cultural festival of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş – the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen stressed that "Romanian-Hungarian cultural dialogue is necessary but it is not sufficient." Mr. Kelemen stressed that "We should know each other's culture much better, but we should also be able to have sincere – and sometimes painful – dialogue on the relationship between the state and national minorities, basic values and freedoms, our seemingly common future and our joint problems."

Flats for Transylvanian doctors and artists supported by the Hungarian government are inaugurated in Szatmárnémeti

On Monday, new flats built for Transylvanian Hungarian doctors and artists – supported by the Hungarian Government – were inaugurated in Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mares by the Transylvanian Studiom-Propsero Foundation. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that in 2015 the Hungarian Government ensured HUF 90 million (EUR 293,000), while in 2016 - HUF 30 million (EUR 97,000) for the building of new flats for Transylvanian doctors and artists. He added that after the inauguration of properties in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe



and Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mare, new ones might be built in Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc. Mr. Potápi expressed the hope that these flats will contribute to the permanence and prosperity of Transylvanian doctors and artists in their homeland where their work is extremely necessary.

The aim of the MKP is to strengthen the regions

The national council of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) held a meeting in Szímő/Zemné. At the meeting, the party decided that during the county elections scheduled to take place in the fall, it will launch candidates for the posts of head of county councils in the county of Nagyszombat/Trnava and Nyitra/Nitra. The head of the MKP, József Menyhárt said that with their candidates – József Berényi and Iván Farkas – they would like to strengthen the Southern regions of Slovakia. Mr. Menyhárt stressed that the primary aim of the MKP is to help the economic strengthening of the regions populated by Hungarians. The national council of the MKP also issued a statement, calling on the Slovakian Government to take urgent measures in order to advance the economic strengthening of Southern regions and to increase the role of domestic agriculture.

István Pásztor: the Hungarian community in Vojvodina would be in “great trouble” without the support of the kin-state

The chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor has said that the programs of the Prosperitati Foundation – a foundation responsible for the implementation of the Hungarian Government’s economic development program in Vojvodina – are extremely successfully and have managed to reach more than 40,000 people. Mr. Pásztor stressed that it is a basic interest of the local Hungarian community to continue this process. The head of the VMSZ added that the questions of financing and local spheres of competence in Vojvodina might be on the agenda in the fall, adding that he had already held talks on these issues with President Aleksandar Vučić. Mr. Pásztor added that on 11 September – on the 320th anniversary of the Zenta Battle – the two Presidents will meet in Zenta/Senta during which further steps might take place in the reconciliation process between the two countries.

1000 Transcarpathian entrepreneurs conclude economic development tender agreements in Beregszász

Speaking in Transcarpathia’s Beregszász/Berehove – where 1,000 businesspeople signed funding agreements within the framework of the economic development



program for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia launched this year by the Hungarian Government with a budget of HUF 7.5 billion (EUR 25 million) – State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that “the more difficulties the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia are faced with, or the more they are forced to face, their home country will provide them with all the more support and assistance”. In his welcome speech at the signing ceremony held in the great hall of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, Mr. Magyar stressed that “We are most certainly witnessing a historic event in view of the fact that never before in the life of the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia have one thousand five hundred entrepreneurs simultaneously received a total of some 3.7 billion forints in economic development funding from the Hungarian Government”. “We are concluding tender agreements with a thousand businesspeople on Monday, and with a further five hundred during the course of the next one or two weeks”, he added. The State Secretary reminded those present that at the end of last year the Hungarian Government had already provided over two billion forints to Transcarpathian Hungarians within the framework of the Egán Ede Economic Development Program, which was distributed to some 14,000 people.



Hungarian economic development program in Muravidék is extremely successful

After talks with the leaders of the Hungarian community in Muravidék/Slovenia, Minister of Agriculture Sándor Fazekas stressed that Hungary is committed to help the prosperity of Hungarian compatriots living abroad. Ferenc Horváth, the head of the local Hungarian organization highlighted that Muravidék is the least developed region of Slovenia. He stressed that the only serious opportunity for advancement for the local Hungarian community is the HUF 500 million (EUR 1.6 million) economic development program launched by the Hungarian Government. He added that the largest part of the resources will be used in the field of agriculture. Mr. Horváth also expressed the hope that these developments will persuade local Hungarians that it is worth remaining and living in their homeland.

