

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Government signs cooperation agreement with Hungarian teachers abroad

On Friday Hungary's Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog, State Secretary for Public Education and Director General of the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research József Kaposi signed a long-term cooperation agreement with representatives of eight teachers' organizations from the Carpathian Basin. In his address at the ceremony, the Minister urged a unified education strategy for Hungarian communities abroad. He said that a "common Hungarian educational sphere" should be developed to facilitate professional cooperation, maximum use of available capacities and to provide scholarship programs. The latter is to encourage young people to go into higher education as well as to help graduates stay and prosper in their homelands, even if these are in the territory of another country. The Minister noted that 300 Hungarian teachers visit Hungary through various programs each year, while the Government also sends teachers to neighboring countries to work with Hungarian communities.

MTVA plans to develop its correspondent network

At the fall conference of the Kós Károly Kollégium of the Media Support and Asset Management Foundation (MTVA) held in Békéscsaba at the weekend, Director General of the MTVA László Zsolt Szabó said that it is necessary to examine where the correspondent centers of the Carpathian Basin could be expanded, and by the end of next year Hungarians living in diaspora should also be involved in this network. The Director General expressed his pleasure that State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi had promised to support this aspiration either this year or at the beginning of 2015. Mr. Szabó said that the MTVA started to develop the network of its correspondents in 2011, and currently there are 68 news agency, TV or radio correspondents in the Carpathian Basin. He added that four television studios have been renovated recently (in Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, Szabadka/Subotica, Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca and Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda) and they are also planning to build a studio in Transcarpathia's Ungvár/Uzhhorod.

Opening the conference on Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that is to the credit of the Kós Károly Kollégium that we can speak about a unified nation in the media as well. The State Secretary emphasized that the "responsibility, capacity and work" of Hungarian correspondents abroad is essential for the reunification of the nation. These correspondents connect Hungarians living in different parts of the world, and make them feel that "they are in Hungary, they have not fallen out of the life of the nation, and they have not been torn away from it."





EMNP appeals to the ombudsman on the issue of street names

The Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania (EMNP) announced on Thursday that it will appeal to the Romanian ombudsman, asking him to raise constitutional objections to a law making the celebration of Romania's national holiday compulsory. The law announced on Tuesday states that one central street in every town should bear the name "1 December 1918" and it also states that on 1 December every year the central and local authorities of Romania must organize educational, cultural and historical programs and military parades. The EMNP considers that the law initiated by Romania's Minister of Defense Mircea Dusa is clearly targeted against the towns of Szeklerland, since except for these towns almost every Romanian town has a street named 1 December 1918. In the opinion of the EMNP this law is an obstacle to the normalization of Romanian-Hungarian relations, since it ignores the fact that the first of December is not a day of celebration for every citizen of Romania. The party considers that the law violates the autonomy of local governments laid down in the Constitution, as it regulates the names of streets and the organization of local events. Therefore the EMNP is calling on the ombudsman to raise constitutional objections to the law.



Potápi: broad cohesion is needed for Hungarians in Slovakia to survive

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said in Pozsony/Bratislava on Tuesday that broad social and civil society cohesion is necessary for the Hungarian community in Slovakia to survive. The State Secretary held a joint press conference with the head of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) after having talks with the leaders of the MKP and the representatives of church and other Hungarian organizations in Slovakia. The parties discussed the goals and challenges faced by the local Hungarian community in the areas of education, culture and youth policy. Speaking at the event, the head of the MKP József Berényi said that the community considers the support of the Hungarian government important and would count on it in the future.

The Court of Justice of the EU rejects Lomnici's petition

According to a newsletter of the Court of Justice of the European Union published on Monday, in September the Court rejected by decree a petition against the European Parliament submitted by the President of the Council for Human Dignity Zoltán Lomnici. In 2012 Zoltán Lomnici submitted a petition to the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, in which he contested those elements of the Slovak Citizenship Act which state that persons adopting the citizenship of another country are deprived of their Slovak citizenship. After several months of examination, the Committee accepted the case, but sometime later dropped it, after the Court of Justice of the European Union had rejected similar cases and the European Commission had stated that the question did not belong to the EU's sphere of competence. Mr. Lomnici



challenged this decision in the Court of Justice of the EU. The court wrote in its order that the Committee sent its written notice and justification only a month after the action was brought. The court stated that in terms of its case law, the decision of the Petitions Committee cannot be challenged in the court, therefore Mr. Lomnici's petition had to be declared inadmissible.

Zsolt Németh emphasizes the importance of Hungarian-Serbian reconciliation

At the invitation of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament Zsolt Németh made a visit to Serbia's Felsőhegy/Gornji Breg and took part in an event entitled "Magyar Összefogás 1956 emlékezete – 56 sóhaj" ("Hungarian Union, in memory of 1956 – 56 sighs"). Speaking at the event, the head of the VMSZ István Pásztor emphasized the importance of the anniversary of the 1956 Revolution, while in the second part of his speech he highlighted the importance of the election of national minority councils scheduled for 26 October. Mr. Németh said that the results of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia can be considered a success for the Hungarian community in Vojvodina. He added that the list entitled "Hungarian Union" (Magyar Összefogás) is a complete and comprehensive list which represents the interests of Hungarians in every field.

The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament Zsolt Németh said in Belgrade that it is one of the Hungarian government's greatest achievements that several steps forward have been taken in the process of Hungarian-Serbian historic reconciliation. Mr. Németh enumerated the steps which led to last year's event when President of Hungary János Áder and President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolics paid joint tribute to innocent Hungarian and Serbian victims executed during and after the Second World War.

The Year of Hungarian Senior Elementary School Children Abroad continues in Transcarpathia

On 14 October more than 400 students and teachers from the Csongor/Chomonin Primary School and the Nagydobrony/Velika Dobrony Secondary School had an opportunity to take part in a 1.5-hour-long lecture in Physics and a series of experiments, and to get acquainted with a more interesting side of Physics in the program "Travelling Physics Show". After Slovakia, Transylvania and Vojvodina, Transcarpathia was the next stop for the show organized as part of the "2014 – Year of Hungarian senior elementary school children abroad" program organized by the



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