

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

31/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Petőfi Sándor Program has been launched

Opening the training week of the Petőfi Sándor Program aimed at supporting dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, held in the House of Hungarians in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that everything possible must be done to halt and reverse population decline in dispersed Hungarian communities. The state secretary said that the interns taking part in the program have pledged that they will represent the Hungarian nation abroad, and will do everything possible to help dispersed Hungarian communities. Mr. Potápi added that the target areas for the program, which is based on the example of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program, will include the Carpathian Basin: Austria, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Southern Poland and the Romanian region of Moldavia.

The ministerial commissioner responsible for the monitoring of cross-border investments István Grezsa said that dispersed communities living in the Carpathian Basin have been “melting away” for 95 years. He added that the program strives to halt this process and express the kin-state’s care for these communities. Mr. Grezsa expressed his conviction that the interns will experience loyalty, hope and faith among Hungarian communities abroad.

Under the HUF 350 million (EUR 1.1 million) program, fifty young Hungarians will have the opportunity to spend 9 months among dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin; their task will be to organize community and cultural events and to teach Hungarian language, history and folk dance.

László Kövér: the unification of the nation beyond the borders is an aim of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Speaking at a Rákóczi Association meeting for Hungarian literature teachers in the Carpathian Basin, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér said that a direct aim of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad outlined in 2010 by Viktor Orbán’s second government is to start the unification of the Hungarian nation beyond the borders. The House Speaker added that in contrast to the revisionist policy for Hungarian communities abroad applied between the two world wars, and in accordance with the realities, the Hungarian government seeks to adapt to the existing geopolitical order and respect the borders. Mr. Kövér added that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad means the protection and expansion of opportunities for Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin or anywhere in the world. The head of the Parliamentary Committee on National Cohesion Károly Pánczél said at the event that the permanence and prosperity of Hungarians in their homeland is also an educational, cultural and mother-tongue issue, adding that Hungary’s kin-state policy strives to strengthen this by means of various assistance and programs.

Hungary doubles income top-ups for clergy in Hungarian churches abroad

Speaking in Romania’s Máriaradna/Radna on Sunday, State Secretary for Churches, National Minorities and Civil Affairs Miklós Soltész said that from next year Hungary



will double income supplements for clergy in Hungarian churches in Transylvania, Transcarpathia, Vojvodina and Slovakia. At the reconsecration of the Catholic church and Franciscan monastery in Máriaradna, the state secretary said that the allocation for the top-up will rise from 210 million HUF (EUR 680,000) to 420 million HUF (EUR 1.4 million). Mr. Soltész stressed that “those clergy who serve in the various churches there do much to preserve Hungarian identity, in addition to preserving the faith; this is a part of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad.”



Matthias Corvinus Statue in Kolozsvár has been vandalized

Unknown perpetrators have poured a considerable amount of brown paint over the pedestal of the statue of Matthias Corvinus in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. The statue, which is one of Kolozsvár’s most important monuments, was vandalized on Wednesday. The city’s deputy mayor Anna Horváth has said that the city and county police were alerted immediately, as soon as the incident was discovered. The town hall’s department of monument protection will file a criminal complaint.

In connection with the incident, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) has issued a statement, in which the president of the alliance Hunor Kelemen wrote that “We find it intolerable that in the Youth Capital of Europe, in a city competing for the title of “Cultural Capital of Europe”, a heritage asset – the restoration of which has been the result of joint work by Hungary and Romania – can be the target of such attacks.” Mr. Kelemen added that the RMDSZ has called on the competent authorities to act as soon as possible and identify the perpetrators.



Polis Slovakia survey: the MKP would win representation in Parliament

According to a recent survey by the pollster Polis, if parliamentary elections were held now in Slovakia, the ruling Smer party would win. Parliamentary representation would be as follows: the social democratic party – 35% (61 seats); the Háló party – 12. %; the coalition of Ordinary People and New Majority (NOVA) – 8.9%; the Christian Democratic Movement – 7.9 %, the Most-Híd party (Bridge) – 8.1 % (14 seats); and the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) – 5.1 % (9 seats).



VMSZ leader István Pásztor holds talk with State Secretary Zoltán Maruzsa

Deputy State Secretary responsible for higher education at the Ministry of Human Capacities Zoltán Maruzsa has held talks with the President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor and the head of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Jenő Hajnal in Szabadka/Subotica. The parties discussed the projects



of Vojvodina's higher education over the past years which have won kin-state support, as well as planned future projects. More detailed talks on the issue will take place in September. The state secretary also made a visit to the Europe College in Újvidék/Novi Sad.



3,000 Transcarpathian Hungarian children will participate in summer camps near Lake Balaton

Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Tamás Wetzel has announced that, due to the Erzsébet Program, this year 3,000 Transcarpathian Hungarian children will have an opportunity to take part in summer camps near Lake Balaton. Mr. Wetzel was talking about the program in Parliament, where he received a group of Transcarpathian children who had taken part in an Erzsébet summer camp near Zánka. Greeting the 200-strong group of children aged between 8 and 14, the deputy state secretary said that, in addition to financial aid for Hungarians in Transcarpathia, paying attention to them can be the greatest support.

Mr. Wetzel added that Hungarian children from Transcarpathia will arrive in Hungary in ten phases, and can spend one week on the northern shore of Lake Balaton. The state secretary expressed his conviction that the experience and memories these camps will offer can contribute to strengthening the children's Hungarian identity.