

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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2018 will be a memorial year dedicated to King Matthias Corvinus

On Monday, speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that 2018 will be the memorial year for Hungarian king Matthias Corvinus. Mr. Potápi said that during the memorial year the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad will organize several events, conferences, exhibitions and different historic competitions for young people. The State Secretary stressed that an important aim of the memorial year is to strengthen Hungarian identity. He added that Matthias I was a strong king and an extremely important historical figure, who strengthened Hungary and recognized that only a strong country could stop the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Potápi added that Matthias Corvinus is a significant figure not only in history but also in Hungarian legends and folk tales.



Hunor Kelemen: 2018 should be the year of justice

Speaking at the meeting of the "mini parliament" of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures, the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that 2018 should be the year of justice for the Hungarian community in Transylvania. Mr. Kelemen said that the RMDSZ is preparing an important program of events for the centenary of the 1918 Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia assembly (as a result of which Transylvania became part of Romania), entitled "A thousand years in Transylvania, a hundred years in Romania". The chairman of the RMDSZ added that the aim of the events is to show that the Hungarian community is a "value-creating" community in Romania, and intends to remain so in the future. Mr. Kelemen stressed that this is possible only if the Gyulafehérvár pledges are guaranteed. He added that Transylvanian Hungarians "cannot share their past with Romanians, but they might plan a joint future."

Training courses for Hungarian nursery school teachers are held in Nagyvárad

As part of the Carpathian Basin nursery school development program, a three-day training course was held for Hungarian nursery school teachers in Nagyvárad/Oradea. As part of the program, Hungarian experts are giving lectures to 25 Transylvanian kindergarten teachers. Addressing the event, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that the strengthening of mother-tongue education is the first step in the preservation of Hungarian identity, and the Carpathian Basin nursery school development program is serving this aim very well. He added that as part of the program, the Hungarian government is providing HUF 38.6 million (EUR 120,000) for the building of 150 kindergartens and the renovation of more than 400 institutions in countries



neighboring Hungary. In addition to financial help, the kin-state is also organizing different training courses, and supporting the professional development of teachers.

Hungarian Entrepreneur of the Year chosen in Slovakia

The Association of Hungarian Entrepreneurs in Slovakia organized a competition for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living in the country. The grand final was held on Saturday in Révkomárom/Komárno. At the gala event, the Entrepreneurs of the Year were selected. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarians Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that through supporting young Hungarian entrepreneurs and Hungarian family businesses abroad, the Hungarian government can contribute to Hungarian communities' permanence in their homeland. At the event, the State Secretary also spoke about the main goals and measures of the Government concerning Hungarians living abroad. He added that "if we support a company, we support tens of Hungarian families through it, since our experience has shown that 90% of entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin employ Hungarians. He added that over the past two years Hungary has provided about HUF 1.5 billion (EUR 4.7 million) for approximately 300 companies in the Carpathian Basin.

"Children of a strong nation"

Speaking to the Hungarian-language Vojvodina news site Vajdaság Ma, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the budget for Hungarian communities abroad is growing, and so in 2018 the Government might have more money for this field. Mr. Potápi also said that 2018 will be the year of Hungarian families abroad, and a memorial year dedicated to King Matthias Corvinus. Concerning Vojvodina, Mr. Potápi said that the region saw the launch of the first large economic development program, and as a result the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and its leader István Pásztor have ideas and a vision which are appropriate for further development. Mr. Potápi also said that the Hungarian community in Vojvodina is the best organized one in neighboring countries, while twenty years ago it was in the worst situation. The State Secretary emphasized that Vojvodina Hungarians have managed to preserve their community, remained in their homeland and "have organized themselves politically" as well.

Venice Commission: criticism against the new Ukrainian education law is justified

According to the Venice Commission, criticism of the new Ukrainian Act on Education – which was adopted on 5 September – is justified, and Ukraine's neighboring



countries are right to condemn the new law. According to the new Act on Education, mother-tongue education for national minorities would only be allowed in the first four grades. The Venice Commission underlined that it is a legitimate aspiration of Ukraine to strengthen education in the state language, but domestic and international concerns and criticism concerning Article 7 of the law – which regulates mother-tongue education for national minorities – are justified. Regarding the opinion of the Venice Commission, Deputy State Secretary of Hungary’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Tamás Menczer said that “the pressure on Ukraine is clearly increasing, as on Friday two important international organizations also echoed the Hungarian criticism of the Ukrainian Education Act.” Mr. Menczer added that “following the statement by the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and the preliminary report by the Venice Commission, it has been definitively proven that this is not just a Hungarian issue, but a European one.”



143 family businesses in Croatia receive financial assistance

On Tuesday – as part of the Hungarian government’s economic development program in Croatia – contracts were signed by 143 companies whose applications were successful in the program’s first phase (HUF 500 million/EUR 1.5 million). The event was held in Eszék/Osijek. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Kiss-Parciu said that it is extremely important that there is a community in Croatia which is able to express its aims in the form of a strategy. He also praised the activity of the Economic Hungarica Foundation, which is responsible for the implementation of the program in Croatia.



János Áder: Hungary is ready to offer help for Hungarian organizations in the Czech Republic

President of Hungary János Áder has made an official visit to the Czech Republic. Meeting the representatives of Hungarian organizations at the Embassy of Hungary in Prague, the President said that Hungary is ready to provide all necessary help for Hungarian organizations in the Czech Republic. Mr. Áder heard the reports of local Hungarian communities concerning their activities. On the next day of his official visit, the President laid a wreath at the memorial of Hungarian martyr politician János Esterházy, which is at the Memorial of the Victims of Communism in the Motol public cemetery.