

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

25/2018



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Árpád János Potápi: the Hungarian Government supports Hungarian entrepreneurs who remain in their homeland

Speaking at a conference organized in Hungary's Mezőkövesd for Hungarian entrepreneurs from the Carpathian Basin, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the Hungarian Government supports Hungarian entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin who live in their homeland and offer family-friendly services. The event was attended by near 200 young Hungarian entrepreneurs living in the Carpathian Basin. The state secretary recalled that in the spring a call for application was launched for young Hungarian entrepreneurs in neighboring countries worth 500 million (EUR 1.5 million) as part of which the state secretariat received 760 applications. In his presentation, Mr. Potápi emphasized that Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin have three main problems: migration (an increasing number of people living their homeland), assimilation and population decline. He stressed that it is extremely urgent to find solutions to these problems. Mr. Potápi also said that according to the results of a recent research made by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI), 76% of Hungarians who operate family businesses and 60% of young Hungarian entrepreneurs in the neighboring countries do not plan to leave their homeland.



Péter Szijjártó holds talks with Romanian Education Minister on Ukrainian Education Act

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó spoke with Romanian Education Minister Valentin Popa about the Ukrainian Education Act by telephone on Thursday. According to a statement issued to the Hungarian news agency MTI by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the two ministers agreed that the Ukrainian Education Act is unacceptable because it strips national minorities of their existing, previously acquired rights. The Romanian minister told Mr. Szijjártó that the Romanian national minority has also been unable to come to any kind of agreement with Ukrainian authorities with relation to the Education Act. Péter Szijjártó and Valentin Popa agreed to continue to consult with each other in future concerning necessary action.

The Romanian Senate adopts new administrative code

On Monday, the Romanian Senate adopted the new Administrative Code which regulates several important fields, including the use of national minority languages. According to the new code – if the house of representatives does not amend the articles concerning minority language use – the names of public spaces must also be indicated in minority languages in towns and villages – in addition to the names of towns – where the ratio of the concerned national minority reaches the 20% threshold. According to the proposal of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the rights of minority language use will also be expanded in the



field of communication at county government offices in order to help the members of national minorities arrange administrative issues in their mother tongue.

Hungary and Slovakia are two countries in a successful region

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Prime Minister of Slovakia Peter Pellegrini held talks in Budapest which Mr. Orbán described as a meeting between two countries in a successful region. At the two prime ministers' joint press conference in Budapest's Parliament Building, Mr. Orbán said that Slovak-Hungarian cooperation and the partnership of the Visegrád Four (V4) contribute to Europe's joint success. If there are successful countries which form successful regions, then Europe will be successful, he said, adding that the V4 is no longer an alliance of poor countries, but an alliance of countries characterized by economic growth, enormous development potential, disciplined finances, ambitious plans and governments which abide by European regulations. The Prime Minister also thanked his Slovak counterpart for the assistance his country provided in Hungary's border defence efforts, and for standing by Hungary "even at the center of an international storm". He stressed that "This is something we shall remember for a long time". Closing his address, Mr. Orbán welcomed the measures enacted by the Slovakian government related to the Hungarian community in Slovakia, including measures affecting small schools, multilingual railway signs, and grants provided through the minority cultural fund.

István Pásztor: Results of the past years' economic development programs are positive

Speaking to the Szabadka Hungarian Radio, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that the results of the Hungarian Government's economic development programs realized in Vojvodina in the past 2.5 years have been positive. Mr. Pásztor said that the number of successful applications – received as part of Hungary's program in Vojvodina – will soon reach 10,000. Mr. Pásztor added that this means that the kin-state helped 10,000 Hungarian families living in Vojvodina. The head of the VMSZ emphasized that the economic development program is extremely popular in Vojvodina: it has greatly contributed to the strengthening of Hungarian economic life and helped local Hungarians prosper in their homeland.



More than 1,200 Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs signs contracts as part of the Hungarian Government's economic development program

On Thursday, 1,200 Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs signed contracts in Beregszász/Berehove as part of the Hungarian Government's economic development program. Speaking at the ceremony, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar said that the economic development program launched in Transcarpathia three years ago will continue as long as Hungary has a "national government". He added that this year the amount of financial assistance ensured for Transcarpathian Hungarian entrepreneurs exceeded HUF 10 billion (EUR 30 million). Mr. Magyar expressed his pleasure that they managed to reach their aim and mobilized Hungarian entrepreneurs in Transcarpathia. He added that the program will continue this year as part of which Hungary will support further 1,200 entrepreneurs.

State Secretary Árpád János Potápi attends the annual conference of Croatian Hungarian organizations

On Sunday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi attended the annual conference of Hungarian communities in Croatia. Opening the event held in Omis, the State Secretary spoke about the main programs and measures introduced by the Hungarian Government to support Hungarian communities living abroad, including Hungarians living in Croatia. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Potápi said that the aim of the conference was to provide an opportunity for Croatian Hungarians to share experience, get acquainted with each other and get familiar with the most important programs launched by the Hungarian Government. Mr. Potápi said that between 2015 and 2017, the Hungarian Government ensured HUF 110 million (EUR 340,000) for the realization of the plans of the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia in the field of vocational education, and supported several schools, institutions and kindergartens of the Hungarian community in Croatia.

