

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Fidesz secures sweeping victory for third successive term

Hungary's incumbent Fidesz-led alliance, based on preliminary results with 95.1 percent of the votes counted, secured a sweeping victory in Sunday's election, and was on course to win 133 seats in the 199-seat parliament, which would hand it a two-thirds majority. Meanwhile, the nationalist Jobbik party reaffirmed its standing as the country's main opposition force. Speaking to cheering supporters, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that "We've secured a historic victory, and created the possibility to protect Hungary". "We've won," Orbán declared in his victory speech, adding that the high turnout had dispelled all doubts of this. "We have a big battle behind us," he said. Having pinned his hopes on turning the radical nationalist party into a moderate force, Gábor Vona announced his resignation as leader of the Jobbik party. This was followed by a string of resignations from opposition officials.

Árpád János Potápi: the Minority SafePack initiatives has reached huge success

By the deadline – 3 April 2018 – 1,2 million supporting signatures have been collected instead of the necessary 1 million within the framework of the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative the aim of which is to improve the situation of national minorities in Europe. In his statement, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that "it is a huge result and a joint European success." The state secretary stressed that the Hungarian Government has supported the initiative since the beginning as the European Union currently has no comprehensive legislation concerning national minorities. Mr. Potápi stressed that the Minority SafePack is a "firm and unavoidable message to the European Union." The state secretary expressed the hope that due to the initiative, autochthonous national minorities will have at least as many rights in the EU as newly immigrated people have.

The Minority SafePack is a European Citizens' initiative the aim of which is to call the EU's attention to pay more attention to autochthonous national minorities and adopt laws for the protection of their rights.

Hunor Kelemen: Fidesz is a partner for the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania

Speaking after the Hungarian parliamentary elections held on 8 April, the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that Hungary will continue to be led by the government which really cares for the Hungarian community in Transylvania. According to estimations, the number of Transylvanian Hungarians who have registered for Hungary's parliamentary elections and voted is about 180,000-195,000. Mr. Kelemen stressed that the RMDSZ has helped at least 100,000 Hungarians in Transylvania in the voting procedure. Hunor Kelemen congratulated the Fidesz-KDNP alliance (KDNP) on their victory,



stressing that the Fidesz-KDNP is an important partner for the RMDSZ and the RMDSZ would like to strengthen this partnership in the following government term. The head of the RMDSZ stressed that the aim of the Transylvanian Hungarian community is to survive, remain as a community and prosper in its homeland. He added that this is the main pillar of the RMDSZ' policy.

New media project will start in Slovakia

A new large-scale media project will start in Slovakia which will be based on three main pillars: a news site, a weekly and an internet channel. The launching of the project was announced by the initiators at a press conference held in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda. The ma7 media group will be operated by the Pro Media Foundation which will be supported by the Hungarian Government. This project will be the largest media project in Slovakia since the 1989 regime change. The initiators stressed that the new Hungarian media group will be a gap-filling project. Its first pillar, the ma7.sj news site will start on 11 April.

Head of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia dies

On 8 April 2018, the chairman of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) Tibor Jókai passed away at age 51. Some weeks ago, on 15 March 2018 – Hungary's national holiday – he was presented the Gold Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit. Because of his bad health condition, he could not take part in the 24th National Meeting of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia on 7 April.

It is vital to Vojvodina Hungarians for there to be good relations between Budapest and Belgrade

"It is in the fundamental interests of Vojvodina Hungarians for there to be good relations between Serbia and Hungary in view of the fact that they have already experienced what it is like when relations between their native country and the country that serves as their place of residence is bad, and also what it's like when they are good", Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said on Tuesday in an interview for Pannon RTV television in Szabadka/Subotica. "One of the fundamental philosophies of Hungarian national policy is that 'we in Budapest shouldn't be the ones to state what's good for Vojvodina Hungarians, that's something that the Vojvodina Hungarians will tell us', and the task of the Hungarian Government is to help them achieve what they themselves feel to be important", he highlighted. "In the interests of doing so, the Government always asks for the opinion of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), and on such occasions the leaders of the largest Hungarian party in the region tell us things like there should be an economic development programme, that Budapest should forge good relations with the Serbian



Government, that we should have diplomatic representations and the like, and the Government then accepts these proposals”, he added.

Hungarian Greek Catholic nursery school will be built in Transcarpathia

As part of the Hungarian Government’s Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, a Hungarian Greek Catholic Nursery School will be built in Transcarpathia’s Mátyfalva/Matuyovo. The groundbreaking ceremony of the new institution – which will be the first Hungarian-language education institution in the village after 70 years – was held last week. Speaking at the event, government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that “one week after Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christs brings the message that renascence and restart is never too late.” He added that the example of Mátyfalva – which has not had a Hungarian-language education institution since 1944 – shows that it is never too late to stop assimilation.” The government commissioner also expressed his pleasure that more and more children born in Ukrainian-Hungarian mixed marriage are enrolled in Hungarian-language schools in Transcarpathia.