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Árpád János Potápi: We should be grateful to Hungarian mothers for the preservation of our nation

Addressing a large-scale traditional festival named One Thousand Szekler Girls' Day held in Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the permanence of both Hungarians and Szeklers is due to Hungarian mothers whom we should be thankful. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Potápi said that the main message of the event is the importance of the preservation of traditions and their passing on to further generations. The state secretary added that although the event is "the festival of Szekler girls and woman", men can also take part in it, therefore, we can say that "this is the festival of families." Mr. Potápi highlighted that "we should give thanks to Szekler and Hungarian mothers" because "they have preserved our nation." The state secretary said that we must make every effort in order to ensure security for Hungarian families and help them prosper. He added that the One Thousand Szekler Girls' Day is an important event connected to the current thematic year of the Hungarian Government named "2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad."

Szekler activists are sentenced to five years in prison

Hungarian political parties have protested against the final decision of the Romanian Supreme Court which – after a long series of appeals – sentenced two Szekler activists, István Beke and Zoltán Szócs to 5 years in prison for attempting to detonate an improvised explosive device during the December 1 celebrations that took place in Kézdivásárhely/Targu Secuiesc in 2015. István Beke and Zoltán Szócs are members of the Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement (HVIM in Hungarian – these are the 64 counties of Greater Hungary before 1918). The Supreme Court changed the legal classification from "attack against a collectivity" to acts of terrorism in the case of the two men. The decision caused national outrage in Hungary and the Hungarian community in Romania. The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), Hunor Kelemen declared that "it is shocking that the Romanian prosecution uses the justice to stigmatize an entire community." The Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNT) and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) also condemned the decision declaring that it is "shameful."



László Kövér: European policy will shift from globalism to national sovereignty

Speaking at the Martos Hungarian open university held in Slovakia's Martos/Martovce, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that after the following European Parliament elections scheduled to take place next year, "European policy will shift from globalism to the direction of national sovereignty." The house speaker stressed that the EP elections will be "the moment of



justice” because now the future of Europe is at stake: Europe has to decide whether it will be a continent which dissolves in foreign civilizations or it manages to reverse this process. In addition to the house speaker, the opening forum of the summer university was attended by State Secretary Árpád János Potápi and the chairman of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt. Mr. Potápi summarized the past four years of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad and outlined the “vision” of Hungarian communities in the kin-state and abroad. He stressed that 2010 was a shift in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad and by 2014 they managed to establish a framework for the field. Mr. Potápi said that the current policy for Hungarian communities abroad – the programs and measures – are based on this framework. He added that 2015 also was a milestone since this year the Hungarian Government started to focus on Hungarians’ permanence in their homeland, especially on economic development in the Carpathian Basin. The president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt spoke about the results of the county elections held in Slovakia last years, emphasizing that the MKP managed to retain its force. Mr. Menyhárt also spoke about the Minority SafePack Initiative, stressing that the Hungarian community in Slovakia showed its strength and collected 68,000 supporting signatures.



Árpád János Potápi opens summer university in Vojvodina

Opening the 16th summer open university in Vojvodina’s Kishegyes/Mali Idoš, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government intends to continue the policy for Hungarian communities abroad it did during the past 8 years. Mr. Potápi said that the main goals for the 2018-2022 period is the strengthening of Hungarian identity, the supporting of families and the continuation of economic development programs. The state secretary recalled the main milestones of the past 8 years concerning the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Speaking at the opening forum of the summer open university, political group leader of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) Bálint Pásztor said that during the past years, the Hungarian Government, the VMSZ and the Hungarian National Council (MNT) has made serious efforts to make the life of Vojvodina Hungarians easier and help them remain and prosper in their homeland.



Péter Szilágyi: Transcarpathian Hungarians can rely on Hungary

Opening the 26th summer open university in Transcarpathia held in Felsőszinevér/Synevyr's'ka Poliana, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that both in connection with violation of Hungarians’ rights in Romania, both in the issue of the new Ukrainian Act on Education, it is important to stress again and again that the Hungarian Government



will continue to stand up for Hungarian communities and keeps their issues and problems on the agenda. The deputy state secretary stressed the importance of Carpathian Basin summer open universities which started on 4 July. He stressed that these forums are extremely important where the leaders of Hungarian organizations, experts and politicians from the kin-state can meet and discuss the main issues and problems of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. Speaking at a round-table discussion on Ukrainian-Hungarian relations, the head of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh said that “the current situation in Ukraine is a test of strength for Hungarian diplomacy, as it is “entering unknown territory” in connection with promoting the interests of Hungarians.” Mr. Németh said that the direction Ukraine takes with its education law banning post-primary-level education in minority languages would only become clear after next year’s presidential election there. He added that the question was whether Transcarpathia Hungarians and Hungarian diplomacy would have room for manoeuvre in connection with the law’s implementation. Mr. Németh argued that Ukraine’s education law was not solely about education, but rather about a process determining the quality of Ukrainian democracy. He said the matter also concerned western European countries, the European Union, the Council of Europe as well as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and its Ukraine policy.