

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Public media helps the policy for Hungarian communities abroad be present in the news

Speaking at a meeting of Hungarian reporters abroad organized by the Kós Károly Kollégium of MTVA (the umbrella organization for Hungarian public service media), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the policy for Hungarian communities abroad would not be present in the news, if the public media did not help it to be. The state secretary said that this field of policy is one of those which would hardly be known if only commercial channels existed. Mr. Potápi added that, without the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, we would not be able to have a unified Hungarian nation, regardless of parties and governments. The state secretary stressed that the media connects Hungarians throughout the world, from Sydney to Kolozsvár/ Cluj Napoca.

The Meeting of Hungarian Reporters Abroad was held between 7-9 October in Hungary's Székesfehérvár with the participations of Hungarian TV and radio reporters from Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina and Transcarpathia. As the deputy head of the Kós Károly Kollégium Tamás Barlay said at the meeting, the aim of the annual event is to provide an opportunity for Hungarian reporters abroad to share experience and discuss the further opportunities of development.

The restructuring of Hungary's public education has an impact on Hungarian education abroad

The Hungarian Standing Conference's (Máért) committee on education and culture held its meeting on Monday. In addition to the current annual thematic program entitled "2015 - the year of Hungarian vocational education abroad", the meeting focused on the restructuring of Hungary's public education as well as cultural programs. Deputy State Secretary responsible for public education Imre Sipos said that the restructuring of Hungary's public education has a great impact on Hungarian-language education abroad as well. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that his state secretariat paid particular attention to the development of education and economy in 2015, adding that it is very important to strengthen Hungarian communities economically, in order to help their prosperity in their homeland. Mr. Potápi added that this was the aim of the 2015 annual thematic program, under which several projects concerning Hungarians abroad were realized.



Hungarians in Transylvanian commemorate the Martyrs of Arad

Speaking on the Memorial Day for the Martyrs of Arad on 6 October in Transylvania's Arad, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and President of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that commemorations for the Arad Martyrs should raise awareness about the common fate of Hungarians and Romanians and promote the permanence of the Hungarian



nation. At the commemoration which – due to renovations taking place around the Statue of Liberty – was held at the Scaffold, the Deputy Prime Minister praised the historic role of the martyrs and recalled several incidents which strived to prevent the commemorations of the event. The Deputy Prime Minister said that political discord between the Hungary and Romania is counterproductive and unnatural: though we have roads between the two countries, all of them are useless if Romanian does not show openness towards demands for autonomy, does not guarantee language rights and does not respect national symbols.

The Memorial Day for the Martyrs of Arad was also commemorated in other towns of Transylvania.

The Siculicidium Memorial of Madéfalva is renovated

Speaking in front of the Siculicidium Memorial in Transylvania's Madéfalva/Siculeni, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that autonomy and self-regulation are ancient rights of Szeklers, and demands for them are valid and legitimate. The renovated memorial the renovation process of which took three years, was inaugurated on the 110th anniversary of its erection. The event was also addressed by the president of the Democratic alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen. After the event, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi was presented with the title of honorary citizen of Madéfalva for his help in the renovation of the memorial.

As it was previously reported, the renovation process of the memorial which was erected in 1899, started in 2013. The memorial commemorates the Massacre at Madéfalva (in Latin is used as Siculicidium which means murder of Szeklers) which was a mass murder committed against Szeklers by the Habsburg army in 1764, under Maria Theresa.

Primary mayoral election in Marosvásárhely

The town of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş held a primary mayoral election which was won by the candidate of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Zoltán Soós. The candidate of the RMDSZ received 2,702 votes which constitutes 62 % of the vote. The total number of people who participated in the primary was 4,337 which is 39 % of the people registered. Speaking after the announcement of the results, Mr. Soós said that “so far he has been the candidate of the RMDSZ, but from tomorrow he will be the candidate of all the residents of Marosvásárhely”. Mr. Soós also called on the residents of the town to cooperate in order to defeat the current Romanian mayor Dorin Florea, and have a Hungarian mayor in the town.





The municipal concept of the MKP is presented in the European Parliament

The analysis of the situation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia and the municipal concept of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) were among the priority topics on the agenda of the session of the European Parliament's Minority Intergroup held on 8 October. The session was opened by the initiator of the event MEP Pál Csáky who welcomed the participants (almost 100 people) of the session. Mr. Csáky gave a short presentation of the history of the 500,000-strong Hungarian community living in Slovakia, and its role in the history of Slovakia over the past 25 years. Mr. Csáky stressed that the MKP has already proved in two Slovakian governments that it is able to cooperate with those Slovaks who "have a democratic mind", in order to find joint solutions to the problems of the country. Speaking at the event, the president of the MKP József Berényi outlined the current problems of the Hungarian community in Slovakia. He also informed the participants about the plans of the MKP aimed at solving the problems of Hungarians in Slovakia.



The Petőfi Sándor Program is started in practice

The Petőfi Sándor Program launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad of Hungary has started in practice. Under the program, 50 young Hungarian interns are sent to dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin in order to help them and strengthen their Hungarian identity. In Vojvodina, five Hungarian towns received interns, among them, Doroszló/Doroslovo. The interns of the program will carry out their duties in Vojvodina until the middle of May 2016. The primary aim of the initiative is to strengthen the identity of Hungarians who are on the verge of assimilation, to support their communities and establish contacts.



October 6 Commemorations in Transcarpathia

The Hungarian community in Transcarpathia traditionally holds its October 6 commemoration in Nagyszőlős/Vinohragyiv, at the statue of the former Speaker of the House of Magnates, martyr Baron Zsigmond Perényi. This year, the speaker of the event was Ministerial Commissioner responsible for cross-border investments at the Prime Minister's Office István Grezsa. In his speech, Mr. Grezsa stressed that "one of the main lessons of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence is that Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin joined their forces, regardless of their nationality, party affiliation, and origin; Hungarians and non-Hungarians, barons and civilians, people from the regions of Bácska/Bačka, Bereg and Ung fought for a joint purpose: to have an independent, sovereign Hungary." The ministerial commissioner



highlighted that Hungary, similarly to the previous periods, will continue to support the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.
