

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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“2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad” has started in Budapest

The thematic year of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office “2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad” has officially started in Budapest as part of a large-scale conference. The conference was organized with the participation of more than 230 Hungarians living abroad and was addressed by Deputy State Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi and Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Human Capacities Boglára Illés. Speaking at the event, Péter Szilágyi stressed that in addition to different calls for application aimed at the supporting of Hungarian families abroad, the program of the thematic year will include scientific research, training courses, different summer camps and festivals. Mr. Szilágyi said that the Hungarian Government ensured HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.2 million) for the realization of the thematic year. He stressed that an important aim is to support those enterprises abroad which offer family-friendly services. He added that entrepreneurs working in the field of agriculture can win between HUF 3-4.5 million (EUR 9,600-14,500), while other entrepreneurs: between HUF 3-6 million (EUR 9,600-19,000). Mr. Szilágyi added that the calls for application will be officially announced in February-March 2018 with a total amount of HUF 500 million (EUR 1.6 million).

Maternity support and baby bonds are available for Hungarians living abroad

Speaking at a joint press conference with State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Family and Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Katalin Novák said that from January 2018, maternity support (HUF 64 125/EUR 207) and baby bonds (HUF 42 000/EUR 137) are also available for Hungarians living abroad. Ms. Novák stressed that the aim of the Hungarian Government’s measure is to show that every woman who gives live to a Hungarian children regardless where they live in the world are equal. The state secretary added that so far 523 Hungarian families living abroad have applied for the maternity support. Ms. Novák emphasized that every Hungarian child is a treasure wherever they are born. Speaking at the press conference, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi also stressed that Hungarian families living in the kin-state, in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora are the greatest values for the Hungarian nation. Mr. Potápi said that in the near future (February-March), different calls for application will be announced for Hungarian communities abroad. He added that a total amount of HUF 500 million (EUR 1.6 million) will be ensured for Hungarian enterprises offering family-friendly services and HUF 150 million (EUR 485,000) will be ensured for the development of health care institutions.





Hungary ensures HUF 630 million for the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District

Speaking in Nagyvárad/Oradea, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Human Capacities Attila Fülöp announced that in accordance with a decision of the Hungarian Government made at the end of 2017, Hungary will ensure HUF 630 million for the Királyhágómellék Church District within the framework of which several education and social institutions will be developed. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after a press conference, the Deputy State Secretary said that 150 million (EUR 485,000) will be spent on social institutions, 80 million (EUR 260,000) will be ensured for education and institutions and HUF 400 million (EUR 1.2 million) – on religious and community activities.



Nation-building remains our most important common goal

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor discussed the Hungarian-Serbian joint Cabinet meeting, the Hungarian economic development programs being realized in Vojvodina, and the Hungarian elections at a meeting in the Parliament Building. The topicality of the meeting was provided by the fact that the next Hungarian-Serbian joint Cabinet meeting will be held on Friday in Budapest, with relation to which at today's meeting the parties highlighted: cooperation between the two countries is becoming continuously closer, as well as become increasingly concrete and involving more and more areas, the Press Chief said. Viktor Orbán once again spoke out in favor of EU expansion towards the Western Balkans, which is also of key importance to Vojvodina Hungarians, he added. Mr. Pásztor informed the Prime Minister that thanks to the VMSZ's role in the administration, the Hungarian community has become a valued part of Serbian society. At the meeting, the parties reviewed the results achieved to date and the implementation and annual itinerary of the joint economic development programs being run by the Hungarian Government and the VMSZ, and determined that the performance of tasks is moving forward according to schedule.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade condemns attack against KMKSZ headquarters

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade condemns the attack against the headquarters of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) in Ungvár/Uzhhorod, the Ministry said in a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Sunday. "We expect the Ukrainian authorities to find the perpetrators as soon as



possible and uncover what motivated them during the course of their actions. We expect the Ukrainian authorities to guarantee the safety of Transcarpathian Hungarians”, the statement said. The events corroborate the legitimacy of the Hungarian initiative according to which OSCE observers in Ukraine should not just be present in the eastern part of the country, but also in its western half, the Ministry said in the statement. In the small hours of Sunday morning, unknown perpetrators threw a bottle filled with flammable liquid at the main headquarters of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) in the city centre of Ungvár/Uzhhorod.



There can be no strong Europe without strong national identity

Speaking in Berlin at the launch of a book by the German Federal Government’s former Delegate for Immigration and National Minorities Hartmut Koschyk entitled *Heimat, Identität, Glaube* (Homeland, Identity, Faith), Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog said that “Europe in the 21st century can only be strong through assuring the rights of indigenous national minorities and a strong national identity”. In his statement to public media at the event, the Minister of Human Capacities stressed that “the Hungarian Government is fighting for the acknowledgement of national identities to enable strong national identities and nations to work together for a strong Europe”. He added that “it is a misconception that strong identities are dangerous, because it is precisely weakened identity and confused self-interpretation that makes people vulnerable to manipulation and the incitement of hatred”. Mr. Balog stressed that “a strong 21st century Europe is unimaginable without guaranteed the rights of indigenous national minorities, and this includes cross-border Hungarians, German minorities in other countries and the Roma community alike”.

Scouts play a key role in the preservation of Hungarian culture in the diaspora

Speaking at the 45th Scout Ball in San Francisco, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi said that scouting is a way of life and commitment, and people pursuing his activity do a lot for the preservation of Hungarian culture, identity and traditions. The Deputy State Secretary stressed that the kin-state is proud of the local Hungarian scouting association, as well as the Catholic Mission and the San Francisco Bay Area Hungarian School whose activity greatly contributes to the preservation of Hungarian language and culture in the West Coast of the United States of America.

Over 600,000 people signed the petition for the Minority SafePack Initiative

Speaking in Berlin on Thursday, the President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) Lóránt Vincze announced that the Minority SafePack passed the



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milestone of over 600 000 signatures collected for the initiative. Mr. Vincze stressed that the goal of gathering the necessary one million signatures is achievable. He encouraged the member organizations of the FUEN to reach out to new partners and mobilize people to support the European Citizen's Initiative that aims for an EU level protection for autochthonous minorities and language groups. Over 215,000 people have signed the online petition while further 150,000 signatures have been collected in Romania, 100,000 in Hungary, and over 55,000 in Slovakia. The Minority SafePack Initiative needs to be signed by at least one million European Citizens in order to succeed. Furthermore, it has to pass a certain number of signatures, a national threshold in at least seven Member States before the deadline at the beginning of April.

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