Visit of the Committee for Equality and Non-discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

There is Room for Further Promotion of Minority Rights

54 Minority News



# Repčekova: We Are Bringing the Issue of Human and Minority Rights to a Focus

Radojičić: The Decade is not Sufficient to Solve the Problems of Roma Members of the Serbian and Croatian Minorities Strive to Be a Bridge of Cooperation

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**



#### There Is Room for Promotion of Minority Rights

On June 18, the Center for Regionalism, with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, organized the conference "Status and Position of National Minorities in the Countries of the Former SFRY" in the Gallery of Serbian Heritage in Novi Sad. Experts from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia spoke about legal and institutional frameworks in their countries, as well as on the level of exercise of the rights of national minorities.



#### Radojičić: The Decade Is not Sufficient to Solve the Problems of Roma

On June 20 and 21, the Regional Conference "Decade of Roma Inclusion: Heritage, Lessons Learned, Best Practices and What's Next?" was held in Belgrade. The conference was organized by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade and the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, with a number of program partners from domestic and international bodies and organizations that participated in the preparation of the conference. The main implementation partner was the Center for Migration Studies from Belgrade.



#### The Day of Ivan Antunović Academy Held

On June 14, in the Great Hall of the Subotica City Hall, the Croatian National Council, marked the "Day of Ivan Antunović". In recognition of this significant date for the Croatian community, the most successful pupils of elementary and secondary schools who attend classes in the Croatian language were presented with diplomas and awards.



#### Festival "Tancuj, Tancuj ..." -Holiday for the Soul in Gložan

On June 15, in the outdoor amphitheater, which is a part of the Sports and Recreation Center in Gložan, the 49th folklore festival "Tancuj, Tancuj ..." was held. The festival aims to preserve the music, songs, dances, and customs of the Slovaks.

### **EDITORIAL 54**

### Are Long-Term Solutions Within Our Reach?

If we want to to get acquainted with a certain country, we must, first of all, learn more about its citizens. Officials of our country often proudly point out a wide range of languages, cultures and customs of the citizens of Serbia, which makes us recognizable in the world. In order to maintain this positive example, it is necessary to invest and support continuously the development of all aspects of the life of all citizens, both the majority and minority communities' members. Not only is their inclusion in the society a task that needs to be fulfilled on the road to the European Union, but it is also a contribution to the understanding of the importance of the realization of human rights, since every citizen of our state can at a certain moment consider that his human rights have been violated and be classified as a "minority".

In the case of members of actual minorities, especially those from vulnerable groups, the situation is much more difficult. In addition to numerous problems, discrimination is perhaps the biggest problem faced by members of certain minorities. In this context, the position of the members of the Roma minority should be especially emphasized. This year, on the International Roma Day, it was emphasized that Roma continue to be discriminated, marginalized and excluded, as well as facing various violations and deprivation of rights in all segments of life. However, it should also be noted that our country is making great efforts to overcome this problem, or at least suppress it as much as possible. For example, amendments to the Law on Out-of-Court Proceedings enabled the subsequent registration of persons who were not enrolled in the birth register, increased coverage of Roma children in elementary education and progress made in enrollment of Roma students in secondary schools and faculties. Health mediators play a special role in the whole process, whose task is not only to connect the Roma community with the health service, but also to educate and keep records of their state of health.

These were just some of the goals of the Government's "Strategy for the Promotion of the Position of Roma 2009 - 2015", but, since the Strategy did not remove the main obstacles to the socio-economic integration of the Roma minority, the new Strategy has been envisaged for the period from 2016 until 2025. Will this strategy achieve the primary goal that members of the Roma minority exercise their rights as truly equal citizens of Serbia, remains to be seen. There is political will, many mechanisms exist, but if we want to acheive a tangible progress, a solid will of the members of the Roma minority themselves is also required, as they are the ones who have to initiate certain changes, too, thus contributing to the better position of their people and changing the awareness of all citizens.

#### 30 different national minorities live in Serbia



www.minoritynews.rs
Minority News Portal

# We Are Bringing the Issue of Human and Minority Rights to a Focus

his year, the Slovak Republic took over the one-year Chairmanship over the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, setting ambitious priorities to be achieved in the course of twelve months. We talked to H.E. Dagmar Repcekova about these goals, but also about the Slovak minority in Serbia., on the eve of the Regional Conference dedicated to the inclusion of Roma, which was organized by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Serbia.



On January 1, 2019, Slovakia took over the twelve-month Chairmanship over the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. What are the priority areas of the Slovak Presidency in this period of extremely complex and large differences, as well as threats to national and international security?

This is a rather complex issue, since the decision on the priorities to be resolved during the OSCE Chairmanship does not always depend only on the state holding it. When deciding, we need to think about the challenges that the present time brings, as well as the challenges tackled by the previous Chairmanship, since the three countries that chair the OSCE intensively cooperate in the so-called "Toika" or "Trio Chairmanship". In fact, Slovakia was faced with existing challenges, such as general regional security, European security, and also the resolution of the conflict in the East of Ukraine, which is our immediate neighbor. Thus, one of the main priorities of the organization's role as a mediator in resolving the conflict in Ukraine is the way in which it resolves conflicts in other parts of the world. Given that the multilateral organizations are under the pressure of various crises, arising from often unpredictable conflict situations throughout the world, the next natural priority is efficient multilateralism,

and the return of trust to multilateral organizations. Whether it is the OSCE, the OEES, or the UN, all these large international supranational organizations need to have enough confidence and authority in the complex system of international relations. And, of course, given that Slovakia is known as a successful mediator, our next role is to bring this organization closer to the public, to approach people. In other words, we need to talk actively with all involved actors and present the OSCE as the only organization creating a platform for the dialogue of the opposing sides in the West and East, North and South, and trying to solve all the current challenges of the time

we live in. When we look at how the program of our Chairmanship has been set, I believe that we are successfully meeting our priorities.

#### How would you summarize the first six months of the Slovak Chairmanship over the OSCE?

From the point of view of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, I would say that this six-month period has been more intensive compared to, for example, the six-month Presidency over the European Council in 2016. The EC Presidency went largely in automatism and, naturally, thanks to great assistance from Brussels. In contrast, today we are faced with many tasks, which we have to deal with ourselves. And, of course, the OSCE is based on three dimensions: political, economic, ecological and human-legal, and we must endeavor to integrate all three dimensions. This requires the cooperation of our Embassy, which is responsible for its activities, and the ministries in Bratislava, which is the natural center of our Chairmanship. I must point out that, thanks to the exceptional activity of our Minister, Mr. Lajcak, we have managed to fulfil our promises - among other things, because the Minister is able and willing to travel around the whole world and visit all OSCE missions. He has visited OSCE countries and missions that have not been visited by any OSCE representative for years, especially not by the Chairperson. We have been working on achieving such a concept of dialogue, which will include all parts of the world that this Organization encompasses.

We plan activities to preserve the OSCE's global character, but at the same time, some of the activities have been maintained in certain regions, reflecting on the experiences, challenges and demands of these regions. One such region is the Western Balkans. This means that a series of events, held in Slovakia, i.e. in the Permanent Secretariat, or in the Permanent Mission, are organized here in Belgrade, too. We have chosen Belgrade because we have the largest embassy here, which, naturally, carries out regional activities.

Among the interesting events of the Chairmanship is, for example, a large conference on cyber security, which was held at the beginning of June in Bratislava, but, in February of this year, our Embassy organized with a group of partners a similar conference in Belgrade. If we are talking about priorities focused on the ecological and economic dimension, we organized a conference with the aim of translating the Slovak and European experiences in waste management, in particular municipal waste and wastewater, in March. Of course, the OSCE's political dimension is also significant. In the Chairmanship capacity, we are dealing with a serious issue of reform and management in the security sector. To this end, a focused global conference will be held in Bratislava in September, and when it comes to regional conferences, the two-day event has already been held in the Western Balkans - on June 4 and 5 in Belgrade. We opened the first day with an active high-level debate, attended by around 150 participants. I was very surprised, because many of them convinced me that this topic in today's world is actually dead, and it turned out that it was not. And, in my opinion, it is particularly important in this region, as we saw it on the second day, during the expert panel, which was held in our Embassy. There was a great interest in resolving the problems of the security sector, and as the Western Balkans is still considered a post-conflict region, we managed to open a new topic that the OSCE could be dealing with in the future. Specifically, post-conflict trauma, which results in many people living in the past, unable to get out of it. This results in an atmosphere of violence among the population, as well as a high percentage of illegal weapons possession. Unfortunately, family conflicts are not resolved peacefully, when we read the news of domestic violence in the region, compared to other parts of the world, sexual violence is not dominant here, it is, in most cases, armed violence, especially against women, with men seriously wounding or even killing women. These topics deserve our attention.

This is why we opened another topic in our Embassy – focusing on the human dimension. One of the events within this framework is a conference devoted to human and minority rights, with a special focus on the position of the Roma community. During this conference, we will look at the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which was officially brought to completion in 2015. We need to ask questions as to what it was that had significance, what was achieved, what changed the life of the Roma community for the better. There were also good projects, which had tangible results from the long-term perspective, but it is still necessary to consider what should be done further and how to use our experiences. This motto is contained in the very name of the conference. We want to attract many institutions to engage in solving this problem and dedicate it to the future.

The next, probably the last event of this type that will directly refer to the position of women, will be either a panel or even a special conference within the Belgrade Security Forum, which begins on October 16th. It is precisely this first day that we would like to include this conference in the program. The conference will focus on the UN Security Council Resolution no. 1325 entitled "Women, Peace and Security", because we want to open a discussion on the role of women in this region. Not only from the perspective of the UNSC Resolution, which refers to women in civilian missions or in the military, but also from the standpoint of the social position of women or the presence of women in politics. When I came to Serbia four years ago, I attended a wreath laying ceremony - which happens here more often than anywhere else in the world - and I heard the Minister of Defense, who said that he will never forget the victims of wars, in which Serbia lost more than half of the male population. When you hear this terrifying figure, you immediately understand how great the trauma of the local population is. And that is why I think that women really played a very important role in the revival of this society, they took on many jobs performed by men. I am glad that in this country the role of women is quite large and visible.

Slovak OSCE Chairmanship has been globally very active. In Belgrade, on June 4, you organized a high-level regional high-level debate on security sector governance and reform that brought together over 100 highly-qualified experts and influential stakeholders in national security services, as well as academic and civil society representatives from the countries of South-Eastern Europe. On June 20 and 21 you are one of the co-organizers of another big regional conference, dedicated to the inclusion of Roma. What has motivated you to focus your attention on these two topics in the Western Balkans?

When I speak to many of my acquaintances, including ambassadors, they all direct their efforts to improving the standard of living in order to fulfil the necessary criteria arising from the EU-accession process, adopt measures to prevent the departure of young people, etc. And it is frequently forgotten that Serbia is a multinational state and that there are many minorities here - I think that more than 20 minorities have been officially recognized in Serbia. One of these minorities is also a Roma minority, which is rather dispersed and internally non-homogeneous. As a consequence, it is difficult to find their representatives in state institutions and it is the non-governmental sector only, where they can try to achieve their priorities. Unfortunately, the Roma community often stays in the background and their position is frequently overlooked. And it is exactly the OSCE, in its human-legal dimension, which points to the need to help these communities and to bring back hope for a better life. Of course, when it comes to this topic, it should start from the very beginning, specifically from Roma education. It should begin with providing decent housing, adopting generally accepted social norms, to be accepted by the community in which they live. I believe that the education is the corner stone to the Roma inclusion. During the conference, we would like to present the best examples of good practice, so that others could learn something from them. These are positive examples not only from Serbia, but also from other countries in the region. We will also have

representatives of so-called "healthy communities" from Slovakia, who will present a project that has been working successfully for us for about ten years.

#### Can you tell us more about the upcoming conference on the Decade of Roma Inclusion?

We are very much interested in all the challenges that the Roma community is exposed to. To start with, on June 20, we are planning a cocktail reception, which will be an opportunity for the participants to get to know each other and discuss the cultural identity of the Roma. Today, there are institutions that deal with it professionally, for example, the European organization ERIAC, based in Berlin, which is in charge of the European cultural identity of the Roma. I wish Serbs were more engaged in this organization. In February, the ERIAC conference was organized in Belgrade under the auspices of the Council of Europe, but the attendance was not great, and I hope that such opportunities will be better exploited in the future.

The whole program of our conference was made so that, in the introduction, we will deal with the general issue of Roma inclusion, and then we will focus on certain segments, the specific areas that I have already mentioned as the most important: education and employment of Roma, because when a person is employed and receives a salary for their work, they can adequately care for their family. The next panel is about housing, where we will deal with social housing issues, issues of adopting rules for building own houses or apartments. Here we will also address the issue of the acceptance of the Roma community by a majority community, i,e. the acceptance of the Roma population in general. Topics addressed in special panels are very important from the aspect of life and development of Roma. One of them is a panel on the situation of Roma women, as many problems need to be solved in this area, starting with domestic violence, inadequate payment, insufficient education of Roma women, but also the issue of child marriages - arranged marriages with girls who are essentially children -

which are still practiced today. This is a tragedy that should no longer exist in society. And the last panel, which I do not consider as anything less important, is a health panel, where we want to consider the adoption of the necessary health and hygiene habits that are a prerequisite for the already mentioned acceptance. We will also focus on the classical health policies of the Roma population, from preventive examinations to regular vaccinations. We will also focus our attention on the health of Roma women, since most of them try to avoid gynaecological examinations. These are often families with many children, so it is really important that the issue of health is addressed in order to find adequate and accessible solutions for the Roma community.

The relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Slovak Republic, as well as the relations between our nations, are traditionally very close and friendly. According to the 2011 census, more than 52,000 Slovaks live in Serbia, predominantly in Vojvodina, where they are the third largest national community. What kind of support is provided by the Government of the Slovak Republic to the Slovaks who live outside the country, including, of course, the Slovak minority in Serbia? In your opinion, are there areas in which further progress can be made in relation to the position of the Slovak national minority in Serbia?

If I start with some numbers, the census results have shown that there are more than 50,000 Slovaks, in particular 52,750, living in Serbia. Unfortunately, I must say that this number is constantly decreasing and we will see how many Slovaks actually live in Vojvodina in the next population census. It is estimated that, in the meantime, between 10,000 and 15,000 people have left Serbia for Slovakia or other countries. Their total number will eventually be much lower for sure, but I believe it will not be so disastrous. It is noticeable, however, that the number of Slovak children enrolled in primary and secondary schools has decreased. I do not think that significantly less children are born, but rather that fewer marriages are made, because young people are simply no longer here, many have left.

We are trying to adapt our programs to the nature of our Slovak minority. In Slovakia, there is a special government office, that is, the Office for Slovak Diaspora, and this office actually finances the program and provides government support to Slovaks living abroad, including Serbia. Serbia is among the countries with the largest number of Slovaks living outside the borders of Slovakia, and between 180,000 and 200,000 Euros are allocated from this office annually for various project activities of the Slovak national minority in Serbia. This support is more or less permanent. Naturally, the Slovak national minority has the opportunity to apply for financing of projects in the subsidized programs of various sectoral ministries in Slovakia, such as, for example, the Ministry of Culture. It is a novelty that, next year, the Ministry of Environment plans to launch a program to fund the management of wastewater abroad. I think that the Slovaks who live in Serbia are very familiar with the available sources of financing. The main sponsors of the preservation of the Slovak communities abroad are the Office for Slovak Diaspora and the Ministry of Culture of

the Slovak Republic. I do not think that funding is a major problem, since the Slovak minority lives in Vojvodina in rather closed communities - we have, for example, villages such as Padina, where as many as 98% of the population are Slovaks, who belong to the Augsburg Evangelical Church, which makes them integrate additionally by religious affiliation, too.

We are also considering some newer forms of support to the Slovaks, because I personally worry about the fact that many of them are leaving the country. And, of course, the color of Serbia is wonderful because of this diversity of national minorities. Wherever you go, from North to South, you will find a completely different ambience and different customs. Perhaps this is the future of Serbian tourism. In the near future, we will consider the new concept of support to Slovaks abroad, which will also include a provision of scholarships for studying at Serbian universities. Nowadays, young people studying abroad do not have the habit of returning, and it is in the interest of young people not to leave the country, but to help it change. Serbia is a

wonderful country, and I think it is on the right path to change for the better, what people who live here deserve.

Finally, let me also mention an entirely new aspect presented by the Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Peter Pellegrini, during his recent visit to Serbia. Prime Minister Ana Brnabic signed an agreement on the settlement of the Clearing, which tackles the debt created during the time of Yugoslavia, and we have already internally agreed that part of this debt will be returned to Serbia in favor of the Slovak national minority. In particular, we are considering allocating these funds for the construction of the Slovak House in Novi Sad. in which all the central institutions of the Slovak national minority would be located, such as the editorial staff of the Slovak weekly "Hlas Ljudu", the radio programs, there would also be a theater in the building where Slovak art will be presented, where we can present ourselves with dignity to the Serbian public. So, I hope that before the expiration of my tour of duty, I will be able to lay this corner stone and then go home in peace.

# Harmonized Draft Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 Published

Source: Government of the Republic of Serbia

n June 10, the Ministry of Justice of the Government of the Republic of Serbia announced that, as a result of a months-long consultative process with judicial institutions and civil society organizations, it had published a new version of the Draft Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 on its website.

This version of the Draft Revised Action Plan has been forwarded to the European Commission in Brussels, whose experts will provide opinions and recommendations for further improvement of the text.

After reconciliation of the text with the recommendations from Brussels, a public debate will be reopened in order to continue the transparent and inclusive process of drafting the final version of the revised Action Plan for this Chapter.

The consultative process of amending the document started mid-2018, when more than fifty institutions, which carry the activities in fulfilling the measures and objectives of the Chapter 23 Action Plan, took part in the drafting of the document. In addition, the Ministry of Justice organized roundtables for representatives of the civil society, whose comments were of great importance when revising the text of the Action Plan, which is shown by the fact that more than a half of the total number of recommendations of non-governmental organizations has been adopted.

On the website of the Ministry of Justice, in addition to the text of the Draft Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23, all interested parties can also find a report citing which civil society organizations have sent their comments, whether they have been adopted or not, and

explaining why they are not, if that is the case.

One of the important novelties in the text of the Draft Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 refers to the establishment of a special Coordinating Body of the Government of Serbia, whose role will be to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the measures and goals of the Action Plan. Also, the same body will have the task of monitoring the implementation of activities envisaged by the Judicial Development Strategy for the period 2019-2024, which is being drafted at the same time as the Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23.

The deadlines foreseen in the Action Plan for Chapter 23 are also defined for the implementation of measures envisaged by the Strategy, the Ministry of Justice said in a statement.

# Visit of the Committee for Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Source: Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities



n June 6, members of the Subcommittee on the Rights of National Minorities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe met in the Assembly of the AP Vojvodina with the representatives of the institutions of the AP Vojvodina and the councils of national minorities - national communities and exchanged experience in regard to the realization of the rights of national minorities.

Snežana Sedlar, the Deputy Speaker of AP Vojvodina Assembly, who hosted this meeting, briefed them on the specifics of the Province and the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, pointing out that the Provincial Assembly was the right place for the talks on the position and the rights of national minorities and all other issues related to achieving full equality and non-discrimination.

"I can proudly say that our Assembly is known by the fact that there are six languages used officially and equally in its work and MPs can address the Assembly in any of these languages. These languages include Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian. Additionally, MPs can also receive Assembly materials and

address the Assembly committees and working bodies in their mother tongue, i.e. in the minority languages that are in official use," the Deputy Speaker of the APV Assembly said.

Sedlarova also added that the Provincial Assembly has special committees dealing with the issues of the rights of national minorities.

Deputy Prime Minister of the Provincial Government and Provincial Secretary for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, Mihali Njilaš assessed the meeting as very important and commended the decision to hold it in Novi Sad, an environment of centuries-long harmonious life for many national minorities.

"Vojvodina is indeed a good example

of how a developed minority policy can function in a region. It is based on advanced provision of information in the languages of national minorities, as well as on the awareness of the members of national minorities about their rights. It also contributes to the effective official use of the languages and scripts of national communities, a developed network of their cultural institutions, and very good coopera-

on the activities of his Secretariat concerning minorities, which are divided into four areas: education, official use of languages and scripts, the culture of national minorities and public information in minority languages.

The representative of the Federal Union of National Minorities (FUEN), Renata Trischler, presented the Minorities' Security Package Initiative (MSPI), a petition aimed at ensuring a better future for national minorities - national communities in Europe. According to her, the initiative does not want to deprive the majority community or Europe, it simply aims at making these communities and Europe more diverse when it comes to languages and cultures.



Renata Trischler pointed out that more than four hundred national minorities live in Europe, and that the initiative represents their interests.

The meeting of the Subcommittee on the Rights of National Minorities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which was chaired by Elvira Kovač, was also attended by numerous representatives of national councils of national minorities, who individually expressed their views, experiences and ideas regarding the protection of the rights of national minorities.



tion with the countries of origin and regions," Njilaš emphasized.

In addition, the Provincial Secretary presented normative frameworks that guarantee the protection of the rights of national minorities in Serbia and the most important bodies of the Provincial Administration dealing with minority rights, as well as their role. He informed the interlocutors

# There is Room for Further Promotion of Minority Rights

C

enter for Regionalism, with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, organized the conference "Status and Position of National Minorities in the Countries after Disintegration of the SFRY" in the Gallery of Matica Srpska in Novi Sad on June 18.

Participants in the conference - experts from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia spoke about legal and institutional frameworks in their countries, as well as on the actual state of realization of the rights of national minorities. Alexander Popov, director of the Center for Regionalism, addressed the participants at the opening of the confer-

ence. He pointed out that every country in the region points out that the rights of the minorities are in line with the highest European and world standards, but that the real situation indicates that there is room for improvement of minority rights. As Popov said, for further promotion of minority rights it is critical to have both the political will in the respective countries and the democratization within the minorities themselves.

"There are mechanisms, such as bilateral agreements, for improving the position of national minorities, but they have proven not to





be sufficiently effective. A way forward could be to create a regional mechanism, along with, of course, the improvement of bilateral agreements," Popov said.

Vlado Radulović from the Office for Human and Minority Rights reminded that, thanks to "colleagues from Croatia, they made a methodolog-

ical framework, and later, in 2016, in cooperation with national minority councils and representatives of state and provincial authorities, they adopted the strategic document Action Plan for the Realization of the Rights of National Minorities".

"One can say that most of the activities were successful or unsuccessful, depending on the change of various legislative acts. Most of the activities have been dependent on the Constitutional amendments, so we have a stagnation of 10 percent due to the delay in the change of this most important doc-



ument. The greatest contribution has been made in the field of education," Radulović noted.

Deputy Prime Minister of the Provincial Government and Provincial Secretary for Education, Regula-



tions, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, Mihalj Njilaš believes that substantive progress has been made in the realization of the rights of national minorities in the last 18 years.

"We have both good and bad practices in each of these countries, created by the breakup of Yugoslavia.

This conference is very welcome in the sense that all this has been presented in order to look at the status and position of national minorities and to discuss the solutions these problems are being addressed with. Vojvodina is a good example of how a developed minority policy operates in one region. This policy is based on a high level of information in

minority languages, a functional education system in these languages, and the awareness of minority members themselves. The effective official use of minority languages and scripts, a developed network of cultural institutions, and a high

level of cooperation with the countries of origin also contribute to the overall effectiveness of this minority policy," the Provincial Deputy Prime Minister said.

#### WHAT IS THE REAL SITUATION IN THESE COUNTRIES?

Nevertheless, Prof. Goran Bašić pointed out the problems that exist in our country. As an example he cited the very definition of national minorities, which, among other things, indicates that a national minority is every group of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, which is sufficiently representative in number. "What does "sufficiently representative" mean? This means that 275 Aromanians (Cincars) living in Serbia cannot, for example, take care of their cultural heritage," Bašić said. He also noted the lack of data on the participation of national minorities in the work of public services in central Serbia.

Dr Zarija Seizović, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo, pointed out the problems faced by minority members in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As he said, the Constitution itself has discriminat-



ing elements. For example, citizens who do not want to declare themselves as members of one of the three constituent nations, e.g. as Serbs, Croats or Bosniaks, cannot bid for a position of a member of the Presidency.

"Those who come from mixed marriages, as well as those who belong to the constituent nations as ethnic Bosniaks, Serbs or Croats, but who do not want to declare their own ethnicity, say that the Bosnians, which is not a Constitutional category; you cannot declare yourself as a Bosnian," Seizović said.



Prof. Siniša Tatalović spoke about the status of the rights of national minorities in Croatia. As he pointed out, after Croatia's accession to the European Union, a part of the society, right-oriented, began to spread the anti-minority mood. He also estimated that the media "con-

tribute to the problems in exercising minority rights". There is a hate speech and the obligation that Croatian television took over in 1997 to produce a program in six languages has not been implemented to this day. "We have two shows about minorities, but very rare are those broadcasts in minority languages," Tatalović said.

The Center for Regionalism has focused on the issue of realization of the rights of

national minorities since the conference held in Kotor in 2000. This conference was an opportunity to look at the the situation in the former Yugoslavia and to define possible solutions for improving the existing situation.

# Radojičić: A Decade Is not Sufficient to Solve the Problems of Roma

**Source: Danas / National Roma Council** 

n solving the problem of Roma inclusion we have to work together. First of all, with the relevant ministry and in accordance with the policy of the Government of Serbia. On the other hand, it is the local level where we must have tangible results, and the Roma and their desire to participate in solving the problem is necessary in order to go in the right direction," Belgrade Mayor Zoran Radojičić said at the closing ceremony of the Regional Conference "The Decade of Roma Inclusion: Legacy, Lessons Learned, Best Practices and What to Do Next?", which started with a presentation of the culture of the Roma community in the Old Palace on June 20, and ended with a conference at the Palace of Serbia on June 21.



"One decade is not sufficient for these problems to be solved and permanent and long-term cooperation between Roma and the majority community is necessary. Belgrade as a local self-government has implemented the Republic Strategy for Active Inclusion of Roma Men and Women in the society since 2016, as well as the Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Roma since 2009. We also plan to outline the Action Plan of the City of Belgrade for further improvement of the position of the Roma and this will be a priority in the coming period," he said.

Radojičić pointed out that the City of Belgrade is also involved in solving the problems of informal settlements, and one of the main goals is to strengthen Roma families in the areas of housing, education, social protection, entrepreneurship and health.

"When we talk about specific steps, I would like to note that, since 2014, we have helped 266 families in resolving the housing issue. We have helped 50 families to their own business, and we organize workshops and finance projects for education of young people, as well as older Roma through the activities of the Secretariat for Social Protection. We all need - the Roma community included - to talk about problems more often, accept suggestions, because this is the only way to progress. I hope that we will have even more tangible results next time we meet," Radojičić said.

Minister of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs Zoran Djordjević stressed that all societies must fight stereotypes.

"Our common goal is to build a society where Roma in all countries will feel free, where they can work and have the opportunity to be successful. We have raised the standards in the Ministry to the highest level and we want to introduce the Social Cards Law, following the good practices of Denmark, to empower women economically with entrepreneurship, to help socially vulnerable, and to prevent any discrimination. Serbia can be considered rich because it has many minorities, many other countries would desire such a diversity, and we need to use this fact as our advantage. The task we all have - the state, non-governmental organizations and the Roma themselves - is that we all know our responsibility and do everything we can to improve their position," Djordjević said.

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Zorana Mihajlović, who is also the President of the Governmental Coordinating Body for Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women, also

addressed the participants. She reminded of many problems that Roma face daily and pointed out that, in addition to health care, education and employment, it is very important to work on the issue of Roma housing, which is why Serbia already spends around EUR 9.6 million through IPA programs.

"For now, we have provided better living conditions for 700 Roma, and among them there are 250 children who now live in normal apartments. This program is implemented in 13 municipalities in Serbia. We have also implemented the IPA program defining urban plans and technical documentation for housing. And we are currently negotiating a new EUR 21 million IPA 2018, most of which will serve for resolving the housing problems of Roma men and women," Mihajlović emphasized.

The President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, Dali-

bor Nakić, also addressed the participants at the opening of the conference.

"We are extremely pleased to be part this event, which will not only discuss the problems that the Roma community in the region faces, but will also exchange experiences of participants and highlight examples of good practice in the field of Roma

inclusion. Recommendations that will come out of the conference are very important, but it is even more important that we ensure their implementation in the future. What I certainly know is that the recommendations will reach the right addresses and that all relevant factors in the EU that have an impact on the creation of programs in order to improve the

position of the Roma community will be informed about them," Nakić said.

According to him, the support provided by the European Union to the process of Roma integration is essential, because, as he said, the Roma are currently the largest ethnic minority



in Europe, with population between 10 and 12 million.

"For this reason, the process of Roma inclusion must not be left to indvidual European countries, it must be the task of the EU as a whole. Only this way, the Roma community can experience a renaissance and accelerate the pace that leads to a better future. The future in which Roma children will be proud of their Roma origin, where they will feel free to express their identity, to develop it, and to affirm it. I must emphasize that all citizens, not just Roma, are benefi-



ciaries of Roma integration. Human resources within the Roma community are unused. With an adequate transition from education to employment, the Roma community can contribute to the economic development and progress of both the Western Balkan region and Europe as a whole. "

The President of the National Council of Roma also said that in the past

few years the state of Serbia has done a lot in the area of improvement of the position of Roma, which in some areas can represent an example of good practice for many countries in the region.

Head of the Political Department in

the EU Delegation in Serbia, Noora Hayrinen, stressed that the Roma are the largest ethnic minority in Europe.

"The European Union is the partner of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in the process of improving the position of the Roma community, we have allocated up to 11.4 million Euros for inclusion, and we plan to alloca-

te another 20 million euros in joint projects for solving Roma housing issues. It is up to us all to participate in the improvement of their quality of life and that each family lives better and is fully integrated into society," Hayrinen said.

Slovak Ambassador Dagmar Repčekova thanked all the participants in the conference, which she assessed as very successful.

"We have heard many examples of how the life of the Roma community

can change for the better and we have achieved very good cooperation for the future. In order for inclusion to be successful, our voices must join together, because we all want one - a dignified life for everyone, and this conference has shown that this is possible," Repčekova said.

The conference was organized by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade

- during the mandate of the OSCE Chairmanship - and the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. A large number of program partners - domestic and international agencies and organizations - took part in the preparation of the conference, while the main implementation partner was the Center for Migration Studies from Belgrade.

### Representatives of Embassies Visit BNV

Source: BNV

he defense envoys of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Bulgaria, Colonel Thomas Ahammer, Colonel Thomas Becker and Colonel Milcho Ignatov visited the Bosniak National Council.

Dr. Fuad Baćićanin, Vice President, doc. dr. Hasim Mekić, President of the Executive Committee and Mirza Hajdinović, Secretary of the Council, met with the diplomats on behalf of the Council, and briefed them on the main activities of the Council and the problems of Bosniaks, as well as on specific proposals of the Bosniak National Council for their resolution.



The diplomats were also informed about the initiative of the Bosniak National Council for resolving the status of Bosniaks and the status of Sandzak status through establish-

ment of a special status for the Sandžak region, and were asked to pass this information to their respective embassies and the governments of the countries they represent.

# Preschoolers Presented with the "Bosnian, Because We Are Bosniaks" Coloring Books

n June 12, the President of the Bosniak National Council, Esad Džudžo, with his associates, distributed coloring books to the children of the Kindergarten "Mladost" in Novi Pazar, as a part of the project "Bosnian, Because We Are Bosniaks".

Coloring books are adapted to the

children of this age and they will help them learn the basics of studying in the Bosnian language as well as the symbols and costumes of the Bosniak people in Sandžak.

The aim of the project is to raise public awareness on the exercise of the right to free use of the mother tongue and script in the Republic of Serbia, as well as the equality of the Bosnian language with the language of the majority population.

In addition to Novi Pazar, the coloring books have been distributed to the pre-school children in Sjenica, and, on June 13, future first-graders received them at the recital organized at the kindergarten "Habiba Stočević" in Tutin.





#### The "Day of Ivan Antunović" **Academy Held** Source: yueco.rs Photo: NIU "Croatian Word"

n June 14, in the Grand Hall of the Subotica City Hall, the Croatian National Council marked the "Day of Ivan Antunović". In recognition of this significant date for the Croatian community, the most successful pupils of elementary and secondary schools, who attend classes in the Croatian language, were presented with diplomas and awards.



Deputy State Secretary of the Central Office for Croats outside the Republic of Croatia, Dario Magdić, reminded of the significance of the efforts and actions of Bishop Ivan Antunović, a



national enlightener who was one of the first people to recognize the importance of education in preserving the community. He particularly contributed to the cultivation of Croatian language and provided financial assistance in the education of many students, Magdić said.

The President of the Croatian National Council, Jasna Vojnić, thanked everyone who attended the celebration on the special day for the Croatian community, the Day of Ivan Antunović, an enlightener who firmly believed in the importance of education. She particularly praised

all students attending classes in the Croatian language in primary and secondary schools, who achieved outstanding results in the school year 2018/2019.

A number of guests attended the "Day of Ivan Antunović" in the Grand Hall of the Subotica



City Hall, including representatives of state bodies from the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, the Consul General of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of Serbia, as well as representatives of the City Administration of Subotica.

### Members of the Serbian and Croatian Minorities Would Like to Be a Bridge of Source: RTV

Cooperation

embers of the Serbian minority in Croatia and Croatian minority in Serbia would like to be a bridge of cooperation and facilitate development of better relations between the countries, the leader of MPs of the Independent Democratic Serb Party in the Croatian Parliament, Milorad Pupovac, said

The meeting was jointly organized on June 15 by the Croatian National Council (HNV), the Common Council of Municipalities and the Serbian National Council in Croatia, with the support of the National Football Federations of Serbia and Croatia, with the objective to organize a football game in Tavankut between the minorities of the two countries and talk about future cooperation.

Cooperation in the field of culture and education, as well as cross-border projects, were the topics of discussion at a meeting in Subotica between representatives of the Serbian minority in Croatia and Croatian minority in Serbia. Both minority parties are struggling for a better life and greater exercise of minority rights.

The participants in the meeting concluded that it is necessary to organize similar meetings more frequently and agreed on specific cooperation in the field of education, namely on the exchange of pupils between the two countries.

After meeting in the DSHV, Pupovac and Žigmanov met with the Mayor of Subotica, Bogdan Laban, in the Blue Room of the Town Hall, as well as with representatives of the Association of Refugees and Expelees from Croatia.

# 75th Anniversary of the Deportation of Jews Marked Source: TV Subotica

commemorative gathering in the Synagogue on June 14 marked the anniversary of the deportation of the Subotica Jews to the Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War. Over 4,000 Jews were taken to the death camps, and most did not return, which is a huge loss for both the Jewish municipality and our city. Representatives of the City, Jewish municipalities of our country, city associations, religious communities and other organizations, laid wreaths on the memorial plaque in

75 years ago, Marika Birman was taken to the Strasshof Camp near Vienna. Although she was a baby, she managed to survive and return from the camp thanks to her mother, whom she calls a hero. Except for her and her mothers, other family members, too, were sent

the Synagogue and the former ghetto.



to infamous camps, such as Auschwitz and Mauthausen, never to return. The former resident of Subotica now lives in Israel, her name is Marijana Mosković, has three children and seven grandchildren, but, despite the peace, she fears that the evil might happen again.

At the commemorative gathering, Mayor Bogdan Laban recalled the friendly relations of the Serbian and Jewish people, who suffered together and shared difficult moments during history. Because of the future generations, we should remember and honor

the memory of the victims who lost their lives because of their religion and nation, Laban said.

About 4,000 Jews, of 6,000 who lived in Subotica before the war and were the backbone of development and economic life,

were taken to the death camps. Only 1080 returned to their home town after the war, and in 1948, half of them emigrated to Israel. As the President of the Union of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia, Robert Sabadoš, said, this day is extremely important, we should learn from mistakes and we should not allow the tragic history to be repeated.

Deportation of Jews to death camps was carried out on June 16, 1944. The Jewish community now has about 250 members, of whom only six Holocaust survivors.

**Albanian Community** 

# Mustafa: The Government of Albania Will Finance Part of the Budget of the National Council in Serbia

he Government of Albania has adopted the proposal of Foreign Minister Gent Cakaj to take on the obligation of regular financing of the National Council of Albanians in Serbia, and the amount will be determined on the basis of the Council's proposal, the Council's President, Ragmi Mustafa, said.

Mustafa told the Beta Agency that the Law on National Minority Councils provides that national councils in Serbia, in addition to funds from the state budget, can also be financed in other ways, through donations from various sources, mainly coming from the countries of origin.

"This is the first time that the Government of Albania has decided to fund regularly the Albanian National Minority Council in Serbia. So far, only a decision has been made, and the amount will be specified at a joint meeting of the representatives of the Government and the Council. This funding will help the National Council of Albanians function in its full capacity," Mustafa said.

The President of the National Council of Albanians said that this body presently does not work in its full capacity because the funds received from the Republic budget have been reduced by about 40 percent, due to the fact the Albanian population from the municipalities of Bujanovac, Preševo and Med-

vedja boycotted the 2011 census. and no inofficial estimates of the number of population of these municipalities from 2015 were taken into consideration.

"The decision on regular financing of the Albanian National Council has shown that the Government of Albania is serious about its intentions and its interest in helping Albanians living in Serbia," Mustafa added.

So far, the Government of Albania has allocated EUR 50,000 in the form of one-time assistance to help Albanians living in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac, for the purpose of opening an out-of-hospital maternity ward in Preševo in 2015.

## The President of the Slovak National Minority Council Visited the Municipality of Beočin Source: National Council of the Slovak National Minority

n May 28, 2019, the President of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority, Ljibuška Lakatoš visited the municipality of Beočin, where she met with representatives of local self-government and representatives of the Slovak national minority.

They were welcomed by Mayor Mitar Milinković and his associates, the President of the Municipal Assembly, Zoran Stokuća, and the head of the Lug local community, Kristian Urban.

The participants in the working meeting discussed the position of the Slovak national minority in the municipality, especially with regard to education, information, culture and official use of languages and scripts, as well as the legal obligation of local self-government units to plan the financing of national minority councils.

## Festival "Tancuj, tancuj..." - Holiday for the Soul in Gložan

Source: vojvođanske.rs

n June 15, 2019, in the outdoor amphitheater, which is part of the Sports and Recreation Center in Gložan, the 49th folklore festival "Tancui, Tancuj ..." ("Dance, Dance...") was held. The festival aims to preserve Slovak music, songs, dances, and customs.

Over 20 folklore associations from Gložan, Hajdučica, Padina, Kulpin, Bački Petrovac, Aradac, Kisač, Pivnica, Kovačica, Lalić, Stara Pazova, Šid, Erdevik and from abroad participated in the Festival.



The Festival traditionally begins with a festive defile down the streets, with



participants playing and dancing at each intersection for a short time. When they arrive at the amphitheater, the flag of the event is ceremoniously raised, and then Gložan becomes the most colorful and the happiest place in the world. And on June 15, this is what it truly was, despite the heat.

Along with the folklore contents, a number of accompanying sports, cultural and sales events are also held. The "Tancuj, Tancuj ..." Festival was followed by numerous printed and TV media outlets.

## In Janošik, at the 48th "Meeting under the Linden Trees"

he traditional meeting of young artists, who published their works in the youth magazine "Vzlet" in the supplement "Rozleti", was held in Banat village Janošik on June 18. In the organization of the Publishing House "Hlas Ljudu" and the "Vzlet" Magazine, in the shade of linden trees in the

church yard of the Slovak Evangelical Church, young poets and prose writers, who published their works in the journal from September 2018 to June 2019, presented their work.

The whole area was decorated with an exhibition

of artworks, photographs, which were even more prominent on the Banat wind, in which the guests enjoyed.

Jasmina Panjik, editor in chief of the magazine "Vzlet", pointed out that many Slovak writers and academics from Vojvodina started in the "Vzlet" magazine. She added that young tal-

ents are present in small villages, such as the village of Janošik, and it is only necessary to discover talents and to help them on their artistic path through their magazine.

Traditionally, awards for best works have been presented during the event. In the category of literary works, Jana



Domonji from Kisač, a student of Slovak language and literature in Novi Sad, received the Rozleti Prize, while in the category of fine arts the award was given to Lidija Čeman, 8th grade student from Kisač.

Members of the Women Association "Janošičanka" and the representative

Source: Vojvođanska / Hlas ljudu

of the evangelical church, priest Sladjan Daniel Srdić, participated in the event. After the artistic part of the Festival, Rev. Srdić invited the attendees to visit the church, which was decorated with ribbons and linden branches on the occasion of the Holy Trinity holiday. This custom of Vojvodina's Slovaks was recorded only in the evangelical

church in Janošik, Kovačica and Padina. Members of the Women Association "Janošičanka" also showed the guests an ethno-room with exhibits older than a hundred years, as well as an exhibition of village painters. After lunch, the group headed for the nearby vil-

lage of Hajdučica. The unique features of this Banat village are the castle of the Dunđerski family and a beautiful park with rare trees. In this multinational village, they also visited the Hajdučica Monastery, where one of the monks briefed them on the history of the Monastery.

**Ukrainian Community** 

# Festival of Ukrainian Cultural Societies in Vrbas

n June 15 and 16, more than 700 members of Ukrainian cultural societies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Romania, Ukraine and Serbia gathered in Vrbas at the 16th Ukrainian Culture Festival "Kalina".

In the framework of the festival, a round table was held on the topic of preservation of Ukrainian culture and tradition, followed by an exhibition of paintings and photographs of Tamara and Boris Baranovski at the premises of the Cultural and Educational Society



"Karpati". In the competition, Ukrainian folk songs were performed.

Ukrainian cuisine was presented in the "Drago Jovović" Center, where an ethno-exhibition was also organized. Cultural societies from Novi Sad, Kula, Vrbas, Sremska Mitrovica, Indjija, VuSource: Dnevnik / Naše mesto

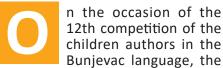
kovar, Prnjavor and other towns where members of the Ukrainian community live took part in the evening evening concert.

The organization of the festival was supported by the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Provincial Secre-

tariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Serbia, the Municipality of Vrbas, the Cultural Center Vrbas and the Center for Physical Culture "Drago Jovović".

# The Best Works of the Project "Bunjevac Nice Words"

Source: Bunjevac Media Center



children authors in the Bunjevac language, the "Bunjevac Nice Words" Project, a ce-

remony was held in the premises of the Bunjevac Heritage on June 8th to award the children with diplomas and prizes.

The project "Bunjevac Nice Words" has been in existence for twelve years, and its idea is to improve learning and nourish the Bunjevac language with the children. The project encourages young people to cherish creativity, preserving Bunjevac tradition and

customs, and incorporating them into the cultural life of the city.

The Honorary President of the Bunje-

vac Heritage, Mr. Ivan Sedlak and the



teacher of the Elementary School "Sečenji Ištvan", Damir Išpanović, talked about how important it is to care for one's mother tongue.

> About 50 works of art, 22 works in the field of poetry, and 23 works in the field of prose, were received. The following elementary schools took part in the Project: "Sečenji Ištvan" -Subotica, "Sveti Sava" - Subotica, "Ivan Milutinović" - Subotica, "Ivan Milutinović" - Mala Bosna, "Matija Gubec" - Tavankut, "Vuk Karadžić" - Bajmak, "Bosa Milićević "- Novi Žednik, and "Pionir" - Stari Žednik.

### Bunjevac "Huncutarije"

n Thursday, June 20, at the National Theater in Sombor, the Association of Citizens "Bunjevac Kolo" had a premiere night of the amateur play "Ča Grgine Huncutariie" in the Bunjevac language, written by Đura Francišković and directed by Nenad Zubović.

The play was first performed nine-

teen years ago at the Sombor Theater scene. It is a comedy, which follows the love of two young people in one small village, while the father of the maiden opposes their love. A cheerful cast entertained the audience and made them laugh. The whole theater had the opportunity to remember the Bunjevac tradition and dialect.



The members of the Drama Section of the "Bunjevac Kolo" and GKUD Ravangrad have rehearsed since the beginning of this year and they have had their rehearsals both in farms and in pubs. Audience reaction justified the hard work of the Drama Section of the "Bunjevac Kolo", which successfully responded to the acting task.

The play was performed under the patronage of the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities.



### Ethno House of Székely Hungarians Opened in Vojlovica

Source: Pančevo Is My Neighborhood

n exceptional building that testifies to the history, culture and tradition of Székely Hungarians in Pančevo has recently adorned Vojlovica, one of Pančevo neighborhoods.

The Ethno-House was opened by the State Secretary for National Policy of the Hungarian Government, Árpád János Potápi, the Mayor of Pančevo, Saša Pavlov, and Vilmos Leci, President of the Cultural Artistic Society "Áron Tamási" from Pančevo.

The idea of buying a house next to the headquarters of the Cultural Artistic Society "Áron Tamási" in Vojlovica and



thus expanding the yard was conceived long ago, at the end of the sixties - in the early seventies.

Based on the consultations with high officials of the Government of Hungary and with the donation of the Hungarian State Secretariat for National Policy, funds were approved and the Sales Agreement was signed on 20 August 2015. The Hungarian Government has invested around 100,000 Euros in construction and equipping of the Ethno House with a summer stage. The months of collecting documentation and building permits followed. In the



meantime, the decision was made to make the Székely-Gate, the symbol of Székely-Hungarians. The gate was made in Hungary, the city of Hidas, and from there it was transported in parts to Pančevo. In April 2016, the Székely Gate was erected and blessed, and from this day on it testifies that Bukovina Székely Hungarians have lived in Pančevo since 1883.

The project continued with the building permit and the laying of the foundation of the Ethno House in September 2017. The works were carried out diligently throughout the year 2018, and the construction of not only the Ethno House, but also of the whole courtyard, the construction of auxiliary rooms for the disposal of old tools and wood for heating, the open stage and the decorating of the courtyard of the old building were completed by May 2019. The contractor was SZR "Šimak" from Padina, entrepreneur Jan Šimak, who made a lot of effort to satisfy all the requirements for the authentic appearance of Ethno House, resembling a military house in which the ancestors lived: making fireplace in old-fashioned way, making wooden decorations, building bricks, arranging paths, parking space, and driveways.

The villagers of Vojlovica, Székely -Hungarians, preserved many useful items, furniture and textiles, handicrafts, and they voluntarily donated them as decorations of the Ethno House. The

house is richly equipped, especially taking into account the fact that it has been more than 135 years since they moved to this area.

Mayor Saša Pavlov expressed his gratitude to the Government of Hungary and pointed out that Pančevo is proud of all of its citizens, the offspring of Székely-Hungarians, as well as of all 26 national communities living in love, tolerance, good neighborly relations and mutual respect, which is the greatest wealth of Pančevo.

Székely -Hungarians, who found their home here, made a great contribution and enriched Pancevo with their culture, tradition and folklore, and this beautiful building remains for future generations to continue to nurture all



values inherited from their ancestors, Mayor Pavlov said.

The ceremonial opening of the Ethno house of the Bukovina Székely -Hungarians gathered all the people of good will. Many people have unselfishly voluntarily helped the new building get a soul and allow cultivation of culture and tradition through symbolic return to the past. The ceremony was attended by high officials from Hungary and Romania, representatives of the brotherly town of Bonyhad led by Mayor Filóné Ferencz Ibolya, representatives of national communities, cultural institutions, cultural and artistic societies and a large number of citizens of Vojlovica.







The issuance of this newsletter has been supported by the Open Society Foundation and the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the official positions of the donor.