

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Teacher of the Year Awards are handed over in Budapest

Speaking at an event entitled “In Hungarian – from kindergarten to university” organized by the new site közepsuli.hu, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Péter Szilágyi stressed that “if there is no school and there are no enthusiastic teachers, there is no Hungarian future.” At the event, the winners of a large-scale geography competition were awarded and the “Teachers of the Year” were chosen. Among the awarded persons, two teachers from Hungary and two teachers from neighboring countries (Romania and Slovakia) were presented the award. Addressing the event, the Deputy State Secretary stressed that the Hungarian Government is making every effort to preserve every Hungarian school in the world, regardless where they are: in Somorja/Šamorín (Slovakia), Técső/Tiachiv (Transcarpathia), Marosvásárhely/ Târgu Mureș (Transylvania) or somewhere in the diaspora.

Government commissioner: studies focusing on Hungarian communities can improve Ukrainian-Hungarian relations

Speaking at a conference organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) entitled “Everyday life in Transcarpathia in the light of scientific studies”, government commissioner responsible for Transcarpathia István Grezsa said that scientific research connected with Transcarpathia and Hungarian communities living in the region can contribute to the improving of Ukrainian-Hungarian relations. Mr. Grezsa added that this is especially important today, with regard to the current situation in Ukraine and its relations with Hungary. The government commissioner stressed that it is extremely important to return to “cooperation based on mutual interests.” He recalled that in recent years, the Hungarian Government has paid special attention to the field of research focusing on Hungarian communities in neighboring countries on the basis of which important decisions can be made.



The EMNT, EMNP and SZNT call for unity in the issue of Hungarian-language medical education in Transylvania

On Thursday, the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party (EMNP), the Transylvania Hungarian National Council (EMNT) and the Szekler National Council (SZNT) adopted a joint petition, calling for unity and joint action in order to save the MOGYE (University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Targu Mureș/Marosvásárhely) and Hungarian-language medical education in Transylvania. In their petition, the EMNP, EMNT and SZNT are protesting against the merging of the MOGYE and the Romanian-language Petru Maior University. The initiators of the petition also called for the setting up of a “strategic emergency unit” and an action group with the goal to analyze the current situation at the MOGYE, present it to the wider public and try to find a



solution to the current situation. The EMNP, EMNT and SZNT also called on every political, civil and social group which consider Hungarian-language medical education important to take part in this “action.” They added that the only possible solution would be an independent Hungarian-language higher education institution in Romania where Hungarian students can study in their mother tongue.



Nationalities in Serbia to receive more funding from the state

Serbian Minister for public administration and local governments Branko Ružić has announced that nationalities in Serbia will receive more financial assistance from the state this year. The minister added that RSD 21.8 million (EUR 185,000) will be ensured for this field in 2018 – twelve times more than in 2017. The minister said that they had talks with the national councils of Serbia, adding that institutions and organizations which were founded by national councils, as well as civil organizations registered in Serbia can apply for this financial assistance.



It would seem that the migrants are more important to Brussels than the Transcarpathian Hungarians

“We must continuously argue with Brussels concerning which of the human rights of the migrants must be respected, while there are 150 thousand Hungarians in Transcarpathia for whom it is a fundamental human right to be able to live in safety in their own homeland and use their own language”, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said on Wednesday in Budapest. At a joint press conference following a meeting with the President of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ), László Brenzovics, the Minister spoke about the fact that it would seem the migrants are more important to Brussels than the 150 thousand Hungarians living in Transcarpathia: “Brussels currently appears to regard the human rights of the migrants as being more important than the rights of Hungarians living in Transcarpathia, and I believe that this is an extremely damaging image, which it would be good if Brussels were to negate. Accordingly, we expect Brussels to take firm action to protect the truly existing rights of Transcarpathian Hungarians”. “In Ukraine, the situation with relation to legislation that violates the Hungarian national community has worsened in recent days, and instead of Ukraine conforming to the decisions and expectations of international forums, there have been several initiatives and developments that further exacerbate the situation”, Mr. Szijjártó explained.

Speaking at a commemoration at the local World War I monument in Vác, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Human Capacities Bence Rétvári said that Ukraine regards some of its citizens as second-class when it restricts rights



related to the use of languages. Mr. Rétvári, who is also Member of Parliament for the constituency, pointed out that with the law on the use of languages Ukraine restricts and represses the language rights of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia when it only allows students to study in their own languages in the lower grades of elementary school. Mr. Rétvári drew attention to the fact that the Ukrainian constitution and international treaties guarantee that acquired rights cannot be taken away. Teaching their children in their mother tongue is an acquired right of the Hungarians living there, he stressed.



Hungarians have an interest in Slovenians doing well

In Slovenia on Friday, attending a campaign event of the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that Hungarians have an interest in the Slovenians doing well and being a rich and happy people, as that is something that Hungarians will also benefit from. In his speech the Prime Minister referred to the illegal immigration situation in 2015, predicting that it was only the precursor of what the future holds. Tens of millions aim to travel from Africa to Europe, he said, and they will continue to come for as long as Europe fails to defend itself and sends out invitations to those wanting to set out, and for as long as they see the slightest chance of their entering Europe. Unless we Europeans focus our attention on this, he warned, we may lose our countries. Mr. Orbán affirmed the desire for a strong Europe, for peace in Europe and for agreements in the EU which are mutually advantageous. But when “Europe surrendered to illegal immigration”, he said, there was an overnight change in attitude towards the joint work that had gone before.