

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Árpád János Potápi: new calls for applications worth HUF 1.3 billion are available for Hungarian communities abroad

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad announced that two new calls for applications are available for Hungarian communities abroad for 2019: one for supporting Hungarian education and culture abroad (HUF 1.1 million/EUR 3.4 million) and one for the support of sister town relations between towns in Hungary and Hungarian towns abroad (HUF 250 million/EUR 77,000). He added that within the first call there is a central call (HUF 700 million/EUR 2.1 million) and four regional calls for applications (Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina and Transcarpathia). Mr. Potápi added that as part of this call for applications, in 2018 the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad managed to support 3,000 Hungarian organizations abroad. He expressed the hope that a similar number of organizations will receive support in 2019. Concerning the call for applications for sister town relations, Mr. Potápi said that applications will be considered from Hungarian municipalities which can win support between HUF 500,000 and 2 million (EUR 1,500-6,200). He added that the aim of the initiative is to strengthen Hungarian-Hungarian relations and cooperation between municipalities and civil organizations.

Thirty Hungarian law students abroad receive Szász Pál scholarship

Thirty Hungarian law students living abroad have successfully applied for the Szász Pál Scholarship Program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The call for applications was announced at the end of August, and students – studying law in Hungarian language at universities abroad – had to apply by 10 October. Among the winners are 21 students from Transylvania, 7 students from Vojvodina and 2 students from Slovakia. The students will receive HUF 600,000 (EUR 1,860) during the year. The total amount of the call for applications is HUF 18 million (EUR 55,000). The aim of the program is to strengthen Hungarian-language education in law in neighboring countries.



Árpád János Potápi opens exhibition in Csíkszereda

Opening an exhibition in Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad stressed that Hungary's "100 years of solitude" is over. Mr. Potápi stressed that over the past 8 years the Hungarian Government has launched economic development programs, thematic years and has made efforts to establish the Carpathian Basin education and economic space in order to help Hungarian communities remain and prosper in their homeland. He recalled that some weeks ago he made a visit to Vojvodina's Maradék/Maradik, where it is still remembered that in October 1918 Prime Minister István Tisza visited the town and announced that "the



Monarchy has lost the war”. At the same time he asked people living there to preserve their faith and Hungarian identity. Mr. Potápi added that “These thoughts would have been said” in Transylvania as well.

New apartments for Hungarian doctors are inaugurated in Csíkszereda

On Saturday new apartments built for Hungarian doctors were inaugurated in Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc in the presence of State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. The apartment building was built by the Studium Prospero Foundation, supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking at the event, the State Secretary praised the foundation’s 20 years of activity, highlighting that it has played an extremely important role in the preservation of Hungarian communities in Transylvania. The head of the foundation, Dr. Levente Vass, stressed that Hungary has a coherent assistance policy which uses a well-built strategy to help the permanence of Hungarian communities in Transylvania.

The Romanian Supreme court rejects the restitution of the Székely Mikó High School

On Thursday, the Romanian Supreme Court finally rejected the restitution of the Székely Mikó High School to its former owner, the Transylvanian Reformed Church District. The school – which is one of Szeklerland’s most prestigious schools – was taken from the Reformed Church in 1948, during the Communist nationalization. In 2002 – among other properties – it was returned to the church. But later, following a complaint, the Romanian Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) launched proceedings against the committee which decided on the restitution. The members of the committee were sentenced to suspended prison sentences and the building was re-nationalized.

Immediately after the decision, the Transylvania Reformed Church District expressed its concern and announced that it would turn to the Supreme Court of Justice. The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) said that his party supported the decision of the church district. In a statement issued the following day, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad declared that the decision is astonishing and unacceptable, expressing its strongest objection to it.



MEP Andor Deli: the protection of national minorities’ rights must be among the IPA III goals

Speaking at the debate of the IPA III draft resolution in the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament, MEP Andor Deli (representing Hungarians in Vojvodina) said that “the protection of the rights of national minorities and the protection of their cultural and linguistic diversity must be among the goals to be supported while discussing the conditions of Serbia’s EU accession.” Mr. Deli added that he noted with



regret that the protection of the rights of national minorities was omitted from the thematic goals. He added that the aim of his amendment is to “fill this gap”, in order to place the most important issues affecting national minorities – such as protection of their cultural and linguistic diversity – among the thematic goals.



Anti-Hungarian posters re-appear in Transcarpathia

Anti-Hungarian billboards – calling on people to defeat fascism – have been erected in several locations in Transcarpathia. The billboards depict the rector of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute and president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) Ildikó Orosz and the Governor of Transcarpathia, Hennadiy Moskal, together with the symbolic Hungarian bird, the Turul. According to the authorities and Ukrainian Security Service (SBU), the incident might be connected with the billboards which were erected in different locations in Transcarpathia on 20 October with the slogan “Let’s stop the Separatists!”

