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New calls for applications to protect the diaspora and Hungarian youth communities

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that two new calls for applications are available for Hungarian communities abroad worth a total of HUF 750 million (EUR 2.3 million): one for Hungarian youth communities in the Carpathian Basin; and another for Hungarian diaspora communities (Hungarians living outside the Carpathian Basin). Mr. Potápi added that the Hungarian Government is providing HUF 250 million (EUR 770,000) for the former program and HUF 500 million (EUR 1.5 million) for the latter. Concerning the call for applications for youth communities, the state secretary said that it was first launched in 2016 with a budget of HUF 50 million (EUR 150,000), and the amount for the program has grown year by year. The target group of the call for applications includes civil and church organizations which focus on supporting youth (people between the age of 15 and 35). Mr. Potápi said that the other call for applications – the total budget of which is HUF 500 million – aims to support dispersed Hungarian communities across the world (Hungarian diaspora organizations, Hungarian weekend schools etc.). He added that this opportunity targets those civil or church organizations and institutions whose goal is cultivation of Hungarian language and culture abroad.

KDNP: Ferenc Rákóczi II memorial year is of historic significance

Speaking at a press conference, deputy political group leader of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Imre Vejkey said that it is of historic importance that 2019 will be a memorial year dedicated to Ferenc Rákóczi II. Mr. Vejkey said that “the memorial year helps us to become proud and conscious Hungarian citizens” and also gives us a better insight into our joint history, together with our legendary heroes. The deputy political group leader said that the main goal of the memorial year is to pay tribute to the memory of Rákóczi's War of Independence. Mr. Vejkey added that the Hungarian National Assembly will support the organization of events and the preparation of materials in the kin-state and abroad which commemorate Ferenc Rákóczi II and the freedom fight led by him.

2019 phase of the Rákóczi Association's Diaspora Program is open

The Rákóczi Association has issued a statement announcing that applications for the 2019 phase of the Diaspora Program is open from 1 December. In the statement – sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI – the association underlines that the Diaspora Program was started at the request of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, and it is supported by the Hungarian Government. Within the program, between January and December 2019, nearly 1,000 young Hungarians between the ages of 10 and 29 living in the diaspora will have the opportunity to travel to Hungary and Hungarian-populated areas in neighboring countries and become acquainted with their



Hungarian roots. The participants in the program can spend 5-10 days in Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. Those young people can apply who take an active part in their own community's life (participating in scout groups or as members of cultural or religious associations).



Viorica Dăncilă: the Gyulafehérvár decree guaranteed the fundamental rights of national minorities

On Wednesday, speaking at a ceremonial meeting of the Romanian Parliament celebrating the centenary of the 1918 Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia national assembly which declared the unification of Transylvania and the Romanian Kingdom, Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă said that the 1919 Gyulafehérvár decree guaranteed the fundamental rights of national minorities living in Romania. According to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the Romanian Prime Minister quoted that point of the decree which assured complete national freedom for nations living in the country. Mr. Dăncilă said that this principle – which remains valid today – means that national minorities could freely use their mother tongue in education, public administration and the justice system. He added that the “realization” of these pledges is proved by the fact the representatives of 18 national minorities – including the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania – are members of the Romanian Parliament. He added that on behalf of his government in the future also he can guarantee that every citizen of different ethnicity will receive all the rights and respect, regardless of the “provocative statements which are often made against Romania by certain “foreign officials”.



New Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina is formed

On Friday, the new Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina was formed in Szabadka/Subotica. Jenő Hajnal was re-elected president of the council (the local government body of the Hungarian national minority in Serbia). Speaking at the event, Mr. Hajnal expressed his thanks for the support and stressed that he decided to “undertake this task again” because the MNT is a body which serves the whole Hungarian community in Serbia. He stressed that as president of the Hungarian National Council, he would like to serve not only those who voted for him but all the Hungarians living in Vojvodina. The re-elected president stressed that the aim of the MNT for the next four years is the further strengthening of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina. Mr. Hajnal also expressed his gratitude to the Hungarian Government for the support it had given to the Hungarian community in Serbia during the past years.



Szijjártó: Hungary stands by Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty

On Tuesday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary fully stands by Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and this will continue to be a part of Hungary's foreign policy in the future. Mr. Szijjártó told a press conference in Budapest that Hungary also devotes special attention to the 150,000 Hungarians living in Western Ukraine's Transcarpathia region. Ukraine's parliament approved imposing martial law in ten of the country's counties from Wednesday, the minister noted, adding that Transcarpathia is not among these. Mr. Szijjártó said that it is "always bad news" when martial law is declared in a neighboring country, therefore it is in every country's interest for its neighbors to be stable and strong countries. It's bad news for us that the relationship between Russia and Ukraine isn't heading towards a resolution and peace." Mr. Szijjártó noted that when Ukraine began enlisting soldiers for the conflict in its eastern regions, he held talks with his Ukrainian counterpart at the request of the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics about the enlistment of Transcarpathian Hungarians. Mr. Szijjártó said that back then his counterpart had assured him that Hungarians would not be enlisted disproportionately, and local Hungarian leaders say that Ukraine has kept this promise. Experience shows that the only way out of this "grave situation" is for the signatories of the Minsk Agreement to renew and strengthen their cooperation, Mr. Szijjártó said. He said that this is the only mechanism which provides a chance to settle the conflict between Russia and Ukraine through negotiation, adding that Hungary would provide all the necessary support for such a resolution.



Marjan Šarec: Slovenia will support national minorities

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of radio programming and the 40th anniversary of television programming in the Hungarian language on RTV Slovenija, Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Šarec stressed that Slovenia will support national communities which have their own mission: the preservation of their language, culture and identity. He emphasized that these are two important anniversaries of media sources that promote bilingualism, keeping informed and preserving national identity. The Prime Minister added: "We Slovenes are also a nation that knows what it's like to live outside your homeland." He added that cooperation with both ethnic communities living in Slovenia – Hungarians and Italians – is excellent. Speaking at the event, member of the Hungarian national assembly Zoltán Fenyvesi thanked Slovenia that "Hungarians in the country have an opportunity to receive information and provide information about their events in their mother tongue." He added that Hungary has a similar goal: to help every Hungarian – regardless where they live in the world – to feel that they can rely on the kin-state.



Hungarian-Croatian disputes have no impact on minority affairs

On Monday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received Róbert Jankovics, President of the Democratic Union of Hungarians of Croatia (HMDK). At the meeting the parties noted that, despite the historical friendship between the two countries, there are some disputes between Hungary and Croatia. Nevertheless, these have no impact on the situation of the Hungarian and Croatian national minorities in the two countries – thanks in large part to the activities of the HMDK. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Jankovics reviewed the status of projects implemented with the Hungarian government's assistance within the HMDK's regional and economic development strategy, and discussed further development plans. They focused on the following projects: renovation of the Calvinist church in Szentlászló/Laslovo, the development of a school farm and youth center in Kopács/Kopačevo and the Eszék/Osijek Hungarian education and cultural center, where Hungarians have access to education in their mother tongue from nursery school to the final year of secondary school.

