

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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51 products and enterprises receive Value & Quality Awards

On Tuesday, 51 successful applicants – Hungarian products and enterprises – were presented with the Value & Quality Awards. Among the awardees there were products and enterprises from Hungarian communities abroad. Addressing the ceremony, the main patron of the event, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly János Latorcai, stressed that as part of a patriotic economic policy, it is a responsibility of the state to support those enterprises which represent high quality and value. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that since 2010, it has been an important goal of the Hungarian Government to create an environment both in Hungary and abroad in which local enterprises “can find their place.” Mr. Potápi expressed his pleasure that every year more and more Hungarian enterprises abroad receive the Value & Quality Award which – in his opinion – is an important tool for strengthening Hungarian identity and the economy.

László Kövér: We are grateful to parents who enroll their children in Hungarian schools

Speaking at a large-scale event introducing a new scholarship program of the Rákóczi Association named “8000 handshakes for Hungarian schools”, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér said that thanks should go to every parent outside Hungary who – despite all the difficulties – believes in the power of mother tongue and enrolls their children in Hungarian-language kindergartens and schools. Mr. Kövér said that thanks should also go to Hungarian teachers abroad who not only teach children and young people, but also strengthen their Hungarian identity. The House Speaker also expressed his gratitude to the founder and former president of the Rákóczi Association József Halzl, and said that over the past years “the Rákóczi Association has grown into the largest social organization for national cohesion.” Mr. Kövér stressed that with his three decades of selfless work, József Halzl has proved that Hungarians living in different parts of the Carpathian Basin can really rely on each other.

Árpád János Potápi: it is a major goal to stop population decline

Speaking at the inauguration of a renovated nursery school and cultural center in Hungary’s Tolna County, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the most important task of the Hungarian Government is to stop population decline in Hungary. The state secretary stressed that one of the most effective tools for this work is to ensure more and more resources for children, families and the development of education institutions – both in Hungary and among Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Potápi added that, as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, 150 new kindergartens will be built and more than 400 will be renovated in neighboring countries. He stressed that through this



program “the work done during the past eight years will be complete” and support for Hungarian families will remain in focus in the future as well.

New exhibition on Hungarians living in diaspora opens in Budapest

A new exhibition presenting the life of Hungarians living in diaspora opened in the National Archives of Hungary on Wednesday. The material of the exhibition was compiled from the documents which were collected as part of the Mikes Kelemen Program – a program of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking at the event, ministerial commissioner responsibly for the field Péter Szilágyi said that since 2010, the policy for Hungarian communities abroad receives much more attention within the Hungarian Government, due to which several programs focusing on Hungarian diaspora communities were launched. Mr. Szilágyi said that one of these programs is the Mikes Kelemen Program, which was launched in 2013, and adopted by the Hungarian Diaspora Council. He added that the National Széchényi Library and the National Archives of Hungary are the main partners in the program. Mr. Szilágyi said that the program focuses on preserving the diaspora’s material heritage, collecting its elements in a systematic manner, transferring them to Hungary and making provision for their appropriate utilization.



Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely resumes operations

After two years of suspension, the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș has resumed operations. As has been reported, in 2016 the Romanian National Anti-corruption Directorate (DNA) arrested the Chief Superintendent of Maros County Ștefan Someșan, on suspicion of abuse of office and two counts of exceeding his power, stating that the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely was unlawfully formed in 2014. The DNA has also brought the director of the school József Zsolt Tamás under official supervision for 60 days. Speaking at the school year opening ceremony of the re-established school, the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that “the issue of the high school of Marosvásárhely has “tested the tolerance” of Hungarians in Transylvania, but they have managed to overcome every obstacle. Mr. Kelemen stressed that this winning is a clear message about the life-force of the Hungarian community. Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó welcomed the fact that the Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely could resume operations. Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Szijjártó said that mother-tongue education is one of the main guarantees of the survival of Hungarian minorities abroad, and added that the agreement to reopen the school was a result of intense negotiations with Romania and “diverse diplomatic measures.” Mr. Szijjártó said that the Hungarian Government will always stand up for Hungarian communities abroad, as it has done in the past, and it will continue to “keep an eye” on the school to make sure all classes start as planned.



Renovated kindergartens are inaugurated in Slovakia

As part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, nearly 400 Hungarian kindergartens will be renovated in Hungary's neighboring countries. Last week several renewed institutions were inaugurated in Slovakia. One of them was the Hungarian nursery school of Kisgéres/Malý Horeš where ministerial commissioner responsible for the program István Grezsa said that the program receives extremely positive feedbacks in every region and it is "mobilizing entire communities." The ministerial commissioner added that it is also seen that renewed Hungarian kindergartens are attracting more and more children, parents often chose these institutions instead of the Slovakian-language nursery schools because they are more modern and well-equipped. Speaking at an other inauguration ceremony in Révkomárom/Komárno, ministerial commissioner Péter Szilágyi stressed that it is crucial that Hungarians living in different parts of the Carpathian Basin study in their mother tongue, since "young generations are the key to our future." Mr. Szilágyi stressed that mother tongue education is the basis for Hungarian communities' permanence in their homeland from Vojvodina to Transylvania.



Campaign for national council elections starts

On 15 September, the list named "Hungarian Cooperation" and the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) started their election campaign for the national council elections which will be held in Serbia on 4 November 2018. Speaking at a press conference in Szabadka/Subotica on Friday, the President of the VMSZ István Pásztor and Jenő Hajnal – the Chairman of the Hungarian National Council (MNT), who leads the "Hungarian Cooperation" list – introduced the main information concerning the campaign. Mr. Pásztor stressed that the campaign will be very intensive. He added that their plan is to visit every town in Vojvodina at least once, in order to present them with the list, the main program and the most important results of the past four years. Mr. Pásztor added that during the campaign they will have nearly 300 events in different places in Vojvodina.



Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén attends school year opening ceremony in Beregszász

Addressing the academic year opening ceremony of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute in Beregszász/Berehove held in the local Reformed church, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén said that "Hungarians – including Hungarians living in Transcarpathia – have never demanded things which are unprecedented in the EU." Speaking about the new



Ukrainian Act on Education, Mr. Semjén stressed that if Ukraine wants to be a member state of the European Union, it should comply with the EU's laws, for example, the one which declares that acquired rights cannot be withdrawn. Mr. Semjén added that "the EU is like a club: if you want to be its member, you should comply with its rules." Mr. Semjén stressed that the Hungarian nation is able to survive if every constituent part of the nation survives. He added that for this aim, the Hungarian Government gives every necessary help for Hungarians living outside the kin-state. The Deputy Prime Minister said that Transcarpathian Hungarians – who are in the most difficult situation among Hungarian communities living abroad – receive special attention from the kin-state.



Péter Szilágyi: strengthening Hungarian weekend schools is an issue concerning the whole nation

Speaking at the school year opening ceremony of the Vienna Hungarian School held at the Collegium Hungaricum, ministerial commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi stressed that Hungarian schools in the diaspora are part of the Hungarian education network, therefore, their maintenance and development is the task of not only the local Hungarian community, but the whole nation. The ministerial commissioner said that Hungarian weekend schools are not simple education institutions but a kind of "home for Hungarian families abroad." Mr. Szilágyi expressed the pleasure that Hungarians living in Vienna "have not lost their hope" and have preserved their Hungarian identity. He also recalled that due to the diaspora programs launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad in recent years, 67 Hungarian diaspora schools have received financial help from Hungary.

