

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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964 young Hungarian entrepreneurs have applied for the call of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad

In June 2016, the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office launched a call for applications for young Hungarian entrepreneurs living outside Hungary in which they can apply for non-refundable grants under the "2016 – Year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad" program. The aim of the program is to develop Hungarian enterprises in neighboring countries and to strengthen Hungarian economic life in the Carpathian Basin. Until the program's deadline, the state secretariat received 964 applications: 510 from Transylvania, 146 from Slovakia, 154 from Vojvodina, 138 from Transcarpathia, 7 from Croatia and 9 from Slovenia. In the next phase, the coordinators of the program will check the validity of the applications, and – if necessary – will call on applicants who have not submitted every necessary document, to submit them in the following seven days. In the next phase, the applications will be evaluated by experts, and the winners will be chosen. The chosen applicants – about 100-120 young Hungarian entrepreneurs or young Hungarians who wish to become entrepreneurs and live beyond the borders of Hungary – will receive non-refundable grants between HUF 3-6 million (EUR 9,500-19,000). The total amount of funding available for the program is HUF 525 million (EUR 1.6 million).



The Bethlen Gábor College is renovated due to cooperation between the Reformed Church and the local government

Speaking at a press conference at the Bethlen Gábor College in Transylvania's Nagyenyed/Aiud, bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Diocese Béla Kató announced that due to the exemplary cooperation between the Reformed church and the local government, the Bethlen Gábor College has been renovated from EU funding of 5 million EUR. The school which soon will celebrate the 400th anniversary of its establishment, was restituted to its original owner – the church – in 2004. According to the statement of the diocese's press office, the school building in Nagyenyed is the only building of the institution which was returned to the church together with its library, since the church agreed to renovate and maintain the library as well. The diocese also renovated the kitchen and the boarding school belonging to the institution, allocating HUF 245 million (EUR 783,000) for this purpose. The journalists attending the press conference also had an opportunity to make a visit to the recently renovated classrooms and boarding school of the institution. Bishop Béla Kató highlighted that the school which currently has 700 students is one of the most important educational institutions of the Hungarian community in Southern Transylvania, which offers not only theoretical courses, but vocational training courses as well, providing an opportunity for students to choose specialization according to their skills.



Approaching Romanian parliamentary elections and current political issues on the agenda at the EU summer camp in Zeteváralja

On 28 July, speaking at the EU summer camp in Transylvania's Zeteváralja/Sub Cetate, executive chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Péter Kovács touched upon questions connected with the approaching parliamentary elections in Romania and current political issues. Concerning cooperation with other Transylvanian Hungarian parties before the parliamentary elections, Mr. Kovács said that the RMDSZ will probably offer two seats for the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP). Regarding municipal elections which were held on 5 June in Romania, the executive chairman said that it is extremely difficult to win the sympathy and support of Hungarians who "hate everything that is politics". He added that the RMDSZ tried to win voters by launching young and new candidates, and it will continue this strategy in the forthcoming parliamentary elections as well.



Slovakian President Andrej Kiska and Hungarian President János Áder will be the main patrons of the 50th meeting of nationalities

On Saturday and Sunday, the 50th Meeting of Nationalities in Nógrád county and the 20th National Folk Festival of Slovaks in Hungary will be held in Hungary's Bánk. The main patrons of the event will be the President of Hungary János Áder and the President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska. The head of the Association of Slovaks in Hungary Ruzsenka Egyedné Baránek said that "ties to culture are the strongest ties of nationalities, and if they appreciate these ties, they also appreciate the fact that they belong to the Slovak nationality." She added that "it is important that Slovaks also present their culture in the country they live, that is, in Hungary, since this way they can get acquainted with other nationalities, learn to respect and accept each other."



István Pásztor: Hungary's referendum on mandatory EU migrant quotas will not spoil relationship between the SNS and the VMSZ

The president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that Hungary's referendum on mandatory EU migrant quotas scheduled to take place on 2 October 2016 will not have direct consequences in Serbia. Mr. Pásztor added that he does not exclude the possibility that the European Union will also expand the mandatory quota system to countries which are in the phase of EU accession. The head of the VMSZ added that the fact that Hungarians living in Serbia will take part in Hungary's referendum on mandatory EU migrant quotas and their support for Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's policy will not have an impact on the relationship between



the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) and the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). A member of the SNS's presidency Vladimir Đukanović has also announced – responding to journalists' questions – that the referendum Hungary will hold in October will not cause any disagreement with Serbia, similarly to analyst Branko Radun who said that Serbia is not against Vojvodina Hungarians' participation in the referendum.



Ede Egán economic development program starts in Transcarpathia

The Transcarpathian economic development program named after agrarian Ede Egán and supported by the Hungarian Government will officially start on 1 August 2016. Before the official start, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) is holding informative forums and consultations at different points of the county to provide help for Hungarian entrepreneurs interested in the program. Several forums of this type have already been held. The forums were and will be led by the chairman of the KMKSZ Charity Foundation Géza Gulácsy, the head of the “Ede Egán Transcarpathian Economic Development Center” Marianna Berki and the KMKSZ's secretary responsible for municipalities and economy András Mester. Under the Ede Egán program, Hungarian entrepreneurs living in Transcarpathia can apply for grants in three categories: agriculture, enterprise development and tourism development. According to the current plans, the program is a three year-project. In the first year, the total amount of funding available for the economic development program is 2 billion HUF (EUR 6.3 million) in the framework of which entrepreneurs can apply for non-refundable grants. In the next two years, Transcarpathian Hungarians will also have an opportunity to receive financial aid in the form of preferential loans.