

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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One million people have applied for Hungarian citizenship

Speaking at a conference in Budapest organized by the Institute for the Protection of National Minority Rights (KJI) entitled “Is Transcarpathia’s future in danger?”, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that more than one million people have already applied for Hungarian citizenship within the simplified naturalization procedure, and the number of citizenship oaths will soon also reach one million. The State Secretary stressed that the Hungarian government is trying to help every layer of society in Transcarpathia. He added that this year more than 10,000 children are participating in the children’s catering program, for which the Hungarian government has provided HUF 200 million (EUR 64,000). He added that the kin-state is allocating a further HUF 871 million (EUR 2.8 million) for the teachers in schools and arts schools, and is also supporting Hungarians working in health care, media and churches. Mr. Potápi stressed that in recent years Hungary has provided more than HUF 6 billion (EUR 19 million) for the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute and HUF 600 million (EUR 1.9 million) for the establishment of the Elemér Ortutay Greek Catholic Center.

The Hungarian government provides HUF 890 million for Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi announced that as part of the three calls for application – which were launched in June as part of the “2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad” – the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will provide HUF 890 million (EUR 2.8 million) for the realization of 185 projects in the Carpathian Basin. The State Secretary presented the results of the calls for application, the aim of which is to support Hungarian family businesses, Hungarian young entrepreneurs and cooperation between Hungarian young entrepreneurs abroad. Mr. Potápi said that 476 applications were received from Hungarian family businesses and 124 of them have been successful, which will altogether receive HUF 665 million (EUR 2.1 million). The state secretary added that 90% of Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad are employing Hungarian people. He added that “if we support Hungarian entrepreneurs, we support the future of Hungarian families.”



Hunor Kelemen: Hungarians in Transylvania will not give up their demands for autonomy

The chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that over the past 25 years the Hungarian community in Transylvania has managed to reach certain results in the field of internal self-



determination and it has never given up its demands for autonomy. This aim, however, can only be achieved if it is also supported by the Romanian majority. Mr. Kelemen shared these thoughts on the website of the RMDSZ, marking the 25th anniversary of the Kolozsvár statement which first declared Transylvanian Hungarians' demand for autonomy. The head of the RMDSZ added that in democracies the only way for national minorities to achieve their aims is to win the support of the majority nation. Mr. Kelemen added that the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Kolozsvár decree and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Romania show that "we have to show support for every right and institution again and again, therefore relations between the minority and majority nations should be placed on a new basis."

Szeklers protest for territorial autonomy

On Sunday, demonstrations were held throughout Szeklerland – on the call of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) – for the territorial autonomy of the region. Speaking in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, the head of the SZNT Balázs Izsák read out the demonstration's proclamation, which was read at every venue during the day. According to the document, "the earth has started to move" in Europe, and more and more regions and communities are expressing their demand for autonomy. The proclamation states Szeklers' demand for the territorial autonomy of Szeklerland. In the document, the demonstrators also express their dissatisfaction with the attitude of Romania on the issue of territorial autonomy.



József Menyhárt: the approaching county elections are extremely important for the Hungarian community in Slovakia

Speaking at the closing event of the election campaign in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda, the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that the approaching county elections – which are scheduled to take place on 4 November in Slovakia – are extremely important for the Hungarian community in the country since it will determine the situation of the local community for not four but five years. Mr. Menyhárt stressed that a strong Hungarian representation in county municipalities is extremely important since the spheres of competence of these municipalities include many important areas like the social sphere, medical institutions, the maintenance of infrastructure and cross-border relations which can have a positive impact on the currently negative economic situation of the Hungarian community in Southern Slovakia.

Árpád János Potápi makes an official visit to Slovakia

On 24-25 October, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi made an official visit to Slovakia. Speaking at an event held at Hungary's Consulate General in Kassa/Košice marking the 61st anniversary of the 1956



Hungarian Revolution, the State Secretary stressed that “We have to protect together what is ours, only a joint stance and cooperation can lead to victory in the battle which is about whether the nations of Europe will be able to decide about their future independently.” During his stay in Slovakia, the State Secretary took part in the inauguration ceremony of a new Hungarian house (“The House of Hungarian Presence”), the establishment of which was supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. He stressed that “it was an old dream of local Hungarians to have their own community house in which they can organize events, programs and meetings.” On the second day of his visit, the state secretary inaugurated the “1956 Memorial Room” of the local Hungarian House and a backyard market in Nagykapos/Velké Kapušany.



The commemoration in Csúrog gives an opportunity for reconciliation between Hungary and Serbia

Speaking at a commemoration in Csúrog/Čurug paying tribute to the victims of the 1944-1945 massacre, the head of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal said that “Csúrog gives an unprecedented opportunity for reconciliation and cooperation between Hungarians and Serbs”. The head of the MNT stressed that the past can never be forgotten. Mr. Hajnal stressed that the fact that despite the stormy weather, people were present at the commemoration in a high number shows the strength through which the two nations can build a joint future. The memorial of the victims of the 1944-1956 massacre was unveiled four years ago when Hungarian President János Áder and his Serbian counterpart Tomislav Nikolic jointly paid tribute to the victims who were executed during and after the Second World War.



Levente Magyar: Hungarians in Transcarpathia receive unprecedented support from the kin-state

Speaking in Transcarpathia Beregszász/Berehove – where near 1000 Hungarian entrepreneurs concluded economic development tender agreements worth HUF 2.3 billion (7.4 million) within the framework of the Egán Ede Program – State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that the Hungarian Government will not only preserve but also extend the scope and forms of financial assistance ensured for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, therefore, local Hungarians will receive an unprecedented level of support from the kin-state. The state secretary recalled that at the end of 2016, the Hungarian Government ensured HUF 2 billion (EUR 6.4 million) for the local Hungarian community within the Egán Ede Economic Development Program. He added that by the end of this year, investments worth 10 billion (EUR 32 million) will be realized in the region which is an enormous result.



Six new nursery schools are inaugurated in Transcarpathia due to the kin-state's support

As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, six new nursery schools were officially inaugurated in Transcarpathia. Speaking at a press conference held after the event, government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that in the first phase of the program, 22 new kindergartens will be built and 80 will be renovated in the region, while in the second phase, 10 new institutions will be built and 50 will be renewed. Mr. Grezsa added that the total amount of funding the Hungarian Government ensured for the program in Transcarpathia is 4.5 million.

