

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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The Hungarian Government allocates HUF 2.8 billion for programs and investments in Transylvania

In 2018 and 2019 the Hungarian Government will allocate HUF 2.8 billion (HUF 1.3 billion in 2018 and HUF 1.5 billion in 1.5 in 2019) for Transylvanian programs and investments of national importance. Some days ago, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the strengthening of identity, the supporting of families and helping Hungarians' permanence is in the focus of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Mr. Potápi added that the goal of the Hungarian Government's programs is to have strong and economically stable communities in neighboring countries.

Katalin Szili: need for autonomy and Hungarian unity is unbroken in Szeklerland

Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili has made a four-day official visit to Szeklerland. Speaking to journalists after one of her official programs she said that need for autonomy and Hungarian unity is unbroken in Szeklerland. During her stay in the region, Ms. Szili took part in panel discussions and hold lectures in Barót/Baraolt, Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe and Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc. Ms. Szili stressed that she had talked to a lot of people in Szeklerland and all of them confirmed that autonomy is a real need of Szekler people and agreed that for the realization of this aim, "party political battles must be put away" and people should stand up for this issue together. Ms. Szili added that several participants of the forum said that autonomy concepts should be updated.

More than one hundred watch fires were lit in demand of autonomy for Szeklerland

On Sunday – the Day of Szeklerland's Autonomy – watch fires were lit in more than one hundred towns in Szeklerland, in demand of territorial autonomy for Szeklerland. The event was organized by the Szekler National Council (SZNT). During the day, people prayed together in churches for autonomy. At the watch fires, demonstrators read out their proclamation. In the document they stressed that watch fires symbolize their stance for territorial autonomy for Szeklerland. In the proclamation they quote several parts from the autonomy statute of the Szekler National Council, stating that they want to "take over the solving of several problems of public interest" which affect their life.





István Grezsa: Hungarian nursery schools are crucial venues of Hungarian future

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a renovated Hungarian kindergarten in Slovakia's Kisújfalu/Nová Vieska - which was renewed as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program – ministerial commissioner István Grezsa responsible for the program said that Hungarian nursery schools are crucial venues of Hungarian future. The ministerial commissioner said that the Hungarian community in Kisújfalu/Nová Vieska has preserved its Hungarian mother tongue and culture and – despite all the losses of the 20th century – it has a clear vision. He added that the quality of education which can be observed at the nursery school proves that it was a good decision to launch the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program. Mr. Grezsa stressed that the results of the program are already seen: more and more children in neighboring countries are enrolled in Hungarian-language schools.



Hungary Urges EU to Open More Accession Chapters with Serbia This Year

Speaking after talks with Serbia's minister for European integration, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary urges the European Union to open in December all accession chapters that are technically ready. Mr. Szijjártó said Jadranka Joksimovic told him that Belgrade is ready to open seven chapters, and Budapest urges all seven chapters to be opened at the December intergovernmental conference. Mr. Szijjártó said this would mean that by the end of the year, 21 chapters will have been opened with Serbia. Since the Romanian EU presidency follows the Austrian one, and Romania is in favor of enlargement, Budapest hopes that the remaining 14 chapters can also be opened in the following six months. He also expressed hope that the Romanian presidency would return to the practice of opening two chapters instead of one during the six months. Mr. Szijjártó underlined Hungary's unwavering support for Serbia's European integration process and its concomitant economic and security reasons. Its support is also an expression of solidarity, he added. The economic reason is that the growth rate of the Western Balkans exceeds that of the EU and in order to increase the latter, it is necessary to integrate faster-growing regions, he said.

Contracts signed with over 3200 applicants within the Vojvodina Economic Development Program

Speaking in Zenta/Senta – where contracts were signed with over 3250 applicants of the Vojvodina Economic Development Program – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stressed that “everyone wins with the program since the investment projects are realized in Serbia, while Hungary is stronger, the stronger the parts of the nation.” The minister added that the total value of the tender applications signed on Friday is HUF 10.9 billion (EUR 33.5 million), of which HUF 17 billion (EUR



52 million) in new development projects will be realized. Mr. Szijjártó said that the number of successful applicants will be increasing to over ten thousand by the end of the year, and that over a period of three years a total of 74.5 billion forints (EUR 229 million) in investments will be realized in Vojvodina. The Hungarian Foreign Minister highlighted the fact that the program has reached all Hungarian-populated areas in Vojvodina, which he said was realized thanks to the fact that Hungary has once again become a strong and successful country. He stressed that “Hungary and Serbia are both found in regions whose rate of economic growth exceeds the European average”. He drew attention to the fact that the program will continue and in next year’s Hungarian budget HUF 50 billion (EUR 154 million) are earmarked for cross-border economic development programs.



Árpád János Potápi: Hungary will continue to support Transcarpathia

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the new dormitory of the Szent István Roman Catholic High School in Munkács/Mukachevo – which was built from Hungarian Government support – State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “Hungary will continue to support every investment which serves the permanence and strengthening of Hungarian education system in Transcarpathia.” Mr. Potápi stressed that their goal is that “Hungarian school was equal to quality education in Transcarpathia.” The state secretary added that “when the most basic rights of Transcarpathian Hungarians are questioned, “it is time to raise our voice.” He added that “Hungary expects Ukraine to respect the rights of the Hungarian minority which includes the right to mother tongue education from pre-school education to university.”



Hungary-Croatia ties demonstrate that it is possible for fair cooperation to take place in the bloc

Following a meeting with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Jandrokovic, László Kövér said Croatia is a good neighbor and an important partner in the economy and tourism. Hungary’s House Speaker has highlighted how fair cooperation can be maintained with other countries in the European Union even when strong national identities are part of the equation. Following a meeting with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Jandrokovic, László Kövér said Hungary-Croatia ties demonstrate that it is possible for fair cooperation to take place in the bloc. The house speaker said that Croatia is a good neighbor and an important partner in the economy and tourism. He also highlighted the importance of maintaining cross-border affairs. Mr. Kövér added that both countries are developing national minority policies that can serve as examples to



other members of the bloc. “As far as the EU’s future is concerned, this is a highly important issue,” he said. Contrary to received wisdom, relations can be fair if strong national identities are part of the equation, he added. Mr. Kövér thanked the Croatian government and his Croatian counterpart for their support for the construction of a Hungarian college in Eszék/Osijek, a project already under way. Mr. Jandrokovic said that both countries are doing a lot for their ethnic minorities, and their efforts could serve as examples for other countries.



János Áder Commemorates 1956 Revolution in Florida

President János Áder attended a commemoration of Hungary’s failed anti-Soviet revolution in 1956, organized by expatriate Hungarians in Sarasota late on Sunday. In his address at the ceremony, Áder referred to the uprising as the fight of a small nation of 9 million against the largest military power in the world.” He said that the Hungarian people had “never been this heroic, this hallowed as in those days”. Mr. Áder said that after the revolution was stifled in blood, “undisguised dictatorship returned to stay for decades”, adding that “many died in the fights, tens of thousands were then imprisoned, hundreds hanged, while nearly 200,000 people fled the country.

