

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

46/2016



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Diaspora strategy and the thematic year of Hungarian family businesses abroad will be on the agenda of the Hungarian Diaspora Council and the Hungarian Standing Conference

Speaking at a roundtable discussion with journalists, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that a diaspora strategy and the thematic year of Hungarian family businesses abroad planned for 2017 will be on the agenda of the approaching Hungarian Diaspora Council and the Hungarian Standing Conference. The state secretary said that the 6th plenary session of the Hungarian Diaspora Council will be held on 30 November, followed by the 15th plenary session of the Hungarian Standing Conference on 1 December. Both meetings will be opened by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and will be closed by the adoption of a closing declaration. Mr. Potápi said the number of participants in the Hungarian Diaspora Council is increasing continuously. This year at least one hundred Hungarian organizations have been invited to the event. Mr. Potápi added that the plenary session will be one day long, but the participants will have an opportunity to hold talks on the previous afternoon. The state secretary added that an important milestone of this year's meeting will be the adoption of a diaspora strategy. The strategy will focus on several issues, including the establishment of a Hungarian Emigration and Diaspora Center in Budapest, the development of the Hungarian-language education system in the diaspora, the strengthening of economic relations between the kin-state and the diaspora and the potential tools of diaspora diplomacy. Mr. Potápi said that concerning the Hungarian Standing Conference, one of the main program points will be the 2017 thematic year, which is expected to be the thematic year of Hungarian family businesses abroad. He added that Hungary will allocate HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.2 million) for the program.

Hungary welcomes the EMNP's decision concerning their participation in the Romanian parliamentary elections

Speaking at a press conference held with the president of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Zsolt Szilágyi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian government welcomes the decision of the EMNP, according to which the party will not participate with an independent list in the upcoming Romanian parliamentary elections. Therefore the only list representing the Hungarian community in Transylvania will be the joint list of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and the Party of the Hungarian Community (MPP). Mr. Potápi added that with this step the EMNP is increasing the chances of the Transylvanian Hungarian community. Mr. Potápi added he was informed about the EMNP's decision on Monday morning, when he received the leaders of the party in his office in Budapest. The state secretary also spoke about the events which took place in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș some weeks ago. As has been reported, the Romanian National Anti-corruption Directorate (DNA) arrested the Chief Superintendent of Maros county Ștefan Someșan, on



suspicion of abuse of office and two counts of exceeding his power, stating that the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely was unlawfully formed in 2014. The DNA has also brought the director of the school József Zsolt Tamás under official supervision for 60 days. On behalf of the Hungarian government, Mr. Potápi expressed solidarity with the chief superintendent and the director of the school, and said that Hungary will support them.

Zsolt Semjén: Hungary stands up for prosecuted Hungarian leaders in Transylvania

On Friday, Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén presented four Hungarian municipal leaders in Transylvania with the Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The awardees include the Mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe Árpád Antal, the former mayor of Gyergyószentmiklós/Gheorgheni János Mezei, the Mayor of Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc Róbert Ráduly and the Deputy Mayor of Csíkszereda Domokos Szőke. All of these men were honored by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Hungary's national holiday on 20 August, but were unable to receive their awards on that day. All of these Hungarian leaders were prosecuted by the Romanian authorities for alleged corruption. Hungarian advocacy organizations in Transylvania assume that the continuous actions of the Romanian National Anti-Corruption Directorate are mere pretexts to compromise and oppress the Hungarian community's most popular leaders, who are fighting for the continuance of Hungarians in Romania, and their freedom to use national symbols.

Indignant and disappointed Hungarians demonstrate in the streets

On Saturday, speaking at a demonstration held in Marosvásárhely for the protection of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in the town, the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that "although Hungarians in Romania work hard and enrich the country with their creative work and the taxes they pay, in Romania they are still considered second-class citizens." The head of the RMDSZ said that neither the prosecuted director of the school Zsolt Tamás, nor the Chief Superintendent – who supported the reopening of the school – acted unlawfully or stole anybody's property. In parallel with the street demonstration in Marosvásárhely held to protect the Roman Catholic High School and other Hungarian-language church schools, demonstrations were also held in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc, Sepsiszentgyörgy /Sfântu Gheorghe and Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mare.

Miklós Soltész: the Hungarian community strengthens Slovakia



On Sunday a thanksgiving service was held in Slovakia's Tornagörgő/Hrhov for the Hungarian state support received by the Reformed Church. The event was attended by State Secretary for Churches, National Minorities and Civil Society Relations at the Ministry of Human Capacities Miklós Soltész. The Hungarian government allocated HUF 1 billion (EUR 3.2 million) to renewal of the church in several fields. One of these fields is public education, as part of which Reformed Church schools and kindergartens, churches, parishes and community buildings received support.

Miklós Duray is the “intellectual compass” of the Hungarian nation in Slovakia and worldwide

Speaking at the presentation of a two-volume book written by Miklós Duray, the Hungarian author and politician living in Slovakia, Hungary's Deputy Prime Minister and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that Miklós Duray has always been an “intellectual directional compass” for the Hungarian community in Slovakia and worldwide. The Deputy Prime Minister said that Polish and Lithuanian anti-communism movements were led by emblematic figures whose names are remembered by the world. Mr. Semjén said that Miklós Duray is such a figure for the Hungarian community in Slovakia.



New calls for applications will soon be available on the website of the Prosperitati Foundation

At the invitation of the Prosperitati Foundation, State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar will make an official visit to Vojvodina next week. The aim of his visit, which will include meetings in several towns – including regions of scattered Hungarian communities as well – is to present the new calls for applications for Hungarian communities in Vojvodina. These will be announced by the Prosperitati Foundation, as part of Hungary's economic development program 2016-2018, launched to help Hungarians in Vojvodina. The state secretary will visit 23 towns for which the Hungarian government support means a serious help, contributing to their permanence in their homeland. The visit will focus on face-to-face meetings with local Hungarians, who will have an opportunity to present their ideas, plans and problems to the state secretary.

As has been reported, in 2015 November the Hungarian government launched a HUF 50 billion (EUR 161 million) economic development program in Vojvodina. The aim of the program is to help the local Hungarian community prosper in its homeland.



Economic Development Program in Transcarpathia: the first contracts are signed



Following the model of the HUF 50 billion (EUR 161 million) economic development program in Vojvodina, in January 2016 the Hungarian government launched a similar economic development program in Transcarpathia with a budget of HUF 32 billion (EUR 103 million). In this region, the Egán Ede Economic Development Center is responsible for the implementation of the program. The first round of the calls for applications is over, and the first winners – who were chosen in the category of tourism – signed their contracts on 7 November. In the category of tourism, 150 applicants were selected. Speaking at the event, the member of the Ukrainian parliament and the head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (László Brenzovics) expressed his gratitude to the Hungarian government for its support, stressing that it means a lot for the Transcarpathian Hungarian community in this present difficult time.



President of Hungary János Áder on official visit to Australia and New Zealand

President of Hungary János Áder started a week-long official visit to Australia and New Zealand, as part of which he met with members of local Hungarian communities. In Melbourne, on the first stop in his visit, the President took part in a commemoration marking the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight. Addressing the event, Mr. Áder said that Hungarians scattered around the world after 1956 did not leave a nation, but a state which considered people to be its enemy. He added that in several countries Hungarians were received with pleasure and were given a lot of help. He added that “Hungary is grateful for the confidence Hungarians received in advance, and is proud of the achievements which Hungarians contributed to their host states.” The President added that Hungarians who scattered across the world preserved their Hungarian identity, raised their children as Hungarians, and even their descendants’ generations cultivate their ties with the home of their parents and grandparents.” Mr. Áder added that “we are proud that these Hungarians have preserved their faith and are cultivating their traditions.” After the commemoration in Melbourne, the President took part in a 1956 commemoration in Sydney, and attended a service in Brisbane, marking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Reformed Church. After that Mr. Áder held talks in Wellington with the Prime Minister of New Zealand.



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD
DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFORMATION

H-1055 BUDAPEST, KOSSUTH L. TÉR 4.
PHONE: +36-1-795-48-14
FAX: +36-1-795-01-46
ADDRESS: H-1357 BUDAPEST, PB.: 2.