

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

37/2018



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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First Transylvanian kindergarten built as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery school program is inaugurated

On Sunday, the first Transylvanian nursery school built within the framework of the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program was inaugurated in Nagyvároly/Carei. In the new institution – which is owned by the Transylvanian Reformed Church – 40 children (in two groups) will start the new year. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, ministerial commissioner responsible for the development of Transcarpathian and the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program István Grezsa said that in Nagyvároly there is an exemplary cooperation between the Hungarian Government, the Reformed church district, the municipality and the local Hungarian community. He stressed that the new institution is the result of this excellent cooperation. The building of the new kindergarten was supported by HUF 200 million (EUR 617,000) from the Hungarian Government.

The RMDSZ wants progress in the field of mother tongue education and language use

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the parliamentary group leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Attila Korodi said that the RMDSZ wants progress in several fields of life affecting Hungarians in Romania: strengthening mother-tongue education, decentralization and the new administrative code which would guarantee further linguistic rights. Mr. Korodi said that in several cases the RMDSZ has to find further supporters for certain issues since the party has only 6% in the Romanian parliament. Mr. Korodi added that one of the "topical" issues which is on the "priority list" of the RMDSZ is a government decree which declares that the Romanian language must be taught by professional Romanian language teachers in the elementary schools of national minorities.



Renovated kindergartens open in Slovakia

Last week, several Hungarian kindergartens – which were renovated as part the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program – were inaugurated in Slovakia. Speaking in Péder/Peder, ministerial commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that mother tongue education must be available for every Hungarian child living outside Hungary. Mr. Szilágyi said that the main message of the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin nursery school program is that the kin-state believes in the prosperous future of Hungarian communities abroad and tries to give them all the necessary help for this. He added that as part of the program, more than 150 new kindergartens and day care centers will be built in the Carpathian Basin, among them 32 new institutions in Slovakia.



Renovated kindergartens were inaugurated in Inám/Dolinka and Ipolybalog/Balog as well, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Rimaszombat/Rimavská Sobota where a new nursery school will be soon built as part of the program. Speaking at the ceremony, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that although the program is still in its first phase, several positive signs are already seen. As an example, he mentioned that more and more children living in mixed marriages are enrolled in Hungarian-language schools. Referring to the new kindergarten which will be built in Rimaszombat, Mr. Grezsa said that “when we are building Christian nursery school, we are building our future.” The new institution in Rimaszombat will be built from HUF 242 million (EUR 750,000) government support and will be completed by March 2019.



OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities makes official visit to Vojvodina

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Lamberto Zannier has made an official visit to Vojvodina. During his stay in the region, he held talks with the head of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal at the headquarters of the MNT. Speaking to journalists after the talks, Mr. Hajnal said that in recent years the OSCE has paid special attention to several fields which are important for national minorities, for example, textbook publishing and the development of the methodology of the teaching of Serbian language in minority schools. Mr. Zannier – who was in Szabadka/Subotica for the first time – stressed that the model built and operated by the Hungarian National Council could serve as a model for other countries’ national minorities as well. With respect to the approaching national council elections scheduled to take place in Serbia on 4 November 2018, the parties also discussed the main results of the past four years of the MNT.



Ildikó Orosz: we can preserve Hungarian-language education if we work together

Speaking at the central school opening ceremony of Transcarpathian Hungarian schools, the rector of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute and head of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathian (KMPSZ) Ildikó Orosz stressed that “we can preserve Hungarian-language education in Ukraine only if we work together since the Ukrainian Government in the new academic year will try to cease Hungarian-language schools.” Ms. Orosz stressed that Hungarian teachers in Transcarpathia had a very difficult year since one year ago the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a new Act on Education which seriously restricts minority rights. She added that despite all the difficulties, students of Hungarian schools reached good results at the central Ukrainian school leaving examination.



Árpád János Potápi: policy for Hungarian communities abroad saw radical changes

Speaking at the 15th Kufstein Conference – an annual conference held in Austria’s Oberpullendorf/Felsőpulya with the participation of Hungarians living in the diaspora – State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that after 2010 the Hungarian Government made radical changes in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad: since then it has ensures special support for Hungarian organizations abroad, helps Hungarians’ prosperity in their homeland, supports families and young people. Mr. Potápi said that one of the most important measures of the past years was the introduction of the simplified naturalization procedure and the adoption of the new Basic Law of Hungary. He stressed that due to the simplified naturalization procedure, the number of new Hungarian citizens exceeded 1 million and the 2018 parliamentary election in Hungary was a real “national” election. The state secretary stressed that Hungary will continue its Carpathian Basin nursery school program as well as the supporting of Hungarian schools abroad in order to realize that every Hungarian child – and children with Hungarian roots – have an opportunity to attend Hungarian-language education institutions.

