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Péter Szilágyi: Hungarian identity, families and prosperity in the homeland will be in the focus of policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Opening the summer open university of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) and the Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights (IPMR) in Martonvásár, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that over the next four years the focus of policy for Hungarian communities abroad will be on strengthening Hungarian identity, support for Hungarian families and prosperity in the homeland. The summer open university was held for the seventh time. The deputy state secretary stressed that in recent years the Hungarian Government has spent the following amounts: 1.1 billion HUF (EUR 3.3 million) on supporting Hungarian culture and education abroad; HUF 200 million (EUR 613,000) on Hungarian youth organizations; and HUF 250 million (EUR 767,000) on supporting twin-city relations in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that, as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, 150 new kindergartens will be built and 400 institutions will be renovated in the Carpathian Basin. He recalled that 2018 is the Year of Families, and within this HUF 1 billion (EUR 3 million) is being spent on supporting Hungarian families abroad. Mr. Szilágyi also recalled that since 1 January 2018 maternity benefits and baby bonds have been also available for Hungarian families abroad.



Hunor Kelemen: the new administrative code is an important step forward in the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has said that the adoption of the new administrative code in Romania is an important step towards the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Speaking to Hungarian public media, Mr. Kelemen said that although “a good ratification text exists”, the Charter is not applied in Romania. The head of the RMDSZ highlighted that a new regulation has been added to the recently adopted administrative code, which obliges the institutions of public administration and their employees to comply with the requirements of international conventions and treaties ratified by Romania. Mr. Kelemen added that the RMDSZ hopes that in the future this can be a point of reference in legal disputes, and Hungarians will be able to build on the regulations of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the everyday use of their mother tongue.

Hundreds of people demonstrate for István Beke and Zoltán Szócs

On Thursday hundreds of people gathered at the main square of Kézdivásárhely/Targu Secuiesc, protesting against the imprisonment of István Beke and Zoltán Szócs, who were sentenced on charges of terrorism (attempting to detonate an improvised explosive decide during the December 1 celebrations in



Kézdivásárhely in 2015). People demonstrating for the two activists of the Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement (HVIM), protested with Hungarian and Szekler flags and trilingual (Hungarian-Romanian-English) banners with the slogan “Freedom for the political prisoners!” The demonstrators also collected signatures, protesting against the sentencing of the two innocent young men, harassment of Hungarian mayors in Szeklerland and other anti-Hungarian manifestations in recent months. The demonstration in Kézdivásárhely was jointly organized by Transylvanian Hungarian parties and civil society organizations. On Monday, before the demonstration, the representatives of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP), the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party (EMNP) and the Transylvanian Hungarian Council (EMNT) held a joint press conference in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, announcing that together they would mobilize people and expressing the hope that they manage to ensure that “thousands of people will support this cause.”



Péter Szilágyi opens the summer open university of Hungarian teachers in Slovakia

Opening the Jókai Mór Summer Open University in Slovakia’s Révkomárom/Komárno, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed the importance of the permanence of Hungarian-language education abroad. The event – which is regularly organized by the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) and is supported by the Hungarian Government – is one of the largest Hungarian forums in the Carpathian Basin. The deputy state secretary stressed that Hungarian-language education abroad must become a joint cause, which cannot be influenced by changes in circumstances. He stressed that Hungarian schools must not only be places where children study in Hungarian, but institutions which give them strong identities and commitment to the Hungarian community in Slovakia. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that thanks are due to everyone who has assisted this process. The deputy state secretary also stressed that the emerging large-scale cooperation between the Hungarian Government, teachers’ associations, churches and municipalities for the development of Hungarian-language education is extremely important.



Árpád Potápi: the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute is an important bastion of Hungarians’ permanence

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the Vocational Institution of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the institute is one of the strongest bastions of Hungarians’ permanence in the Carpathian Basin, and therefore the Hungarian Government will continue to ensure all means of support for its



operation and development. The state secretary greeted the graduate students and emphasized that “there is one thing which differentiates Transcarpathian Hungarians from other parts of the nation: their vigor. Despite all their difficulties, they want to live and prosper in their homeland, and they have plans and goals.” Mr. Potápi added that one such goal was the establishment of the vocational institution as part of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute. The state secretary also expressed his pleasure that the Hungarian Government could contribute to the realization of this goal, saying that “this is already the second graduation ceremony in the life of the institution.”

László Brenzovics: Transcarpathian Hungarian enterprises have undergone significant development

Opening the 5th Turul Expo exhibition in Tiszapéterfava/Pijterfolvo, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that, despite the current difficult situation in Ukraine, in recent years Hungarian enterprises in Transcarpathia have undergone significant development due to the Hungarian Government’s unprecedented economic development programs. The head of the KMKSZ stressed that the “strong economic basis” is an important precondition of the permanence of Transcarpathian Hungarians which can be ensured through prospering enterprises. Mr. Brenzovics mentioned the Egán Ede Economic Development Program, as part of which a huge sum – more than 10 billion HUF (EUR...) – has been received by Hungarian enterprises in Ukraine over the past 3 years.

