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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OF

THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BUDAPEST KNOWLEDGE HUB





INTRODUCTION

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2024 was the 4th year since the launch of the operations of the Budapest Hub on 1 January 2021.

The year 2024 was a transitional year for the Budapest Hub: a new Academic Director was selected by a selection committee based on a call for application in July, and approved by the Academia Europaea Board of Trustees in November. **Professor Péter Hegyi** has been an active member of the AE since 2018, and currently serves as the chairperson of the Clinical and Veterinary Science section within Class C – Life Sciences. He prepared a plan for the future of the Budapest Hub, based on which we are in the process of restructuring the Hub. The missions outlined by the new Academic Director are as follows:

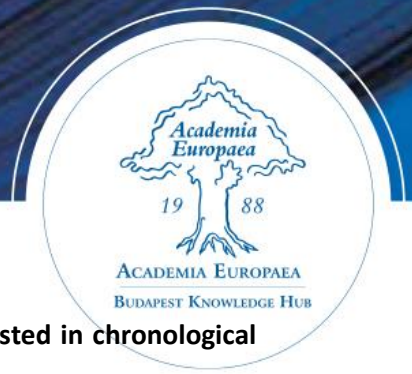
- To provide guidance on how to implement scientific results for society benefits (From Science to Society);
- To guide talented individuals through the transformative journey from academic curiosity to successful professional careers (From Curiosity to Career);
- To foster collaboration and expand European excellence by supporting the Danube region and smaller Central and Eastern European countries (From Borders to Bridges).

The new Academic Director was featured in the [Interview Spotlight Series of the AE Cardiff Hub](#), as well as on the [website of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences \(MTA\)](#).

The **hybrid meeting of the AE Board of Trustees** was hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 3 June 2024 in Budapest.

At the **“Building Bridges” annual meeting** of Academia Europaea, this year hosted by the Wroclaw Hub at the end of November, the Budapest Hub was represented by Academic Director **Péter Hegyi** and Vice Academic Director **Katalin Solymosi**. Professor Hegyi presented the three new missions – **From Science to Society, From Curiosity to Career, and From Borders to Bridges** – of the AE Budapest Hub for the future, together with the implementation plan, which includes approximately 20-25 projects for the next three years. At the end of each project the goal is to publish the results in position papers, or present the findings in high-impact scientific journals.

Currently there are **161 Hungarian members**, including **13 new members** from Hungary registered in 2024.



The Budapest Hub organised or co-organised the following events in 2024, listed in chronological order:

1. A webinar was organised by the „Danube Region” thematic session, one of the four original thematic sessions of the Budapest Hub, on 8 February with the title **Interreg Danube Region Programme - Examples and Best Practices from Projects Monitoring Microplastics in the Danube River Basin**

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Interreg Danube Region Programme: Examples and Best Practices from Projects Monitoring Microplastics in the Danube River Basin

Webinar of the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub

Interreg Programme

Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

8 February 2024 (online, Zoom)

10:30 – 12:15 CET

Agenda:

1. Gusztáv Csomor: **Brief outline of the Interreg Danube Region Programme**
2. Fruzsina Kardoss: **How to write a good Interreg project?**
3. Attila Dávid Molnár: **Major outcomes of the Tid(y)Up Interreg project**
4. Tímea Kiss et al.: **Microplastic monitoring of the Tisza: experiences of a five-year-long measurement from source to confluence**
5. Q & A Session moderated by Katalin Solymosi

Zoom-link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160314770?pwd=V1V3am1DN01TM3FQYlpkODhXZkpOdz09>



The event initiated and organised by **Katalin Solymosi** sought on the one hand to facilitate knowledge transfer about river microplastic pollution in the region, while on the other hand to inspire researchers from the region to apply for Interreg projects. The speakers of the workshop kindly offered to make their presentations available to the public [on the AE Budapest Hub website](#).

The online workshop was recorded, the full video recording is available [on the YouTube channel of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences](#). The recording has been watched 198 times in 10 months.

2. **Young Academy of Europe and AE Budapest Hub joint ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event – 3 June 2024, online**

The fourth edition in the ERC Starting Grant mentoring event series of Young Academy of Europe took place on June 3rd. Young researchers wishing to apply to the ERC Starting Grant could listen to testimonials and expert advice at the online event co-organized by YAE and AE Budapest Hub.



ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event of the Young Academy of Europe and the Academia Europaea Budapest Hub



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3 June 2024 (online, Zoom)
14:00 - 16:00 CET

14:00-15:00 - Plenary part

- **Maria Leptin** (President, ERC): **The why and what of the ERC's recent changes to the evaluation of research proposals**
- **Angela Liberatore** (ERCEA): **Implementing the novelties in ERC evaluations**

15:00-16:00 - Three parallel sessions featuring ERC StG holders by domain (LS, SH, PE)

- Domain LS - **Gautam Dey**, **Zohreh Hosseinzadeh**, Moderator: **Philippa Warren**
- Domain PE - **Nicoló Maccaferri**, **Péter Nagy**, **Manuel Souto Salom**, Moderator: **Linn Leppert**
- Domain SH - **Jihan Zakarriya**, **Ágoston Berecz**, Moderator: **Mona Simion**

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/385eaktw>

Started by the Young Academy of Europe back in September 2020, the mentoring event series aimed at young researchers having the ambition to apply to an ERC Grant call (typically a Starting Grant) has been a great success in the virtual arena of mentoring and grant application training events. Organized in collaboration with the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, the fourth event took place - again online - on 3 June 2024, from 14:00 to 16:20 hrs (CET). The focus this time was on the recent changes to the evaluation of ERC research proposals and how the novelties in ERC evaluations are being implemented.

The online event included two parts. First, a **plenary information session** with welcoming words from **Prof. László Lovász** (ERC Scientific Council member), **Péter Hegyi** (Academic Director, Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub) and **Katalin Solymosi** (Chair, Young Academy of Europe), followed by a presentation by **Maria Leptin** (President of ERC) about the [why and what of the ERC's recent changes to the evaluation of research proposals](#), and a talk by **Angela Liberatore** (Head of the Scientific Management Department at ERC Executive Agency) about the [implementation of the recently introduced changes in the grant evaluation procedures](#). The presentations were followed by a Q&A, moderated by **Scott Bremer** (Vice-Chair, Young Academy of Europe).

The second part of the event included **three parallel sessions by scientific domain, each featuring current YAE members who have recently secured an ERC StG and who shared their pieces of advice about grant proposal writing and oral interview preparation with the audience of the domain-specific break-out rooms**: Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE), Life Sciences (LS), and Social Sciences & Humanities (SH).



The virtual event was attended by more than 100 participants who were very active asking questions during the sessions. The online event was recorded. The videos of the event are published on the [YouTube Channel](#) of the YAE (the video of the plenary part is available [here](#), while those of the domain-specific breakout sessions are available on these links: [Life Sciences](#), [Physical Sciences and Engineering](#) and [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)).

Online visibility: 853 views on YouTube in 5 months

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3. SAPEA webinar: **Science and Society: Public Outreach in a Broader Sense**, presented by **Katalin Solymosi** on 12 July 2024.

The workshop entitled ***Reaching out to Society: how academies can maximise the impact of their public engagement*** was organised by the Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub as part of the [Scientific Advice Mechanism](#) to the European Commission.

Katalin Solymosi discussed combining arts and science, where art is used as a tool to reach out to people who would not necessarily otherwise be interested in attending a scientific presentation or lecture. Katalin presented several projects and initiatives aimed at both teachers and school pupils. [Her slides](#) are available at the event on the AE Cardiff Hub's website.

4. **23rd Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students** on 7-8 December 2024 in Szeged.

This event for secondary school pupils, university students, and early career-stage scientists was organised by the Academia Europaea Budapest Hub, in collaboration with the National Academy of Scientist Education (NASE) under the **FROM CURIOSITY TO CAREER PROGRAM**. One of its primary missions is to inspire, motivate, and support the career development of young researchers by providing them with opportunities to interact with world-class scientists and learn from their experiences.

The Budapest Hub was represented by Péter Hegyi, Academic Director, Katalin Solymosi, Vice Academic Director, and Nóra Deák, Hub Manager at the event, where the guest scientists included Nobel laureate in Chemistry (2008) and Professor at Columbia University (USA) [Martin Chalfie](#), Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub Director [Ole Petersen](#), a distinguished British/Danish physiologist and Professor at Cardiff University (UK), and [Shahrokh Shariat](#), an Austrian-Iranian scientist and Director of the University Clinic of Urology in Vienna (Austria).

Summary of the meeting, including interviews with the lecturers, the Program Director Péter Hegyi, and a couple of participants is available on the [YouTube channel of the National Academy of Scientist Education \(NASE\)](#).



Web communication and social media:

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The AE Budapest Hub joined two social media platforms in April, 2023, with the creation of both a Facebook and a Twitter/X account. The AE Budapest Hub's Facebook Page is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091939061650&sk=about>.

We use the username/handle @aebudapest for our X (formerly known as Twitter) [Academia Europaea Budapest](#) profile. News, updates about the activities of MAEs, and events organised by our Hub are shared regularly. The profiles of all the other AE Hubs are also followed, thereby promoting their activities, too. The Budapest Hub staff are especially grateful to the staff of the Cardiff Hub for their continuous support.

Finances:

Under the Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) signed in December 2020 for a period of 4 years, MTA provides the administrative services required for the operation of the Hub, as well as the agreed annual funding to support the Hub activities.



AE Budapest Hub staff:

Péter Hegyi, Academic Director

László Lovász, Past Academic Director (2021-2024)

Katalin Solymosi, Vice Academic Director

Nóra Deák, Hub Manager

Katalin Fodor, Head of International Relations Department of the Secretariat of MTA

Viktória Barna, Project Coordinator

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About Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988. Now has more than 5000 leading scientists and scholars as members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Budapest, Cardiff, Munich, Tbilisi and Wrocław.