

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Hungarians commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight worldwide

On Sunday, at the official state celebration held in Kossuth Lajos Square in Budapest to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that today the task of Europe's freedom-loving peoples is to "save Brussels from sovietization". In his speech, the Prime Minister said that it is a "millennium-old truth" that there must be "unity in the most important things, freedom in other things and love in all things". Mr. Orbán called 23 October the day of pride. He said that "The bright memory of October 1956 belongs to us all; it is a common heritage that uplifts and cleanses, even after 60 years", he said, stressing that "We have our heroes of 1956 to thank for the fact that we had something to be proud of – even during the darkest years of Hungarian history". In his speech, the Prime Minister extended a special welcome to the ceremony's guest of honor, Polish President Andrzej Duda, and described the friendship between the Hungarian and Polish peoples as an "age-old friendship between two freedom-loving, courageous nations". The Prime Minister stressed that "Hungarians never relinquish freedom". According to Mr. Orbán, in 1956 communism – which until then was believed to be immovable – suffered a wound from which it could not recover; after 1956 the regime and its leaders "entered into a deal with the devil". The Prime Minister stressed that if a nation relinquishes its freedom, then it can at any time slide back to simply being a minority. He said that "Only our own national independence can save us from surrendering to the all-consuming destructive appetites of empires", adding that "The reason we stuck in the throat of the Soviet empire was that we asserted our national ideals". Mr. Orbán said that this is one of the reasons that it is unacceptable for the EU to become a modern-day empire, or for the alliance of free European states to be replaced by a United States of Europe.

On the 60th anniversary of the revolution, every Hungarian community in the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora held commemorations. Addressing the central commemoration of the Hungarian community in London organized by the National Federation of Hungarians in the United Kingdom (MAOSZ), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungarians who fought on the barricades in 1956 with the feeling of national unity in their hearts stood up against a power which was believed invincible. The state secretary added that 25 years after the change of regime, the 1956 heroes – at last – can receive a worthy place in the national memory, and the real heroes, the ordinary people of the Hungarian nation can regain the glory of the revolution. Mr. Potápi expressed his gratitude to Great Britain because it received plenty of Hungarians who had to leave their homeland after the 1956 revolution. He stressed that the most important message of 1956 is that unity is the greatest strength in the world.

The central commemoration of the Hungarian community in Slovakia was held in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda and was addressed by government commissioner at the Prime Minister's Office István Grezsa. The government commissioner recalled the main events of 1956 and said that the heroes of those times set an example for



people of the 21st century. They were brave enough to stand up against a world power which was thought to be immovable and showed the world that they want to have an independent life, free of dictatorship.



Young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad with convincing business plan receive Hungarian state support

Speaking to the Hungarian public media channel M1, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that under the thematic year “2016 – the year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad”, those Hungarians can receive financial support from the Hungarian Government whose submitted business plans have relevance in the field of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad. Speaking about the details of the HUF 600 million (EUR 1,9 million) program, Mr. Szilágyi said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad was looking for Hungarian enterprises abroad which are profitable, able to develop and involve Hungarians. The deputy state secretary added that winners come from several fields: agriculture, service sector, tourism, catering, trade and several other fields. He added that only 10-12 percent of the applicants won. In the field of agriculture the chosen applicants receive between HUF 3 and 4.5 million (EUR 9,700-14,600) while in other fields this sum was HUF 3-6 million (EUR 9,700-19,000). In total, the Hungarian Government ensures HUF 600 million for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living abroad. Mr. Szilágyi added that altogether 967 people applied for the program and 117 of them won.

József Menyhárt: mother tongue education and language use are key issues from the aspect of permanence

On Tuesday, speaking at the session of the Committee on National Cohesion of the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest, the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Menyhárt said that mother tongue education and language use are key issues from the aspect of the Slovakian Hungarian community's permanence. Mr. Menyhárt added that if people accept the oppression of the Hungarian language and the decline of its prestige, they will soon get into a secondary position. He added that a further serious problem in Slovakia is the fact that in the recent years Hungarians lost their faith and do not believe that they are able to stop assimilation. The president of the MKP added that they would also like to strengthen Hungarian-Hungarian dialogue in Slovakia, and – in addition to parties – to involve the civil sphere as well.





The RMDSZ intends to make the Hungarian language official in Szeklerland

One of the points of the campaign program of the Democratic Alliance for Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) prepared for the approaching parliamentary elections in Romania is to make the Hungarian language official in Szeklerland. Introducing the party's election program, the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that the main objectives of the program are the following: to strengthen Hungarian community rights in Romania, establish quality education, develop infrastructure in Transylvania, strengthen the sphere of enterprises and ensure welfare and security for families in Romania. With respect to community rights, Mr. Kelemen said that Romania needs to adopt a new Constitution which should include the Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia Declaration, a document that declares the unity of Transylvania and Romania. He added that the inclusion of this declaration in the Constitution would be possible since Romania celebrates the centenary of its unification in 2018.



Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog holds talks with MKP leader József Menyhárt

On Thursday, Hungary's Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog was on official visit in Pozsony/Bratislava during which he had talks with the leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP). The parties discussed the current issues important for the Hungarian community in Slovakia, including questions in the field of education, culture, churches and joint issues of the two countries. The minister and the representatives of the Slovakian Hungarian community also touched upon the MKP's future plans and main objectives.



Hungary ensures scholarship for Hungarian university students in Vojvodina

311 Hungarian university and college students in Vojvodina concluded scholarship agreement with the Hungarian National Council at the Europa College in Újvidék/Novi Sad. In the 2016/2017 academic year, 256 first-year students and 55 demonstrators will receive monthly scholarship between 90 and 150 EUR due to the support of the Hungarian Government and the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The ceremony as part of which the MNT's contracts were signed, was attended by hundreds of Hungarian university and college students.



Minister of Justice László Trócsányi on official visit in Transcarpathia

Last week Hungary's Minister of Justice László Trócsányi was on official visit in Transcarpathia. During his stay, he had talks with the municipal leaders of the county, among them, the head of the county's local government Mihajlo Rivisz and its deputy



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head József Barta. On Thursday, speaking at a press conference after the talks, the minister said that “neighborhood policy is of crucial importance for the Hungarian Government with respect to Transcarpathia.” He also said that during the talks, the parties agreed with respect to the importance of cross-border cooperation. Mr. Trócsányi added that they also discussed economic questions, and the possible field of economic cooperation between Hungary and Transcarpathia.

