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Permanence in the homeland cannot be realized without the development of Hungarian economy

Speaking in Hungary's Simontornya, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that permanence in the homeland cannot be realized without the development of Hungarian economy. The state secretary addressed a conference entitled "Economic development in the service of individual prosperity and permanence in the homeland", organized for students studying at Hungarian-language higher educational institutions in neighboring countries. Mr. Potápi said that in this process the strengthening of actors of Hungarian economic life, thus, the professional training of Hungarian students abroad is of key importance. The conference was attended by 65 Hungarian students studying abroad. The aim of the conference was to present the interacting relations between economic development, vocational education, individual prosperity and permanence in the homeland. Among the presenters of the conference were the executive director of the Hungarian Foundation for Enterprise Promotion and president and chief executive director of the Hungarian Szerencsejáték Zrt. Márton Braun, the director of the HÉTFA research institute András Csige, Member of the Hungarian Parliament and spokesperson of the political group of the Fidesz Bence Tuzson, as well as the founder and curator of the Példakép Foundation Katalin Valentínyi.

Árpád János Potápi: Territorial autonomy is economic power

In an interview to the Hungarian daily Magyar Idők, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungary supports the demands of Szeklers for territorial autonomy with all political means. Mr. Potápi, who took part in the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Siculicidium Memorial of Madéfalva/Siculeni on Sunday, stressed that Hungary will stand up for this issue in every international forum where Szeklers raise their demand. The state secretary said that communities are similar to families in that respect that first they have to act alone instead of waiting for solutions from others. He added that although the issue of autonomy is supported by the Szekler National Council (SNZT), Szeklers themselves must also remain firm on their decision and continue their fight.

The Day of Hungarian Language becomes a public holiday in Romania

Next month (in November 2015), the Day of the Hungarian Language will be celebrated as a public holiday in Romania for the first time. According to the decision of the Romanian Parliament made on Tuesday, the Day of the Hungarian Language will be celebrated in Romania on 13 November every year. The proposal was supported by 264 members of the parliament, received 10 votes against and 19 abstentions. The law which was initiated by the representatives and senators of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in spring 2015 makes possible the official celebration of the Hungarian language in every town and city



inhabited by Hungarians, and allows the organization of different cultural events and programs series on this day. The lawmaker of the RMDSZ in Bihar/Bihor county Ödön Szabó said that “13 November is celebrated everywhere in the Carpathian Basin as the Day of the Hungarian Language, we also wanted to join this tradition. This was the day in 1844 when the Hungarian language became official in state administration and public education. To commemorate this event, the Hungarian National Assembly declared 13 November the Day of the Hungarian Language in 2011.”

[The Government is committed to settling Hungarian-Romanian relations](#)

In a press release to Hungarian news agency MTI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade declared on Thursday that Hungary is committed and open to settling its relations with Romania, and this is clearly also in the interests of the Hungarian community living there. The statement was issued in reaction to a statement by Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu on Wednesday evening, according to which solutions based on consensus must be sought in Romanian-Hungarian intergovernmental relations, because a one-sided approach does not lead to a permanent solution to disputed issues. The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade stressed: Romania is one of Hungary's strategic partners; the two countries are both members of the European Union and NATO and are neighbors, furthermore, there is a significant Hungarian minority living in Romania.

[The foreign ministry of the USA criticizes the situation of restitution in Romania](#)

In its annual report examining the situation of freedom of religion in the world, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States of America (USA) highlights that the Romanian Government hinders the restitution of church properties of Hungarian historic churches in Romania. The document which was made public on Thursday, declares that the passivity of Romanian government institutions affects minority religious communities negatively, and it is also reflected in the delay of the restitution of nationalized properties. The report also criticizes the discriminative administrative practices applied in Romania, manifestations of anti-Semitism, mentioning several statements by Prime Minister Victor Ponta. The report also mentions the case of the Szekler Mikó High School in Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe.



[Fifth Municipal Free University in Slovakia](#)

The fifth Municipal Free University organized by the Pro Civis civic association in Slovakia's Nagymegyér/Velký Meder started on Friday. Speaking at the event, the president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi listed three important topics which affect municipalities: the issue of elementary schools, self-governance, and the public administrative system. The event was also attended by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi who gave a



presentation on the cross-border assistance system of the Hungarian Government. The state secretary highlighted those programs which support the permanence and prosperity of Hungarian communities in their homeland. Mr. Potápi emphasized that Hungary's kin-state policy will continue to pay particular attention to the support of dispersed Hungarian communities since this is the group which is most at risk.

MP István Szávay opens office in Dunaszerdahely

MP of the oppositional, far-right Hungarian party Jobbik István Szávay has opened an office in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda. An organizer of the Jobbik in Slovakia Péter Pallér said that according to their plans, the party will open further offices in Slovakia in the near future. Prime Minister Robert Fico said that he considers the opening of the office a manifestation of provocation and a wrong step. At the same time, he called on the Slovakian Parliament to consult the Hungarian Parliament immediately and take the necessary measures. The speaker of the Slovakian Parliament Peter Pellegrini called on MP István Szávay – who is also the deputy chief of the party – to close his office in Dunaszerdahely immediately, while a few days later he announced that the Slovakian Parliament will soon amend laws since the vice-president of the Jobbik refused to close his office. The aim of the planned law amendment is to prevent the MPs of other states to open offices in Slovakia. The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the Most-Híd party also expressed their disapproval in connection with the opening of the office.



Conference on the protection of national minorities in Szabadka with the participation of Hungarian and Serbian Ministers of Justice

Minister of Justice of Hungary László Trócsányi and the Serbian Minister of Justice Nikola Selaković attended a conference in Szabadka/Sobotica entitled "The enforcement of minority rights in Hungary – the best practices". The participants of the conference presented the results reached since the signing of the cooperation agreement (May 2015). This was the fourth meeting of the two ministers since May. Speaking at the event, the Serbian Minister said that cooperation between the two countries is of crucial importance since it can help Serbia a lot in its accession to the European Union. The Hungarian Minister of Justice László Trócsányi said that the joint work is a friendly exchange of experience which can provide positive legal experience for both countries. Mr. Trócsányi added that Hungary and Serbia have faced similar problems during the recent period. Serbia has to complete its Action Plan on Minority Rights by the end of this year, since it is a condition of the continuation of its EU accession process. The representatives of the Hungarian Government who took part in the event stressed that Hungary supports the completion of the action plan as soon as possible.



State Secretary Árpád János Potápi announces new programs supporting Transcarpathian Hungarians

Speaking in Transcarpathia's Uzhhorod/Ungvár on Tuesday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that the Hungarian Government launches new assistance programs aimed at helping the permanence of Transcarpathian Hungarians in their homeland. The state secretary opened a modern physics laboratory at the Hungarian-language faculty of the Uzhhorod/Ungvár National which was supported with 5 million HUF (16,000 EUR) by the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad. At a press conference held after the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Potápi said that the two new assistance programs will start in October 2015 aimed at encouraging Hungarians in Transcarpathia to stay in their homeland. In this year, Hungarian-speaking arts and music school teachers will receive an assistance worth 100,000 HUF (325 EUR) (the total amount of the assistance is 35 million HUF (115,000 EUR), Hungarian-speaking doctors will receive an assistance worth 150,000 HUF (485 EUR), while Hungarian speaking health workers with higher education graduates will be supported with 100,000 HUF (325 EUR).

