

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

9/2016



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
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Péter Szijjártó receives the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs in Budapest

On Wednesday, Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó received the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimnkin in Budapest. The Minister stressed that it is in everyone's fundamental interest for the parties to do everything possible to ensure that the Minsk Agreements are fully realized. Mr. Szijjártó said that one of the important goals of Hungarian economic, foreign and national policy is to continuously strengthen cooperation and relations with Ukraine, because it is in Hungary's interest to have strong neighbors, as is the safety and security of the 150,000 strong Hungarian community living in Ukraine. The Hungarian Foreign Minister welcomed the fact that relations between the Ukrainian Government and Transcarpathian Hungarian political parties and organizations, as well as between the Ukrainian majority and Hungarian minority communities are balanced. He said that all that Hungary has ever asked and is asking from the Ukrainian Government is to realize what Hungarians living in Transcarpathia request, and this will remain the case in future as well.



Árpád János Potápi: Reinforcing young entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin is a national interest

Speaking at a conference in Bucharest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi described the reinforcement of young entrepreneurs in the Carpathian Basin as a national interest. He stressed that the support provided by the Hungarian Government serves to help young entrepreneurs to become models for their own environment and the entire Hungarian community. Speaking at the business conference organized jointly by the Hungarian Business Association in Romania, the organization which represents the interests of Hungarian businesspeople active in Romania, and the Hungarian Embassy in Bucharest, the state secretary said that the calls worth HUF 525 million (EUR 1.6 million) announced as part of the thematic year of young Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad will be published in April. Within the framework of this scheme, young entrepreneurs under the age of 40 may submit requests for non-repayable loans of HUF 3 to 6 million (EUR 9600 to 19,000).

Before his visit to Bucharest, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi participated in the inauguration ceremony of two new, modern vocational training workshops in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. At the Vocational Training Institute of the Reformed High School of Kolozsvár, the state secretary inaugurated a carpentry which was supported with HUF 14.8 million (EUR 47,000) by the Hungarian Government, and a book-binding machinery at the Báthory István High School which received HUF 3.4 million (EUR 10,900) from the Hungarian Government.



The decision of the Romanian Council of Honor depriving MEP László Tőkés of his state award remains in effect

According to the final decision of the Romanian Supreme Court, the ruling of the Council of Honor which proposes to deprive MEP László Tőkés of the “Order of the Star of Romania” state award remains in force. The decision was published on Thursday on the website of the Supreme Court. László Tőkés received the award in 2009 from the Romanian President Traian Basescu for his historic role in the 1989 Revolution. In November 2013, the Council of Honor found him “unworthy” of the “Order of the Star of Romania” and initiated the withdrawal of the award, after Mr. Tőkés asked Hungary to establish a “system of national cooperation” that would offer “protectorate” status to Transylvania. As a reaction, Mr. Tőkés initiated a lawsuit against the Council of Honor. It is the President of Romania Klaus Iohannis who has to make the final decision in the issue.

Hunor Kelemen: Transylvanian Hungarians’ sense of security has become unstable

At a meeting of the Council of Alliance Representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) held in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, the president of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that Transylvanian Hungarians’ sense of security has become unstable in the recent period. The president of the RMDSZ said that anti-Hungarian attitudes in Romania – which were earlier thought to be manageable – have strengthened. He added that “in the recent period, Romanians use the tools of justice to withdraw or weaken the rights of the Hungarian community.” He added that decisions aiming to repress the rights of Hungarians are planned and continuous.



Árpád János Potápi discusses the situation of Hungarian-language schools in Slovakia

Speaking at a meeting in Slovakia’s Komárom/Komárno, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that it is in the interest of the Hungarian community living in Slovakia that the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) wins seats in the Slovakian Parliament during the elections scheduled to take place in March. The state secretary stressed that the MKP is able to ensure a representation for the Hungarian community and can also stand up for its schools facing closure. Mr. Potápi held talks with the president of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) József Berényi, the head of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia (SZMPSZ) Tibor Jókai and the directors of the schools concerned, with whom he discussed the situation of Hungarian-language schools. Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Potápi emphasized that the only way to save Hungarian-language schools is if the MKP wins seats in the Slovakian Parliament during the elections on 5 March, and Hungarian parents decide to enroll their children in Hungarian-language schools. He added that an increase in the



number of students choosing Hungarian schools might decrease the number of schools facing closure.

Conference on the use of mother tongue in Komárom

On 22 February, the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) organized a conference entitled “Bilingual fights in the practice and digital space” which was held at the Selye János University in Slovakia’s Komárom/Komárno. Speaking at the conference, the head of the research institute Zoltán Kántor said that “it is important to encourage Hungarians living abroad to use their mother tongue not only in their homes but in the public administration and official dealings as well.” Mr. Kántor added that the aim of the conference was to present those initiatives which promote the use of mother tongue. He added that neighboring countries are not “too generous” concerning the ensuring of language rights, and do not encourage members of national minorities to use their mother tongue.



A new Hungarian organization in Vojvodina will participate in elections

Speaking at a press conference held in Serbia’s Szabadka/Subotica, the co-chair of the Hungarian Movement (Magyar Mozgalom) civil organization which was established in 2015 said that with respect to the previous year, the organization decided to participate in the approaching parliamentary and provincial elections in Serbia. At a meeting held in Szabadka, the members of the Hungarian Movement shared their opinion and ideas, and decided to take part in the elections. The question on participation received more than 260 votes in favor and 2 abstentions. Tamás Korhecz, co-chair of the organization said that this decision means in practice that the Hungarian Movement will try to be present at all levels of power as a Hungarian national political alternative.

The Hungarian Movement (MM) civil organization was established in 2015 by people who quit the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). According to the current decision, two Hungarian organizations, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and the Hungarian Movement (MM) will both participate in the approaching elections, representing the 250,000 Hungarian community living in Vojvodina



The Hungarian language becomes more and more popular in Transcarpathia

Between 26 and 28 February, the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ) organized a three-day conference at the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian State Institute in Beregszász/Berehove on the situation of dispersed Hungarian communities living in the Carpathian Basin. The office chief of the KMPSZ Károly Berki welcomed the participants: teachers working at Hungarian



schools in dispersed communities. Under the program of the KMPSZ, there are fifteen Sunday schools in dispersed communities which teach Hungarian language. Teachers working in these schools presented their work at the conference, as well as the situation of Sunday schools in Transcarpathia. Mária Takács (KMPSZ) who is responsible for dispersed Hungarian communities living in Transcarpathia, said that the popularity of the Hungarian language is growing in the region, even in dispersed communities. However, the lack of Hungarian teachers constitutes a serious problem, and this problem is present not only in dispersed communities, but among Hungarians living in a bloc as well.

