

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
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Tamás Wetzel: economic development will receive a greater role in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Speaking at the 27th Camp of Hungarian university students in the Carpathian Basin in Szentendre, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Tamás Wetzel said that in addition to the current well-functioning programs, the policy for Hungarian communities abroad should focus on economic development. The deputy state secretary stressed that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad has a structure which can serve as a suitable basis for further building, however it should be developed. Mr. Wetzel stressed that after symbolic steps attention should be paid to economy. He added that over recent years Hungarian organizations abroad have prepared several strategies on economic development which should be formed into a single, integrated strategy and supported with integrated resources.

Speaking at the event, the head of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) Zoltán Kántor said that only strong communities are able to realize autonomy, therefore, Hungarian communities abroad should be strengthened. He added that in order to realize this aim, communities must also be active. Among the potential fields of action, Mr. Kántor mentioned the Council of Europe in which potential allies might be found, while in the field of bilateral relations, he drew attention to the potential opportunities basic treaties offer.

Conference entitled “Economic development in the service of personal prosperity and permanence in the homeland”

The State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad of the Prime Minister’s Office is organizing a conference entitled “Economic development in the service of personal prosperity and permanence in the homeland” for Hungarian students of colleges and universities abroad. Hungarians’ prosperity in their homeland cannot be realized without the development of Hungarian economy. The strengthening of the actors of Hungarian economic life and the professional training of Hungarian youth abroad play a vital role in this process. The expansion of economic knowledge of Hungarian students living in neighboring countries contribute to the boosting of economy in the Carpathian Basin. The conference and the training course also serve the permanence of Hungarian communities abroad, since the meeting enhances cooperation between Hungarian students abroad and strengthens Hungarian-Hungarian relations.



Independent Hungarian school in Beszterce will not open

Independent Hungarian school in Beszterce/Bistrița will not open in the new academic year, as Romania’s Ministry of Education has raised legal challenges against the local council’s resolution aimed at opening the school. The local head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in Beszterce-Naszód



county/Județul Bistrița-Năsăud has announced that the Ministry of Education challenged the resolution adopted on 28 May by the municipality of Beszterce, and also disagreed with the planned name of the institution (Hunyadi János Gimnázium). In cooperation with the lawyers of the mayor's office of Beszterce, councilor Antal Attila Bár has tried to correct the parts of the resolution criticized by the ministry, but the corrected version presented at an extraordinary meeting held on Thursday was not adopted, due to the absence of quorum.



Academic year opening ceremony of Hungarian schools in Slovakia

The Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) organized the joint academic year opening ceremony of Hungarian schools in Slovakia on 29 August in Gúta/Guta. The event was addressed by the president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia Tibor Jókai and State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. Speaking at the ceremony, the state secretary said that "Hungarian-language schools in neighboring countries have a dual role. They must excel in preserving Hungarian identity, and provide students with useful knowledge. Today we see that the latter demand is more topical than ever. Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin must cope with not just the problem of assimilation, but the danger of the emigration of Hungarian youth. In order to keep our youth in their homeland, we must provide them with such knowledge which ensures a future for them at home. The only way to persuade Hungarian parents to enroll their children in Hungarian-language kindergartens and schools is to keep and increase the quality of Hungarian schools.



István Pásztor holds talks with Hans Friedrich Schodder

The head of the Provincial House of Representatives in Vojvodina István Pásztor has held talks with the head of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) office in Serbia Hans Friedrich Schodder on the continuation of joint support for the large number of refugees arriving from the Middle East to Serbia. The parties discussed the situation of towns in which the reception of refugees is organized and found that the situation in Magyarkanizsa/Kanjiža and in other refugee reception centers is stable and adequate, and the increased number of refugees (which is the result of the border opening between the Republic of Macedonia and Greece) is treated successfully. Mr. Pásztor expressed his gratitude to the UNHCR office and its representatives in Serbia, who provide huge help for the state bodies and Vojvodina's local governments in the field of handling the situation of migrants, and stressed that the Provincial House of Representatives is also ready to offer all possible support in this field.



Deputy State Secretary Csaba Latorcai lays a wreath at the statue of Sándor Petőfi in Ungvár

On Friday Deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office Csaba Latorcai laid a wreath at the recently vandalized statue of Sándor Petőfi in Transcarpathia's Ungvár. The state secretary, who was on a two-day official visit in Ukraine, said in front of the statue that "we are gathered here together because the statue of a symbolic figure of the Hungarian nation has become the victim of ignorance and unrest again." The state secretary stressed that "those who vandalize the symbol of a nation, insult the whole nation." He emphasized that "we must refuse insults of this kind." Mr. Latorcai also expressed his gratitude to the Ukrainian authorities with the help of whom the perpetrators were found.

