

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

36/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Péter Szijjártó holds talks in Bucharest on the opening of two border crossing points and the Cluj-Napoca Hungarian Cultural Institute

Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó held talks in Bucharest with his Romanian counterpart Teodor Melescanu. During the talks, the parties agreed upon the opening of the Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca Hungarian Cultural Institute, and the permanent opening of two border crossing points which at present are operating temporarily. The Minister visited Bucharest at the invitation of Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Melescanu, and in the afternoon he gave a presentation at the annual meeting of Romanian ambassadors. In the morning he held talks with Hunor Kelemen, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), Romanian foreign minister Teodor Melescanu and Deputy Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu. Mr. Szijjártó said that the “best news of the day” was that his Romanian negotiating partners welcomed the Hungarian government’s plan to launch an economic development program in Transylvania similar to the ones operating in Vojvodina and Transcarpathia.

The closing of the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely seems inevitable

The Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures has been brought to the brink of closure after the court ordered suspension of a 2015 decision by the education inspectorate, which had incorporated the Hungarian classes of the Unirea High School into the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely. On Thursday afternoon parents of the school’s students held a press conference, presenting the situation of the school. Their statements were confirmed by Szilárd Székely, the temporary director of the institution. Based on his discussion held on Wednesday with the Chief Superintendent of Maros County, Mr. Székely said that the education inspectorate is only waiting for the official declaration of the decision before announcing closure of the institution. According to the legal interpretation of the education inspectorate, the school’s classes must be returned to the institutions out of which the Catholic high school was established in 2015. According to this, some classes should be incorporated into the Unirea High School, and others into the Bolyai Farkas High School. The director added, however, that is an open secret that the parents do not want to send their children to the Unirea High School.

on Saturday Archbishop György Jakubinyi, the head of the Roman Catholic Status Foundation of Transylvania, publically called on everyone to stand up for the Roman Catholic Theological High School. From 6 p.m. on Wednesday a demonstration will be held in front of Maros/Mures County’s Prefecture, calling for a solution to the situation of the college.

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 illegally established 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 have "become the victims" of this situation.



Joint school year opening ceremony of Hungarian schools in Transcarpathia and Slovakia is held in Nagyszelmenc

The joint opening of the school year of Hungarian schools in Southern Slovakia and Transcarpathia was held at Nagyszelmenc/Velké Slemence, a symbolic settlement on the Slovak-Ukrainian border. The ceremony was of symbolic significance and was held for the first time in order to create a tradition. The joint school opening ceremony was attended by several representatives of Hungarian political parties and teachers' associations from Slovakia and Transcarpathia, and also by the representatives of the Slovak government. Speaking at the event, government commissioner István Grezsa said that "The fact that here, outside of Hungary, we are threatened by assimilation and several other economic threats means that we have to derive strength from our past, because our Hungarian nation must certainly have a mission in the Carpathian Basin." Tibor Jókai, the head of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia, recalled that the unified Nagyszelmenc – which belonged to Hungary between 1938 and 1944 – was cut in half by the Soviet-Czechoslovakian border. The bigger part of the municipality remained in Czechoslovakia, while the smaller part was annexed by the Soviet Union.



Hungarian first-year students living in dispersed Hungarian communities receive packages of learning supplies

Speaking in Vojvodina's Székelykeve/Skorenovac, one of the southernmost Hungarian villages in the Carpathian Basin, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi emphasized the importance of permanence and development of Hungarian language education. At the event, Hungarian first-year students received packages of learning supplies to help them at the start of the school year. The state secretary stressed that "We must reach the goal that every Hungarian child and every child born in mixed (Serbian-Hungarian) marriages can attend Hungarian nursery schools, Hungarian preschools and Hungarian schools." He added that a further goal is to make the Hungarian education system better than that of the majority nation. Árpád János Potápi expressed the hope that the bad demographic indicators presently affecting Hungarians would change somewhat in the future, and so population decrease could be slowed, and the process finally reversed. It was also said that, with the support of the Hungarian government and the Hungarian National Council (HNC) of Vojvodina, this is the seventh year in which packages of teaching supplies for first-year



students have been distributed. Students receive additional learning supplies, such as drawing equipment.

Péter Szilágyi: we have to provide competitive education which strengthens Hungarian identity in the kin-state and abroad

Addressing the school-year opening church service of Reformed lyceums of Transcarpathia held in Mezővári/Vary, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that in order to help Hungarian communities survive, we have to provide such Hungarian education in the kin-state and abroad which is able to compete with the educational standard of neighboring states and gives strong Hungarian national identity for students. The Deputy State Secretary expressed the gratitude of the kin-state to the Reformed Church of Transcarpathia, so that it was and is a safe pillar and supporter of the Hungarian minority living in Transcarpathia. Péter Szilágyi emphasized that nowadays Protestant-minded education is one of the most important guarantees of the permanence of the Hungarian minority in the Carpathian Basin. The Deputy State Secretary announced that, in addition to the financial aid of HUF 169 million (EU 552,000) which was granted this year, the Hungarian government will allocate a further HUF 90 million (EUR 294,000) to support the functioning of Hungarian reformed high schools in Transcarpathia.

Hungarian economic development program in Croatia starting soon

After Vojvodina, Transcarpathia and Slovenia, an economic development program in Croatia can also start soon. The call for applications will be officially announced on public forums in mid-September. The Hungarian government has accepted the Rural and Economic Development Program of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) for the 2016-2020 period, and the Hungarian National Assembly voted in favor of the budgetary part of 2017, which issues 500 million forints. The Economica Hungarica Association was established and registered recently to realize the economic development program. The director of the Association, Hajnalka Palizs Tóth, said that a basic condition for survival of the Hungarian community in Croatia is to gain economic strength.