

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

49/2017



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Péter Szilágyi: the Hungarian government will continue to support Hungarian families abroad

On Friday, speaking at a meeting of Hungarian teachers living abroad organized by the Rákóczi Association in Tatabánya, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that the Hungarian government will continue to support Hungarian families abroad in the fields of health care, education and enterprises. The event was attended by 100 teachers from Slovakia, Vojvodina and Hungary. The Deputy State Secretary added that an important aim of the government is to support municipalities which offer family-friendly services, help pediatricians and strengthen the network of parents through the involvement of people in mixed marriages. Speaking about the kin-state's policy on Hungarian diaspora communities, Mr. Szilágyi said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad has launched two calls for applications for Hungarian diaspora communities: one for Hungarian weekend schools and one for Hungarian diaspora organizations. Mr. Szilágyi also spoke about the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program, in the first phase of which (HUF 17.1 billion/EUR 54.53 million), 76 new nursery schools will be built and 200 institutions will be renovated. He added that some weeks ago the Government decided to continue the program with a budget of HUF 21.5 million (EUR 68,530). Within this, 77 new kindergartens will be built and 317 institutions will be renovated.



Hungarian public media launches Romanian-language news service

The Hungarian news agency MTI launched a Romanian-language news service on 1 December. According to MTI, the aim of the service is to offer accurate and trustworthy information for people living in Romania. This is because the highest numbers of Hungarians abroad live in Romania and, compared to other Hungarian communities, Transylvanian Hungarians more often “get in touch” with the majority nation. From 1 December, MTI is offering relevant, free news in Transylvania and Romania. MTI's main goal is to help Romanian readers receive an accurate and trustworthy image of Hungary and the everyday lives of Transylvanian Hungarians, as well as the Hungarian government's programs and measures affecting the Hungarian minority in Romania.



Hungarian National Trading House: economic development programs help Hungarians prosper in their homeland

Speaking in Slovakia's Gúta/Kolárovo, the head of the Hungarian National Trading House (MNKH) Zsanett Oláh said that the aim of the economic development programs launched in Hungary's neighboring countries is to promote the prosperity of



Hungarian communities in their homeland. Ms. Oláh added that the goal of the Hungarian National Trading House is the same. The head of the MNKH visited the Vitflóra Gúta Malomipari Vállalat, which won the title “Hungarian Company Abroad of the Year” at the Figyelő Top200 Gala. Ms. Oláh stressed that the activity of the trading house is an important “supplementary tool” for the Hungarian economic development programs abroad. She added that the trading house started to build its network of Carpathian Basin offices two years ago. Today it has 22 offices in the Hungarian-populated areas of neighboring countries and Poland, and 13 offices in Hungary. She added that the aim of this office network is to strengthen Hungarian-Hungarian economic relations beyond the borders.



Hungary and Serbia to hold joint government session in February 2018

During the three-day China-Central and Eastern Europe summit held in Budapest, Serbian prime minister Ana Brnabić held talks with her Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orbán and Chinese prime minister Li Keqiang. The Hungarian and Serbian prime ministers expressed their satisfaction with the summit, emphasizing the importance of the signing of the agreement on the upgrading of the Belgrade-Budapest railway line. The parties also evaluated bilateral ties between Serbia and Hungary. They agreed that the current level and quality of relations is adequate, but it would be prudent to strengthen cooperation in the field of the economy. The Prime Minister of Serbia expressed her gratitude to Hungary for supporting Serbia’s EU integration. The parties also agreed that the further building of relations between Serbia and Hungary is in the interest of both countries. At the summit it was also announced that Hungary and Serbia will hold a joint government session in February 2018.



Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs holds talks in Transcarpathia

Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs Pavlo Klimkin has made an official visit to Transcarpathia where he held talks on the new Ukrainian Act on Education. During his stay in the region, he met with the leaders of local municipalities and experts in Ungvár/Uzhhorod and Beregszász/Berehove. The Ukrainian minister stressed that in his opinion, the “language issue in Transcarpathia is artificially politicized and said that the implementation of language law should take place according to a plan based on the dialogue with the community. Mr. Klimkin added that the language issue has always been sensitive and problematic for Hungary. He added: "But we want to do something not for Hungary, but for our community. This is our law, our future and our development". After his visit to Beregszász, Mr. Klimkin said that a lot of students living there are planning to continue their studies in Hungary, adding that the local community should not let this phenomenon strengthen. Concerning dual citizenship of Transcarpathian Hungarians, the foreign minister said that there is a social debate



in Ukraine concerning this issue, however, he added that it is not an aim of Ukraine to punish dual citizenship.

Deputy State Secretary Péter Szilágyi hands over vocational educational developments in Transcarpathia

On Thursday, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi handed over new developments supporting agricultural and industrial vocational education in Transcarpathia's Tiszabökény/Bobove, worth 16 million (EUR 51,000). The developments were realized within the framework of the "2015 – Year of Hungarian vocational education abroad." Speaking at the event, Mr. Szilágyi said that the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia can be a role model for several other communities since they show that it is possible to survive even in the most difficult situation. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that Hungarian young people need competitive knowledge if they want to prosper in their homeland, and the Hungarian Government helps them in this field. He recalled that during the past three years, Hungary ensured HUF 130 million (EUR 415,000) for the development of five vocational educational institutions in Transcarpathia.

During his stay in the region, Mr. Szilágyi also made a visit to Beregszász/Berehve where he welcomed Hungarian entrepreneurs who won financial support within the framework of the "2017 – Year of Hungarian family businesses abroad" program. The event was part of the Carpathian Basin Road Show of the Hungarian Government's thematic year.



The first phase of the Hungarian economic development program in Croatia is over

In 2015, the Hungarian Government launched unprecedented economic development programs to help Hungarian communities the Carpathian Basin. The aim of the programs is to strengthen Hungarians economically and help them remain and prosper in their homeland. After Vojvodina, Transcarpathia and Slovenia, the program was opened in Croatia with HUF 500 million (EUR 1.5 million). Within its first phase, 162 applications were received. Speaking about the program, the head of the board of the Economica Hungarica Foundation Sándor Jakab said that 90% of the applications will win and the entrepreneurs will receive the financial assistance by the end of the year.

