

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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HUF 750 million government support for the 2016 the Year of Young Hungarian Entrepreneurs Abroad program

Speaking at the opening conference of the 2016 Year of Young Hungarian Entrepreneurs Abroad program, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad said that the Hungarian government is allocating HUF 750 million (EUR 2.3 million) for the program. Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that the aim of the program is to strengthen Hungarian communities abroad financially. He added that a further aim is to increase the number of Hungarian employees abroad, and those entrepreneurs who employ Hungarians, as well as to maximize the amount of property concentrated in “Hungarians’ hands.” Mr. Semjén expressed the hope that the Hungarian government support for the program would “shake up” economic life in the Carpathian Basin. He added that the support includes the preparation of a map of resources, labor market research, consultations, training courses, loans and non-refundable aid. The opening conference of the program – which is coordinated by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad – was attended by 187 young Hungarian entrepreneurs living in neighboring countries. At the conference, Hungarian ministries and background institutions participating in the thematic year signed an agreement in principle about the realization of the program.

In an interview to the Hungarian public media channel M1, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the winners of the competitions to be launched within the 2016 Year of Young Hungarian Entrepreneurs Abroad program will receive the money in the first part of the year. He added that the government support allocated for the program consists of HUF 525 million (EUR 1.6 million) non-refundable aid, therefore young Hungarian entrepreneurs (Hungarians under 40) will receive between HUF 3 and 6 million (EUR 9,500-19,000) per person/company. Mr. Potápi said that the most important aim of the program is to increase the number of Hungarian entrepreneurs and companies in the Carpathian Basin, contributing to the prosperity of Hungarians in their homeland.

László Trócsányi addresses the 20th Csángó Ball in Budapest

On Saturday, addressing the 20th Csángó Ball in Budapest, Minister of Justice László Trócsányi said that the Csángó Ball is a cultural manifestation of national cohesion, and the arts of the Csángós enrich not only Hungarians but the whole of Europe. In his speech the minister said that the ball is the largest “roll call” of the Csángó culture. Quoting the Hungarian Fundamental Law, Mr. Trócsányi said that “Hungary shall bear responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living beyond its borders, and shall facilitate the survival and development of their communities; it shall support their efforts to preserve their Hungarian identity and their prosperity in their native lands.” Similarly to past years, the ball was organized by the Pro Minoritate Foundation and the Moldvai Magyarok a Moldvai Magyarokért Szövetség (Moldavian Hungarians for Moldavian Hungarians Association). The main patron of the jubilee event was the President of Hungary János Áder.



Youth research: young Hungarians abroad positively assess the simplified naturalization procedure

According to recent research, 50 percent of young Hungarians living abroad have applied for Hungarian citizenship under the simplified naturalization procedure, and about 90 percent of them say that Hungarians living in minorities are part of the Hungarian nation. The research – the results of which were presented on Thursday at a press conference in Budapest – was carried out by the Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC) and the Institute for Minority Studies of the Center for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAC). In the research study 2700 young Hungarians were interviewed. The results were presented by the director of the institute Attila Papp Z., who said that the number of people in Slovakia who have applied for Hungarian citizenship under the simplified naturalization procedure is very low, while this number in Transcarpathia is 68 percent, in Vojvodina 82 percent, and in Transylvania 56 percent. Ninety percent of those interviewed said that Hungarians living in minorities are part of the Hungarian nation, while two thirds of them said that they are also part of the majority nation. Seventy percent of the young people said that their homeland is the region or country where they live, while about 13 percent of them said that their homeland is the kin-state (Hungary) or historical Hungary.



Minister Péter Szijjártó meets the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen in Bucharest

On Friday, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó held talks with the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen in Bucharest. Among other issues, the parties discussed questions concerning the enforcement of rights of the Hungarian community living in Romania. According to the statement issued after the talks, at the meeting the head of the RMDSZ stressed that the improvement of Romanian-Hungarian bilateral relations was timely, adding that the deprivation of Transylvanian Hungarians' rights must also be touched upon in this process. Mr. Kelemen also highlighted that immediately after his nomination they had asked Prime Minister Dacian Cioloş to enact measures to normalize Romanian-Hungarian relations.

In an interview to the news channel Digi24, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary expects every country in which Hungarians live to not discriminate against them because of their nationality, or because they are Hungarian or dual citizens. He added that several recent actions by Romanian authorities prove that Hungarian officials, as well as people of Hungarian nationality or Hungarian citizenship, “receive special attention” in Romania. The minister added that in his opinion, “it is not in Romania’s interest to form such an image about itself,



therefore, Hungary expects Romania to not apply its laws in a discriminative and selective way.”

Local elections in Romania will be held on 5 June

The Romanian government has accepted a proposal by the Standing Electoral Authority and scheduled the date of Romanian local elections for 5 June 2016. However, it is still not clear whether mayors will be elected in one or two rounds, since the Romanian prime minister Dacian Ciolos said he would examine every option. Parties and party alliances have to present their logos to the Central Election Office by 6 April 2016. Candidates have to apply by 26 April, while the list of candidates will be finalized by 4 May 2016.



Official hearing in Brussels on the legal status of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia

On 26 January, at the initiative of MEP Pál Csáky, an official hearing was held in Brussels on the legal status of the Hungarian community living in Slovakia. The hearing was held at the European Parliament, under the aegis of the Committee on Petitions. The hearing focused, first of all, on the legal status of Hungarians in Slovakia, as well as on the issues of bilingualism and the situation of Hungarian primary schools in the country. The members of three associations – the Via Nova Youth Group, the You Are Important! movement and group Independent Young People – submitted a petition in which they asked the European Parliament to formulate its standpoint on the issue of bilingualism. At the hearing the co-chair of the Minority Intergroup Kinga Gál said that she had been following the situation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia since 2004, but no positive changes have been observed in it yet, due to the dismissive attitude of Slovakian policy. The initiators of the petition asked the European Parliament, among others, to call on the Slovakian government to amend the relevant laws so that the names of national railway stations in Slovakia are written in two languages: in the official state language and in minority language. The Committee on Petitions has three months to respond to the petition.



The tenders of the Hungarian regional and economic development program in Vojvodina are now open

The Prosperitati foundation has published the tenders of the Hungarian regional and economic development program in Vojvodina. In the first round applications can be submitted until the end of March and should be aimed at the purchase of rural houses, equipment for micro- and small enterprises, equipment necessary for plant cultivation in plastic film greenhouses, purchase of livestock and bees, ice safety nets, as well as agricultural machinery and other equipment. One of the main purposes of



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the Prosperitati foundation is to implement the economic and regional development strategies of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina. These economic and regional development strategies contribute to the strengthening of competitive Hungarian enterprises in Vojvodina, therefore they promote the creation of new workplaces and serve the continued survival of the Hungarian community in its homeland.



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