



# The Achievements of the Hungarian Presidency



**HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY**  
Council of Europe  
May – November 2021  
**PRÉSIDENTE HONGROISE**  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Mai – Novembre 2021

## Our Presidency in pictures



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of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

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## Foreword of Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dear Reader,

Hungary has held the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from the 21<sup>st</sup> of May until the 17<sup>th</sup> of November in 2021. Since our accession to the Council of Europe in 1990, Hungary has chaired the Committee of Ministers for the second time. This period is always special for every member state, as it only occurs every 23 years.

Our Presidency took place in a challenging environment. We had to tackle the consequences of the pandemic, start economic and social recovery programs, we had to acknowledge the beginning of a new era of geopolitical conflicts, and we are still facing increased migratory pressures from different directions.

Even though we had to confront the difficulties of the pandemic, we still held the overwhelming majority of our 70 events and cultural programmes in person. Our priorities focused on issues that required our immediate joint and thorough political attention, such as the effective protection of national minorities, interreligious dialogue



also focusing on the protection of persecuted Christians, as well as diverse topics related to future generations, future challenges and environmental protection.

Dear Reader,

This publication was edited to provide a brief overview of this wide range of events, capturing the highlights of our Presidency. I hope that those interested will find it a useful read.

It is my sincere hope that the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of Europe provided an opportunity to further Hungarian national interests within the Council of Europe while also striving to find synergies between Hungarian priorities and those of the organization.

Péter Sztáray

# Ceremonial issue of commemorative stamps and coins on the occasion of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Budapest, 18 May 2021

Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade presented the commemorative coin together with Mr. Marcell Horváth, Head of the Executive Directorate for International Relations of the Hungarian National Bank on the occasion of the Hungarian Presidency.

The coin symbolises European unity and Pan-European spirit. On the front, it features a Europe-centric globe, seen from outer space. On the back, it features the official logo of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of Europe. The coin, designed by artist Mr. Balázs Bitó, has been issued in a limited edition of 7 000 pieces.

On the same day, Mr. Péter Sztáray and Ms. Sára Hegmanné Nemes, President of the Hungarian Post Office also presented the commemorative stamp. The stamp, which was issued in 50 000 copies, was designed by artist Mr. André Attila Elekes, and it features the European Universum tapestry. The tapestry was the Hungarian Presidency's traditional presidency gift to the Council of Europe (as seen on pages 63 and 64).



From left to right Ms. Sára Hegmanné Nemes, President of Hungarian Post Office and Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the commemorative stamp and first day envelope



The 2,000 Hungarian forint commemorative coin



# 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee of Ministers: Takeover of the Presidency from Germany

Hamburg, 21 May 2021

At its 131<sup>st</sup> Session on 21 May 2021, the Committee of Ministers stressed the Council of Europe's important standard-setting work on protecting human rights in the digital age and acknowledged that digital development and artificial intelligence both bring benefits to societies but also pose significant challenges.

Hungary took over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from Germany during a hybrid meeting with representatives of the Organisation's 47 Member States.

Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, gave an overview of his country's achievements during its Presidency. The new Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary then presented the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency for the next six months.

These priorities included: promoting the effective protection of national minorities; supporting inter-religious dialogue; issues related to future generations: children's rights, youth inclusion and Roma integration; future challenges such as cybercrime and artificial intelligence; and last, but not least, addressing environmental challenges.



Family photo of the 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers



Handover of the key of the presidency. From left to right Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany





## 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on the European Landscape Convention

Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on the European Landscape Convention was held online on 26-27 May 2021 in the framework of the Hungarian Presidency.

The aim of the event was to present the progress of the Work Programme and to deal with questions concerning its implementation.

The conference was opened by Mr. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. On behalf of Hungary, Mr. István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary and Mr. Harry Alex Rusz, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe welcomed the attendees. The conference was chaired by Ms. Krisztina Kincses representing the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.

The European Landscape Convention, adopted in 2000, aims to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to enhance international co-operation. To date, forty Member States have ratified the Convention. With the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention on 1 July 2021, it is also open for accession by non-European States.



Ambassador Harry Alex Rusz during the 11 th Conference on the European Landscape Convention in Strasbourg



Palais de l'Europe, Photo credit: Council of Europe



## 'Magical Hungary' photo exhibition

Strasbourg, 26 May - 30 June 2021

On the margins of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on the European Landscape Convention, the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary opened an on-site and online photo exhibition presenting the diverse landscape of Hungary through more than forty photographs. This exhibition opened the series of cultural events of the Hungarian Presidency.

The 'Magical Hungary' (Varázslatos Magyarország) photo contest has been attracting thousands of nature photographers for over a decade. Competitors record the beauty of nature each year through a variety of subjects, ranging from classic landscapes to abstract representations.





Photo credit: János Fehér, 'Twilight'



Photo credit: Sándor Zsila, 'The birth of light'



## Session of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Budapest, 28 May 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) met in a hybrid conference on 28 May 2021.

After the opening of the meeting by President Rik Daems, the parliamentarians held an exchange of views with Mr. Levente Magyar, Deputy Minister, Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. The discussion focused on topical issues in the framework of the Assembly's ongoing political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers.

The parliamentarians had debates on current affairs, notably the Middle East Peace Process and the situation in Belarus. Other items on the agenda included debates on the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the budget of the Council of Europe (2022-2025) and the expenditures of the Assembly (2022-2023), the observation of recent parliamentary elections in Bulgaria and Albania, the role of parliaments in implementing the UN global compact for migrants and refugees and the humanitarian action for refugees and migrants in the Middle East and North Africa.

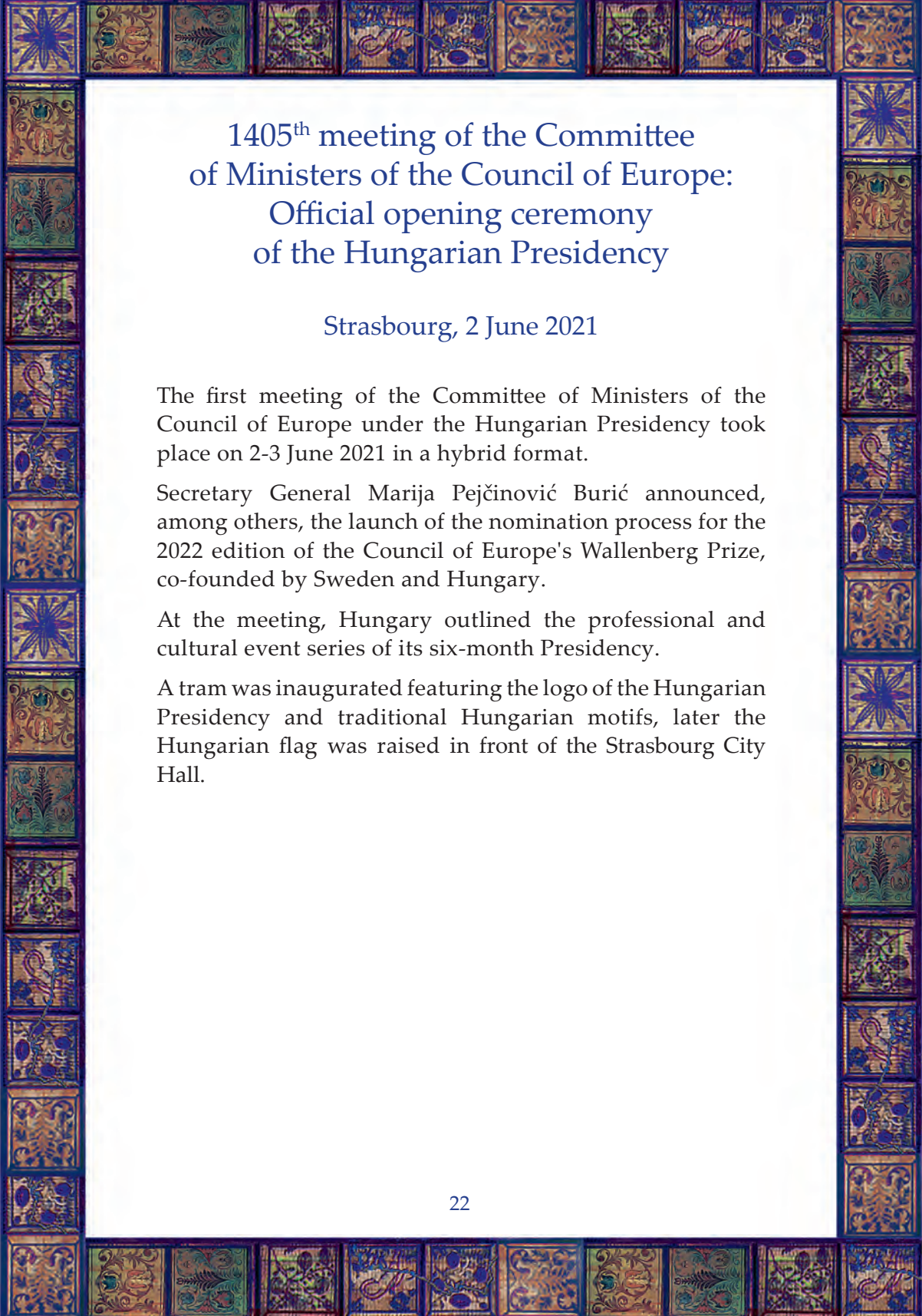




Family photo of the participants of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Budapest



Photo at the Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest, Hungary

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of Hungarian motifs including the coat of arms, the Hungarian flag, and traditional folk art designs in blue, red, and gold.

## 1405<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: Official opening ceremony of the Hungarian Presidency

Strasbourg, 2 June 2021

The first meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe under the Hungarian Presidency took place on 2-3 June 2021 in a hybrid format.

Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić announced, among others, the launch of the nomination process for the 2022 edition of the Council of Europe's Wallenberg Prize, co-founded by Sweden and Hungary.

At the meeting, Hungary outlined the professional and cultural event series of its six-month Presidency.

A tram was inaugurated featuring the logo of the Hungarian Presidency and traditional Hungarian motifs, later the Hungarian flag was raised in front of the Strasbourg City Hall.





The inauguration of the tram featuring traditional Hungarian motifs and the logo of the Hungarian Presidency



Flag raising ceremony in front of the City Hall of Strasbourg



## Screening of the opening piano concert of János Balázs

Strasbourg, 2 June 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the concert of the Kossuth-prize winning pianist János Balázs, which was scheduled for the takeover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on 21 May, was broadcasted to the audience on 2 June 2021 from the Concert Hall of the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary.

The concert was accompanied by short films aimed to highlight Hungary's cultural heritage and wonders.





Kossuth-prize winning pianist János Balázs



Concert Hall of the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest



## Conference of Media Ministers: „Artificial intelligence – Intelligent politics: Challenges and opportunities for media and democracy”

Nicosia, 10-12 June 2021

On 10-12 June 2021 a hybrid conference on ‘Artificial Intelligence – Intelligent Politics: Challenges and opportunities for the media and democracy’ was organised in Cyprus.

The event was opened by Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus and Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

The conference was attended by the ministers responsible for media and information of the Member States of the Council of Europe.





Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary,  
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



Conference of Media Ministers

## Digital P.E. class LIVE!

All over Europe, 11 June 2021

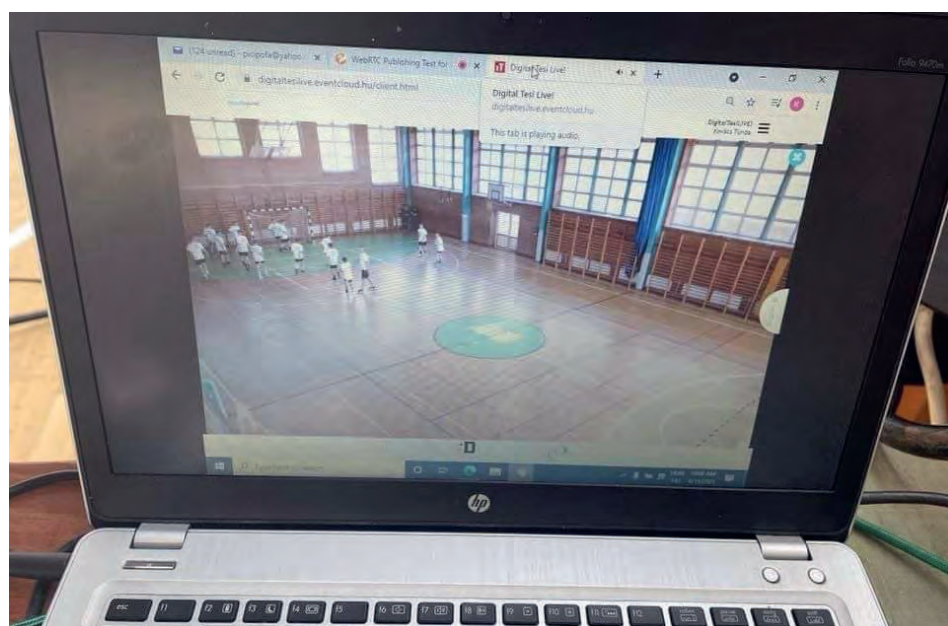
On 11 June 2021, online physical education classes were offered to the Member States of the Council of Europe under the initiative called 'Digital P.E. Live!'.

The programme broadcasted online football, handball and basketball classes taking place in three Hungarian schools in three different Hungarian cities.

The initiative was the result of a partnership between the Digital Sports Knowledge Centre and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, also it was a part of the Digital Wellbeing Programme.



Live broadcasted football class in Budapest



Online physical education class opened in a browser





## Exhibition on the architecture of the Hungarian National Assembly building

Strasbourg, 21 June – 9 July 2021

From 21 June until 9 July 2021 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, the Hungarian Presidency in cooperation with the Museum of the Hungarian National Assembly, organised an exhibition on the architectural history of the Hungarian Parliament building.

The exhibition featured photographs and artworks, as well as cultural and historical treasures linked to the building.



Part of the exhibition on the architecture of the building  
of the Hungarian National Assembly



Part of the exhibition on the architecture of the building of the Hungarian  
National Assembly in the Palais de l'Europe



# Summer session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 21-24 June 2021

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held its summer session in Strasbourg from 20-24 June 2021.

The Hungarian National Assembly was represented by Mr. Zsolt Németh (Head of Delegation), Mr. Barna Pál Zsigmond, Ms. Katalin Csöbör, Ms. Mónika Bartos, Mr. Attila Tilki, Mr. Zsolt Csenger-Zalán; Mr. Lőrinc Nacsa, Ms. Hajnalka Juhász; Ms. Zita Gurmai, and Mr. Koloman Brenner.

On 21 June 2021, Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary presented the Communication from the 131<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly. The Minister also elaborated on the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency.

Among other things, the Assembly discussed the following reports: progress report on political events, women in politics, European diaspora policy, Afrophobia and transparency in election campaigns and the related financing of political parties. It also examined a report on the economic and social crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary  
addresses the Parliamentary Assembly



Mr. Péter Szijjártó with the Hungarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly



## Donbass visit as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers

Strasbourg, 22 June 2021

On 22 June 2021, Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary visited the Donbass region as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers.

The Committee of Ministers attaches particular importance to ensure and respect the human rights of all people living in Eastern Ukraine.

Although the Council of Europe stays away from military conflicts, as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Minister Szijjártó visited the conflict area to send a positive message to a region, where thousands of citizens have been suffering the consequences of war for years.

Hungary offered €160 000 as a voluntary financial contribution for the implementation of the Council of Europe's Ukraine Action Plan.





Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary meets Mr.  
Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine



Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary  
visiting the Donbass

## High-level conference on the 'Norms and standards of the Council of Europe on national minorities: Results and challenges'

Strasbourg, 29 June 2021

On 29 June 2021, a high-level conference titled 'Norms and Standards of the Council of Europe on National Minorities: Results and Challenges' took place under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency.

The event was opened by Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr. Gergely Gulyás, Head of the Prime Minister's Office.

Speakers included Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, Ministerial Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy; Ms. Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights; Ms. Vesna Crnić-Grotić, former Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Language Charter; Ms. Marie Hagsgård, Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities; Ms. Erzsébet Szalayné Sándor, Deputy Nationality Ombudsman, expert of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities and Mr. Vello Pettai, Director of the European Centre for Minority Affairs (ECMI).

The aim of the conference was to assess the achievements and identify challenges in the field of protecting national minority rights in Europe. It was also an opportunity to examine the results of the reform of the two monitoring mechanisms on national minorities and minority languages carried out since 2018.





From left to right Mr. Gergely Gulyás, Head of the Prime Minister's Office, and Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Opening speech of Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe during the conference



## Concert of flutist János Bálint, accompanied by pianist József Balog

Strasbourg, 29 June 2021

On the margins of the high-level conference titled 'Norms and standards of the Council of Europe on national minorities: Results and challenges', a classical music concert was held on 29 June 2021 in Strasbourg.

Two Ferenc Liszt Prize winning artists, Mr. János Bálint and Mr. József Balog performed at the concert, which was the first live cultural event at the Council of Europe since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.





Concert of flutist János Bálint and pianist József Balog in Strasbourg



Concert of flutist János Bálint and pianist József Balog



## Annual Conference of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)

Strasbourg, 1-2 July 2021

The annual conference of the HELP Network took place on 1-2 July 2021.

The conference served not only as a meeting platform for Members, but also as a forum to present the latest courses and projects developed under the auspices of the HELP Network.

Participants discussed how to enhance the impact of human rights training and how to improve effective co-operation among all members and partners of the Network.

The conference was opened by Mr. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ambassador Ms. Meglena Kuneva, Head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe and Ambassador Mr. Harry Alex Ruzs, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe.





HELP Network Conference in Strasbourg



Ambassador Mr. Harry Alex Rusz, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe and Mr. Mikhail Lobov, Head of Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe at the HELP Network Conference



## Tokaj wine dinner

Kientzheim, 8 July 2021

The Hungarian Presidency organised a wine dinner at the Château de la Confrérie Saint-Etienne in Kientzheim for the Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe.

The location connected the region of Alsace to the Hungarian wine region of Tokaj through the legend of Lazarus von Schwendi.

The event presented Hungarian gastronomy through offering food and wines from the Tokaj wine region introduced by sommelier Mr. András Horkay.



Family photo at the Château de la Confrérie Saint-Etienne, France



Tokaj wine dinner in Kientzheim



# Launch of the Human Rights Handbook

Budapest, 12 July 2021

The intergovernmental Human Rights Working Group, whose work is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice of Hungary, launched the Human Rights Handbook on 12 July 2021 in Budapest in the presence of the Diplomatic Corps of the Member States and Observers of the Council of Europe.

The Handbook aims to support dialogue within the Organisation on questions related to human and fundamental rights. It also strives to provide a brief introduction to basic human rights concepts, the institutional system based on the Fundamental Law of Hungary, specific sectoral rules and their implementation, and the Hungarian Government's efforts to promote human rights.

The Diplomatic Corps was addressed by Ms. Anikó Raisz, State Secretary for Public Administration and Mr. Pál Völner, Deputy Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Human Rights Working Group, who presented the Human Rights Handbook.



Launch of the Human Rights Handbook in Budapest



Copy of the Human Rights Handbook





## Concert of the Zoltán Kodály World Youth Orchestra

Budapest, 17-18 August 2021

The Ministry of Human Capacities celebrated the takeover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with a number of cultural events. Exhibitions, concerts and conferences were held both in Hungary and Strasbourg.

One of the first events was the concert of the Zoltán Kodály World Youth Orchestra conducted by Mr. Tamás Vásáry, Artist of the Nation, Kossuth-prize winning Hungarian artist.

Talented young people gathered from sixteen countries to form a special international formation to give a concert on 18 August 2021 on the steps of the Museum of Fine Arts.



Concert of the Zoltán Kodály World Youth Orchestra  
at the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest



Zoltán Kodály World Youth Orchestra conducted by Mr. Tamás Vásáry



## Council of Europe Cultural Routes in Hungary exhibition

Budapest, August – October 2021

In the framework of the 'Council of Europe Cultural Routes in Hungary' exhibition, three thematic photo exhibitions took place on 17 August, 3 and 16 September.

The idea of the 'European Industrial Heritage Route' photo exhibition is based on the growing interest in old industrial sites in Hungary. The 'Iron Curtain' Route exhibition showcased the line of the former Iron Curtain that divided Europe from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea through fifteen countries. Both cultural routes won the 'Council of Europe Cultural Route of the Year' prize in 2019.

From 16 September to 20 October 2021, an outdoor exhibition titled 'Cultural Routes and Innovation in Hungary' took place in the Museum of Fine Arts of Hungary. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Miklós Kásler, Minister of Human Capacities of Hungary. The organisers's aim was to show the art world's work during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to present nine cultural routes in Hungary. At the heart of the initiative was the award-winning installation titled 'Endless Dune', which illustrated isolation from the outside world.





The 'Iron Curtain' Route



'Cultural Routes and Innovation in Hungary' photo exhibition

## Conference on ‘The role of NGOs and research institutes in promoting Council of Europe norms and standards on national minority rights’

Budapest, 7 September 2021

On 7 September 2021, the Council of Europe and Hungarian authorities jointly organised a conference on ‘The role of NGOs and research institutes in promoting Council of Europe norms and standards on national minority rights’, which took place in hybrid format at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

The conference aimed to highlight the role of the Council of Europe and to present the activity of civil society in this field.

The event was opened by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Mr. Hallvard Gorseth, Head of Anti-Discrimination Department of the Council of Europe. Further speakers included representatives of international and Hungarian NGOs, research institutes, as well as youth representatives of national minorities. The event was chaired by Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, Ministerial Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy.





Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade addressing the conference



Attendees of 'The role of NGOs and research institutes in promoting Council of Europe norms and standards on national minority rights' conference in Budapest



# Enter! – Training course on access to social rights for young people

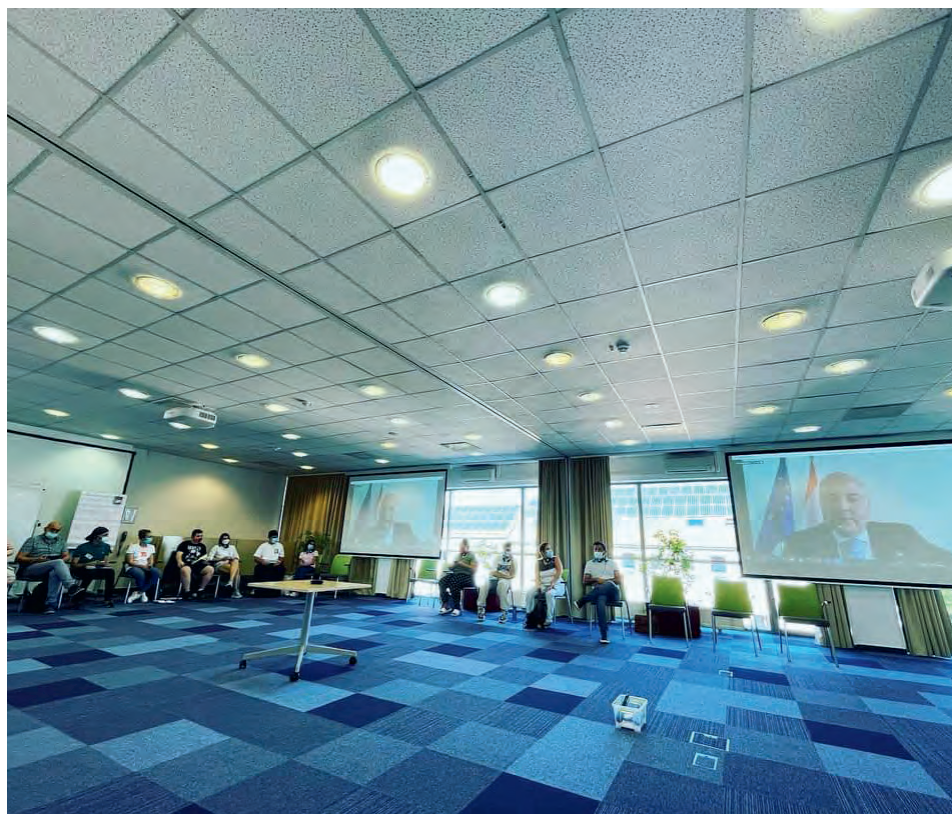
Budapest, 7-14 September 2021

The initial training seminar of the Enter! Training for Youth Workers kicked off with 33 participants from 23 countries. The seminar supported youth workers to devise projects, which put into practice the Enter! Recommendation and Youth Work Recommendation of the Council of Europe.

In the framework of the Enter! training, youth workers engage and work closely with the Council of Europe in developing and implementing specific youth work projects aimed at improving access to social rights (education, housing, health, transport, culture, employment etc.), as well as enhancing the recognition, quality and outreach of youth work in the Member States of the Council of Europe.



Family photo of the Enter! training on access to social rights for youth in disadvantaged neighbourhoods



Enter! Training course in the European Youth Centre in Budapest



# Conference on Regional and Cross-border Cooperation

Budapest, 9-10 September 2021

Under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency, a two-day hybrid conference on Regional and Cross-border Cooperation took place on 9-10 September 2021. The conference was jointly organised by the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department for Regional and Cross-border Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Central European Support Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI) and the Council of Europe.

The event was opened by Ms. Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance for Information and Discussion of the Council of Europe. During the panel discussions, national and international experts, including representatives of the Council of Europe, discussed the state of play of cross-border and regional cooperation projects and the respective role of the Council of Europe.

The conference served as an occasion for the presentation of the 2021 István Pálfi Awards, which recognises the work of a foreign and a Hungarian expert in the institutional development and management of regional, cross-border and transnational programmes every year.





Ms. Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance for Information and Discussion of the Council of Europe addressing the conference



The presentation of the 2021 István Pálfi Awards

## Week of National Parks

Gödöllő, 10-12 September 2021

In cooperation with the International Festival of Nature and Environment, the main event of the Week of the Hungarian National Parks was presented on 10-12 September 2021 in the Royal Castle of Gödöllő.

In a family-friendly environment, visitors received information about the natural and landscape heritage of Hungary. The participants were able to observe the work of traditional craftsmen, taste the products of national parks and participate in various games focused on the main topic of the event.

The patron of the event was H.E. János Áder, President of Hungary, who personally visited the venue.





Hungarian products of the National Park presented to H.E. János Áder,  
President of Hungary



From left to right: Dr. András Rácz, State Secretary for the Environment and H.E.  
János Áder, President of Hungary at the Week of National Parks



## Conference on Roma inclusion: 'From early childhood to profession'

Budapest, 22-24 September 2021

On 22-24 September 2021, the Hungarian Presidency organised a Conference on Roma inclusion entitled 'From early childhood to profession' in Budapest.

The conference was an opportunity to review progress, take stock of achievements and challenges, and share information and good practices on Roma-related activities within the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

The event was opened by Ms. Snezana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, and Mr. László Felkai, State Secretary for Public Administration, Ministry of Interior of Hungary.



From left to right Ms. Snezana Samardžić-Marković,  
Director General of Democracy of the Council of  
Europe and Mr Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for  
Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
of Hungary



Conference on Roma inclusion in Budapest





## Cross-in-fire Exhibition: Christian Persecution in Conflict Zones

Strasbourg, 22 September – 20 October 2021

An exhibition entitled 'Cross-in-Fire - Persecution of Christians in Conflict Zones' took place at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg from 22 September to 19 October 2021.

The exhibition was the result of a collaboration between the Hungarian National Museum, the State Secretariat for the Aid of Persecuted Christians of the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, the Institute of Migration Research and the Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies.





'Cross-in-fire' Exhibition at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg



## Informal meeting of the Ministers' Deputies: 'Combating and Preventing Antisemitism in Europe: Challenges and Perspectives'

Strasbourg, 23 September 2021

On 23 September 2021, the Committee of Ministers held an informal exchange of views on 'Combating and Preventing Antisemitism in Europe: Challenges and Perspectives.'

The meeting was organised in cooperation with Mr. Daniel Hölzgen the Special Representative of the Secretary General on anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes. Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow and President of the Conference of European Rabbis and Mr. Felix Klein PhD, Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism contributed to the debate as guest speakers.






Informal meeting of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg



From left to right, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow and President of the Conference of European Rabbis and Dr. Felix Klein, Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism





## Celebration of the European Day of Languages

Strasbourg, 25-26 September 2021

On 25-26 September 2021, an event celebrating the European Day of Languages was organised at the European School in Strasbourg.

The celebration was opened by a concert of the renowned Hungarian folk music band, 'Kaláka'.

The event also included a lecture by Ms. Judit Navracscics, professor of linguistics specializing in multilingual children, and a roundtable discussion with writer Ms. Janka Fodor and translator and poet Mr Guillaume Métayer.



Lecture by Ms. Judit Navracsecs, professor of linguistics on multilingual children



Concert of Kaláka in Strasbourg



# Autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 26-29 September 2021

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held its autumn session in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 September 2021.

The Hungarian National Assembly was represented by Mr. Zsolt Németh (Head of Delegation), Mr. Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Mr. Barna Zsigmond, Ms. Mónika Bartos, Ms. Katalin Csöbör; Ms. Hajnalka Juhász, Mr. Lőrinc Nacsa and Mr. Kolomán Brenner.

Subjects on the agenda included, among others, the so-called Progress Report of the Council of Europe, the presentation on social economic inequality in Europe and the debate on the report on a healthy environment. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary briefed the delegations on the activities of the Committee of Ministers.

For the first time, the Assembly held a high-level dialogue on environmental law. The guest speaker on this topic was the President of Hungary, H.E. János Áder. In his speech, the President called for immediate action on environmental protection.





Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary addresses the PACE



From left to right: Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary; Mr. Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly and Mr. Zsolt Németh, Vice President of the PACE, head of the Hungarian PACE delegation

## Expert Panel Discussion on Interreligious Dialogue

Strasbourg, 28 September 2021

On 28 September 2021, an online expert panel discussion on Interreligious Dialogue was organised under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency.

The panel was opened by Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, with the participation of relevant international NGOs and the involvement of the Hungary Helps Program. The keynote speech was delivered by Mr Daniel Hölten, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of Council of Europe on anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes and Bishop Anba Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom.

The event highlighted the relationship between humanitarian aid and religious freedom, moreover it presented the way humanitarian aid can help religious communities and persecuted Christians.

During the conference, the Strasbourg Statement on Interfaith Cooperation and Peaceful Coexistence entitled 'Together for the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief and Human Dignity' was signed by Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. The Declaration is opened for all interested parties to endorse.





From left to right: Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary; Mr. Tristan Azbej, State Secretary for the Aid of Persecuted Christians and the Hungary Helps Program and Bishop Anba Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom



Panel discussion on interreligious dialogue in Strasbourg



## Conference on 'Foster Care, Family and Future'

Budapest, 28 September 2021

The Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities organised a conference on 'Foster Care, Family and Future' held on 28 September 2021 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

The event provided an insight into the national practices of the Member States of the Council of Europe.

The conference was opened by Prof. Dr. Miklós Kásler, Minister for Human Capacities; Ms. Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou PhD, President of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe and Ms. Barbara Socha, Polish Government Commissioner for Demographic Policy and Deputy State Secretary.

The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Attila Fülöp, State Secretary for Social Affairs, Ministry of Human Capacities.

The speakers concluded that the primary goal of all child protection policies should be to guarantee the well-being and safe upbringing of children.



Mr. Attila Fülöp, State Secretary for Social Affairs  
at the conference



Folkdance performance during the Conference on 'Foster care, Family  
and Future' at the European Youth Centre in Budapest



## High-level visit of H.E. János Áder, the President of Hungary in Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 29 September 2021

On 29 September 2021, an interactive debate was organised around the theme of 'The Environment and Human Rights' within the framework of the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The event was opened by Mr. Rik Daems, President of PACE and Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, followed by a video message from Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the UN. The PACE President also read out extracts of a letter of support from His Holiness Pope Francis.

In addition, there were interventions from H.E. János Áder, President of Hungary; Mr. Roberto Fico, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies; Mr. Eduardo Pinheiro, Deputy Environment Minister of Portugal and Mr. Tim Eicke, member of the European Court of Human Rights.

Traditionally, the Member States holding the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers donate an artwork of symbolic nature to the Council of Europe. Hungary's gift was a tapestry specially made for the occasion. The artwork - created by the Association of Hungarian Tapestry Artists-, bears the title 'European Universum'. The tapestry was handed over to the Secretary General by H.E. President János Áder.





H.E. President János Áder delivering his remarks at the fourth plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



H.E. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary hands over the 'European Universum' tapestry to Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić Secretary General of the Council of Europe

## Concert of the Little Virtuosos

Strasbourg, 29 September 2021

A grand concert of the 'Little Virtuosos' orchestra took place on 29 September 2021, in Pavillon Joséphine (Strasbourg) in the organisation of the Ministry of Human Capacities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

The 70-minute concert was opened by Ambassador Mr. Harry Alex Rusz, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe and Mr. Ákos Grosz, the Director of the 'Little Virtuosos' orchestra.

H.E. János Áder, President of Hungary was invited as the guest of honour. In addition, several high-ranking representatives of the Council of Europe were present at the concert: Mr. Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Ms. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr. Robert Spano, President of the European Court of Human Rights and Ms. Carole Zielinski, representing the Mayor of Strasbourg.





Little Virtuosos Orchestra at the Pavillon Josephine in Strasbourg



Concert of the Little Virtuosos





## Eurimages conference: 'Preserving Independent Production, Diversity and Pluralism in TV series in Europe'

Budapest, 30 September – 1 October 2021

From 30 September to 1 October 2021 the Eurimages, the National Film Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary jointly organised a two-day international conference entitled 'Preserving independent production, diversity and pluralism in TV series in Europe'.

The objective of the event was to explore the need for new mechanisms of Pan-European public financial support for TV series and for a new legal framework to facilitate international TV series co-productions. It also addressed the revolutionary technological developments in the audio-visual industry.

The conference was opened by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mr. Csaba Káel, Government Commissioner and Mr. Matiaz Gruden, representing the Council of Europe. Ms. Ildikó Enyedi delivered the keynote speech of the conference through a videocall.



From left to right Mr. Matiaz Gruden, Council of Europe; Mr. Csaba Káel, Government Commissioner and Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary is opening the conference



# Bureau meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Visegrád, 4-5 October 2021

The Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE) met in Visegrád (Hungary) on 4-5 October 2021 to discuss the state of democracy at the local and regional level in the Member States of the Council of Europe.

The Bureau took note of the election observation reports of the recent local and regional elections in Morocco as well as the local elections in Georgia. In addition, it confirmed the Congress' participation in observing the forthcoming regional elections in Denmark and the elections of the local self-government bodies in Armenia. The Bureau members also held a thematic debate on the Congress' activities, resources and working methods.

On the margins of the Bureau meeting, Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy met with Mr. Leendert Verbeek, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and his delegation at the Andrassy Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

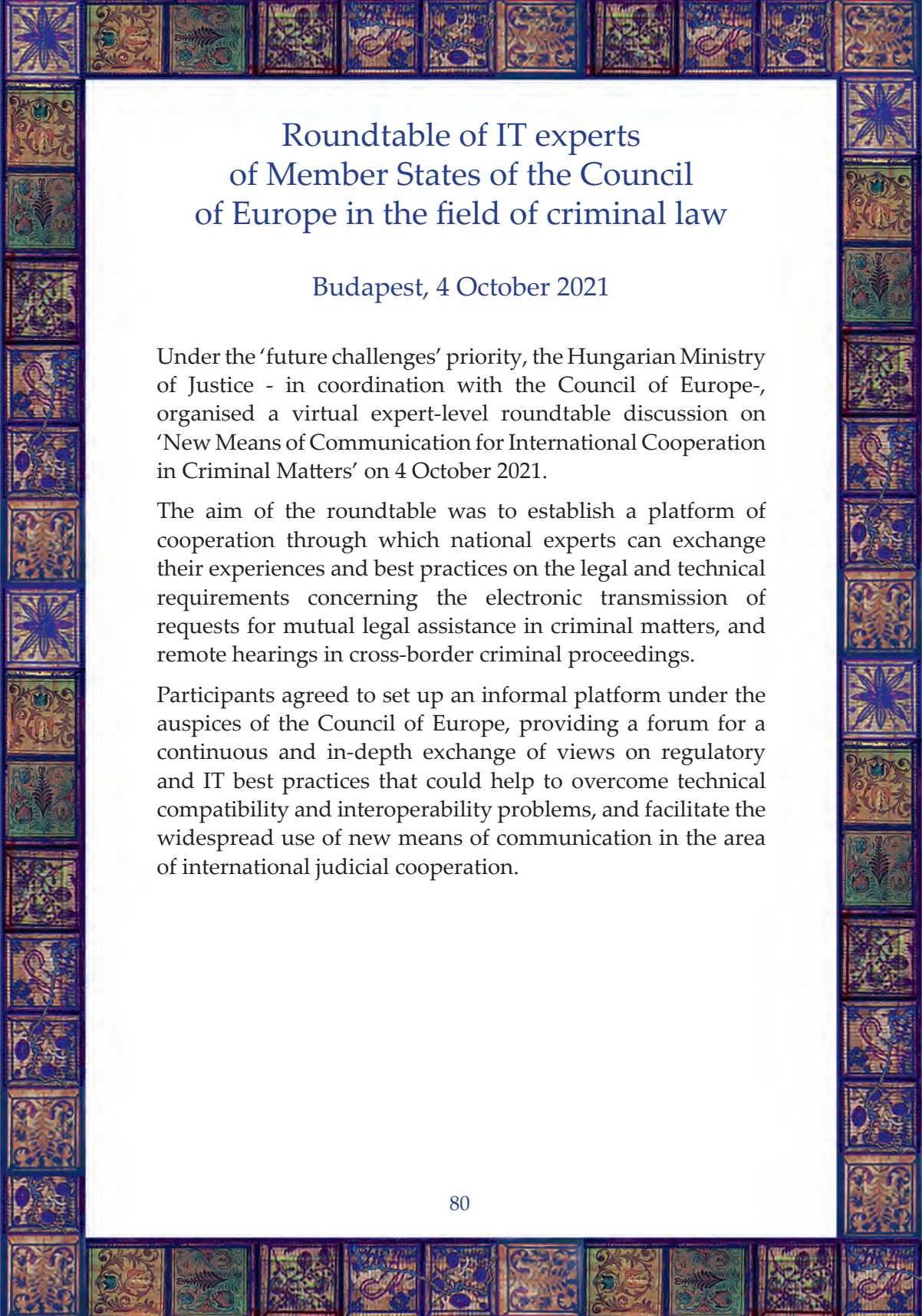




Citadel in Visegrád, Hungary (Photo credit: Council of Europe)



From left to right: Mr. Lendeert Verbeek, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



## Roundtable of IT experts of Member States of the Council of Europe in the field of criminal law

Budapest, 4 October 2021

Under the 'future challenges' priority, the Hungarian Ministry of Justice - in coordination with the Council of Europe-, organised a virtual expert-level roundtable discussion on 'New Means of Communication for International Cooperation in Criminal Matters' on 4 October 2021.

The aim of the roundtable was to establish a platform of cooperation through which national experts can exchange their experiences and best practices on the legal and technical requirements concerning the electronic transmission of requests for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and remote hearings in cross-border criminal proceedings.

Participants agreed to set up an informal platform under the auspices of the Council of Europe, providing a forum for a continuous and in-depth exchange of views on regulatory and IT best practices that could help to overcome technical compatibility and interoperability problems, and facilitate the widespread use of new means of communication in the area of international judicial cooperation.





Ministry of Justice of Hungary, Budapest



The Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters





## Conference of Ministers of Justice on 'Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence – New Challenges for Justice in Europe'

Budapest, 4-5 October 2021

On 4-5 October 2021, the Ministry of Justice hosted a ministerial conference entitled 'Digital Technology and Artificial Intelligence – New Challenges for Justice in Europe', at the Gödöllő Royal Palace with delegations from 39 Member States, including 12 ministers of justice.

The aim of the conference was to initiate a constructive dialogue regarding the latest achievements and challenges to the use of e-devices, AI and new effective solutions in the field of justice.

The event was opened by Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary. The keynote speakers included the Chair of the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), an expert of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and President of the Court of Appeal of Rennes.

Hungary values every initiative and best practice, which facilitates more efficient judicial procedures as it was concluded by the conference.



Family photo, Conference of Ministers of Justice, Budapest, Hungary



From left to right: Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary



## Country visit of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Budapest, 5 October 2021

On 5 October 2021, Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe arrived in Hungary to her formal country visit. As a general practice, the Secretary General always pays a visit to the Member State holding the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

During her visit, Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić met with Mr Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary at the European Youth Center Budapest (EYCB).

The EYCB has a symbolic meaning, because the building is provided to the Council of Europe by the Hungarian Government as a voluntary contribution in order to support the youth policy of the organisation.

The EYCB has been renovated before the Presidency to better serve and fulfil its purpose.

Thanks to an excellent cooperation with the EYCB staff before and during the whole period of the Hungarian Chairmanship, the Center could have served as one of the most important venues for the events organized by the Hungarian Presidency.



Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary welcomes Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the European Youth Center Budapest



Ms. Gordana Berjan Executive Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest leads a tour of the building for Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić and Mr. Péter Sztáray



## Best practices in the field of national minority rights

Budapest, 5 October 2021

On 5 October 2021, the Cabinet of Ministerial Commissioner for the Development of Hungary's Neighbourhood Policy organised a conference dedicated to best practices with respect to national minority rights.

The aim of the event was to discuss the contribution of well-functioning institutions to the promotion of national minority rights, to examine the influence of good practices on the regulation of national minority rights, and to present working models in Europe and their impact on minority rights protection law.

The event was opened by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. High-level speakers included Mr. Ferenc Kalmár Ministerial Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy, and Ms. Katalin Szili, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on autonomy issues beyond the borders.

Among the invited speakers were the representatives of South-Tyrol, Bolzano (Italy), Gagauzia (Moldova), Croatia, the Frisian Province (Netherlands), the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia), Ukraine, as well as the European Parliament, the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the National Assembly's Committee on nationalities in Hungary and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR/RMDSZ).



From left to right: Ms. Irina Vlah, Governor (Bashkan) of Gagauzia; Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, Ministerial Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy; and Ms. Katalin Szili Prime Minister's Special Envoy on autonomy issues beyond the borders



Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary addresses the conference



## Outdoor photo exhibition of Bence Máté

Strasbourg, 5 October – 10 November 2021

The outdoor exhibition at the breathtaking Strasbourg Cathedral presented 623 photographs by the well-known Hungarian nature photographer, Mr. Bence Máté.

The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the City of Strasbourg, which was the first international venue.

Throughout the six-week period, the exhibition attracted more than 70 000 people.



Photo panels at the Cathedral in Strasbourg



Mr. Bence Máté, photographer



## Budapest Talent Summit 2021: 'Our Passion, Our Future, Our Talent'

Budapest, 6-8 October 2021

The 'Budapest Talent Summit: Our Passion, Our Future, Our Talents' took place on 6-8 October 2021 in the National Talent Centre of Hungary.

The aim of the event was to present Hungary's 'Comprehensive Talent Care Strategy' and the 'National Talent Programme'. It was hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The summit welcomed delegations from 29 countries, most of which are Member States or Observers of the Council of Europe, including diplomats, speakers and various international and national experts.

The keynote speaker was Prof. Albert Ziegler, the Vice President of the European Council for High Ability (ECHA), leader of the World Giftedness Centre, co-founder of CyberMentor (Germany). Ms. Evis Kushi, Minister of Education and Sports of the Republic of Albania and Mr Milan Savić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia also delivered speeches.



Ms. Katalin Novák, Minister for Families at the Budapest Talent Summit 2021



Round table discussion: Hungarian Talented Youth in the World – National Talent Program & Talentum Hungaricum Scholarship





## High-level conference on the 'Rights, opportunities and well-being of children and young people in the digital age'

Budapest, 7-8 October 2021

On 7-8 October 2021 a high-level conference entitled 'Rights, opportunities and well-being of children and young people in the digital age' was organised in a hybrid format, with the participation of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Bjørn Berge.

The conference focused on the changes and opportunities that have emerged as a result of the specific measures introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Special attention was dedicated to day-to-day activities and challenges in digital education and online learning, children's and students' rights, the well-being of children and young people, family values, disadvantaged groups and those furthest behind.



Mr. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,



Entrance of the European Youth Center in Budapest



## Conference on 'Slow or Eco-Designed Cultural Tourism in Europe'

Szentendre, 13-14 October 2021

On 13-14 October 2021, the Directorate of Intellectual Heritage of the Szentendre Open-air Ethnographic Museum organised a two-day international online conference entitled 'Slow or Eco-Designed Cultural Tourism'.

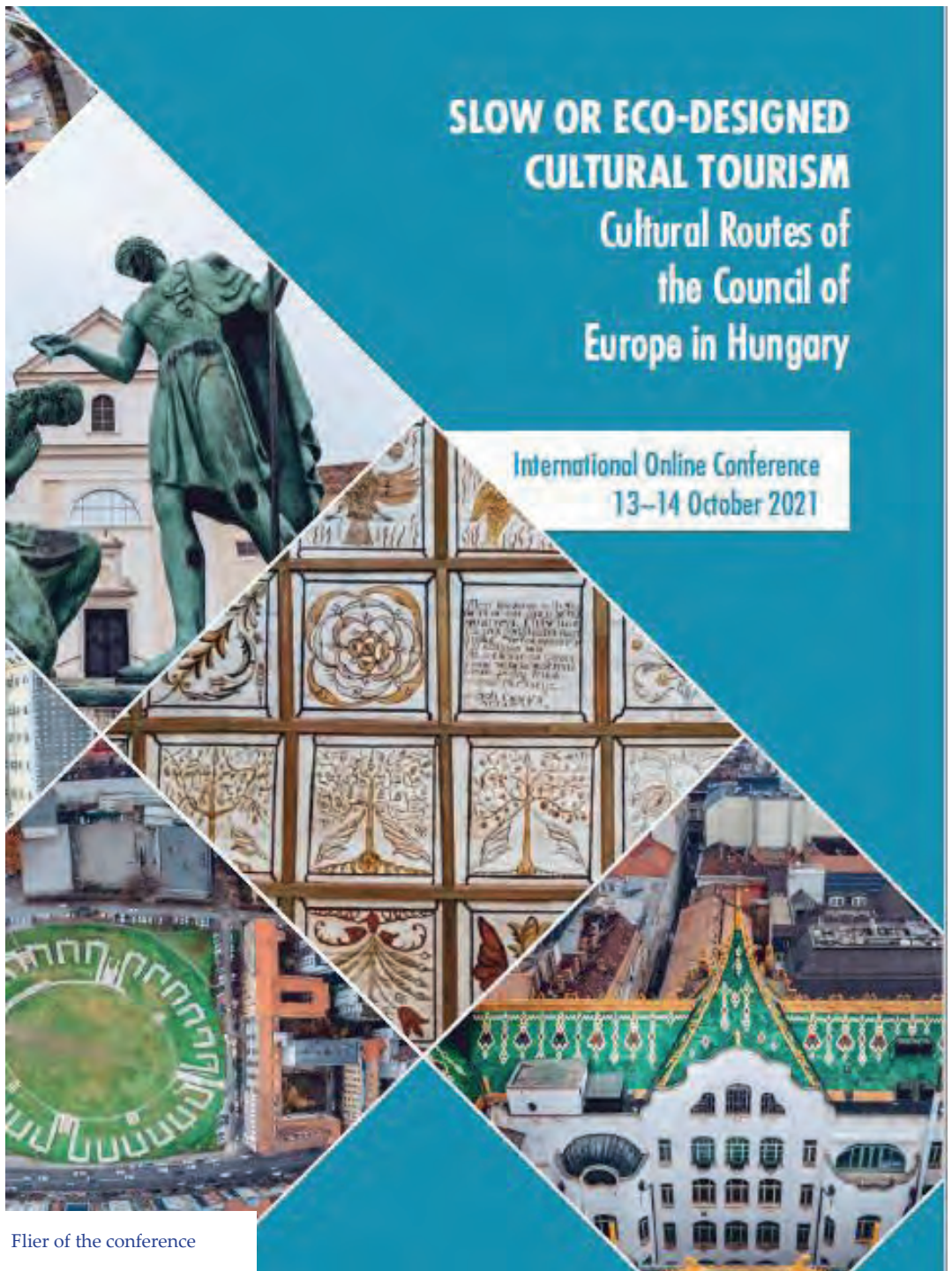
The main objective of the event was to serve as a platform for dialogue and cooperation presenting and promoting slow and eco-tourism opportunities and cultural tourism initiatives in Hungary.

The conference was opened by Mr. Miklós Cseri PhD, Director General of the Szentendre Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, Mr Péter Fekete, State Secretary for Culture of the Ministry of Human Capacities, Ms. Zsolna Ugron, Programme Director of the Hungarian Tourism Agency and Mr. Stefano Dominioni, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

# SLOW OR ECO-DESIGNED CULTURAL TOURISM

Cultural Routes of  
the Council of  
Europe in Hungary

International Online Conference  
13–14 October 2021



Flier of the conference



## Conference on the 'Pillars of Modern Age Europe: Coexistence of Religious Communities'

Debrecen, 13-15 October 2021

On 13-15 October 2021, the State Secretariat for Church and National Minority Relations of the Prime Minister's Office organised a symposium entitled 'Pillars of Modern Age Europe – Coexistence of Religious Communities'.

The event examined the complex issue of religious pluralism with regard to interculturalism. By attempting to identify common grounds between existing religions, the symposium focused on shared values and common responsibilities, as well as moral challenges of the 21st century.

The closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Daniel Höltgen, Special Representative of the Council of Europe on antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes.

High-level speakers included Mr. Gergely Gulyás Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for Church and National Minority Relations of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Tamás Menczer, State Secretary for Communication and Hungary's International Perception of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Mr. András Veres, President of the Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference, as well as representatives of academic and religious communities.



Mr. Daniel Höltgen, Special Representative of the Council of Europe on Antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes



Mr. Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for Church and National Minority Relations of the Prime Minister's Office





## Hungarian Film Festival: 'An Evening with Katalin Karády'

Strasbourg, 16 October 2021

The Hungarian Film Festival was organised on 11-24 October 2021 in cooperation with the Cinéma Odyssée in Strasbourg. A special focus was given to films directed by women and films focusing on women.

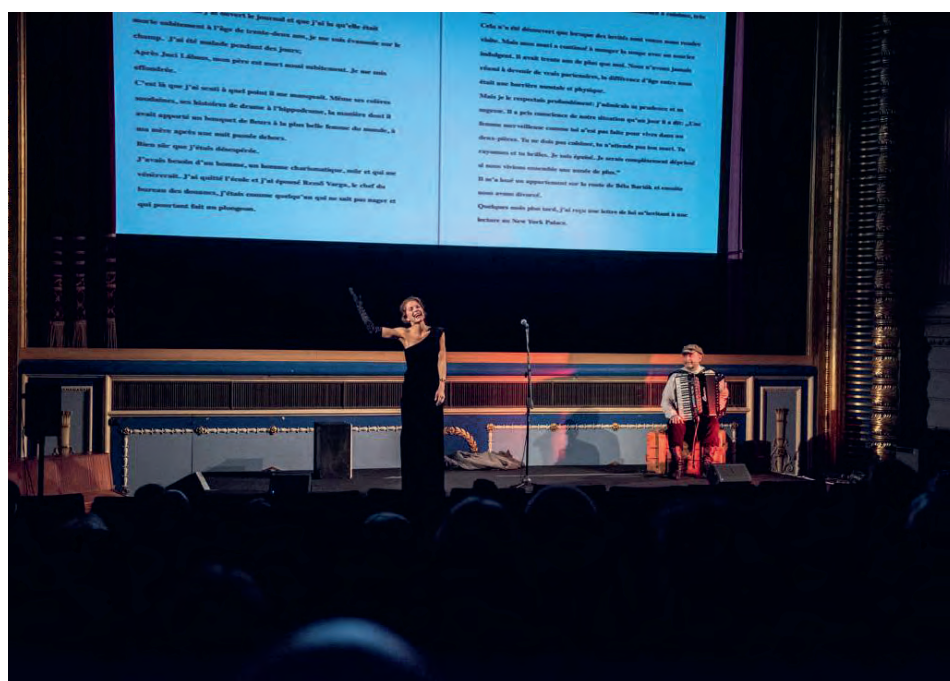
The event was opened by the Berlin Golden Bear Award-winning, Oscar-nominated film of Ms. Ildikó Enyedi, 'On Body and Soul'.

In the framework of the festival, an event entitled 'An Evening with Katalin Karády' took place on 16 October 2021.

Actors Ms. Klári Varga and Mr. Milán Ruzs performed a musical duet about the life of the legendary actress and singer Ms. Katalin Karády. The performance was followed by a screening of István Szabó's film 'Trust' (1980), whose soundtrack includes songs of Ms. Katalin Karády.



Cinéma Odyssee, Strasbourg



Ms Klári Varga, Hungarian actress performing at the 'Evening with Katalin Karády' event





## Training course for educators using Human Rights Education for Children based on 'Compasito'

Budapest, 18 October 2021

The launch event for the third edition of 'Compasito – Manual for Human Rights Education for Children' took place on 20 October 2021 in a hybrid format at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

Following the presentation of the manual by Mr. Rui Gomes, Head of the Education and Training Division of the Council of Europe Youth Department, there was a panel discussion with invited experts under the moderation of Ms. Antje Rothemund, Head of the Council of Europe Youth Department.

The event aimed to provide ideas, inspiration and practical help to explore human rights with children. Speakers came to the conclusion that by fostering an understanding of human rights, shaping opinions and developing attitudes, human rights education strongly supports both natural interest and learning process.



From left to right: Ms. Tinna Ros Steindottir, Ms. Mária Herczog PhD, Mr. Adam Lambe, Ms. Liza Bukor PhD and Ms. Antja Rothemund



Participants at the European Youth Centre in Budapest





## High-level panel on occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Social Charter

Strasbourg, 18 October 2021

On 18 October 2021, a high-level panel discussion took place in the context of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the European Social Charter.

The event was opened by Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe. A statement on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency was delivered by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

The panel discussion offered an opportunity to hear the views of high-level officials from the Council of Europe, the European Union, the United Nations and others about the future of the European Social Charter. In addition, top level human and social rights experts and practitioners discussed various issues related to the Charter, its achievements, current use and future potential.

As a follow-up, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe established a Working Party on Strengthening the European Social Charter system.



Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



Logo for the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the European Social Charter



## Conference on 'The role and responsibility of the CoE and the EU in preserving national identity'

Strasbourg, 19 October 2021

On 19 October 2021, Mr. Ferenc Kalmár, the Ministerial Commissioner for the Development of Hungary's Neighbourhood Policy and his Cabinet have organised a conference on 'The role and the responsibility of the CoE and the EU in preserving national identity'.

The event was opened by Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament. Keynote speeches were delivered by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, and the State Secretary of the Slovenian Government Office for the Slovenian Abroad.

The aim was to review the future role of the Council of Europe, European institutions and the European legal system in promoting national minority rights.

The Strasbourg Declaration, issued by the Hungarian Presidency in the framework of the conference, recognises the fundamental rights of national minorities to ensure peace and stability in Europe.

The event ended with the concert of the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra.



Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly  
at the conference on 'The role and the responsibility  
of the CoE and the EU in preserving national identity'



Concert of the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra



# Symposium on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention in Hungary on occasion of the International Landscape Day

Budapest, 21 October 2021

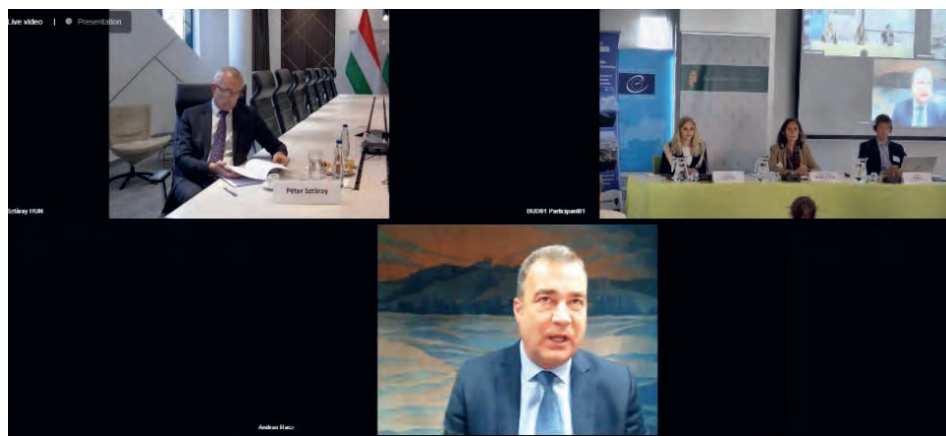
On 21 October 2021, on the occasion of the International Landscape Day, the Ministry of Agriculture and the European Youth Centre in Budapest (EYCB) jointly organised a symposium on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The event was opened by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. A special emphasis was put on the protection of European landscapes and habitats as determinants of the quality of life.

Speakers included Mr. András Rácz, State Secretary for the Environment at the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary; Ms. Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention; Mr. Gilles Rudaz, President-elect of the Convention's Conference; Ms. Krisztina Kincses Landscape and Nature Conservation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and Ms. Flora van Regteren Altena, President of the Council of Europe's Intergovernmental Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP).



From left to right: Ms. Krisztina Kincses, Landscape and Nature Conservation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary; Ms. Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention and Mr. Gilles Rudaz, President-elect of the Convention's Conference



From left to right: Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ms. Krisztina Kincses Landscape and Nature Conservation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary; Ms. Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention, Mr. Gilles Rudaz, President-elect of the Convention's Conference and Mr.



A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of Hungarian folk art motifs. The motifs include stylized flowers, leaves, and geometric shapes in a rich color palette of red, green, blue, and gold. The border is composed of rectangular tiles arranged in a grid.

## Hungarian Design Weeks

Strasbourg, 18 October – 15 November 2021

The Hungarian Design Weeks, which was on show at the Lieu d'Europe from 18 October to 15 November 2021, explored the creative process behind the creation of selected objects by Hungarian artists and designers, including Mr Attila Cosovan and Ms. Mária Roskó. The former received the Red Dot Design Award, while the latter won the Athens Jewellery Night Grand Prize in 2019.

In the framework of the project three workshops were organised by Ms. Mária Roskó, Ms. Ayumi Toyabe Japanese contemporary dance artist, as well as the students of Mr. Attila Cosovan, Ms. Daniella Dominika Galla and Mr. Balázs Fekete.



Hungarian Design Weeks at the Lieu d'Europe



Workshop at the Hungarian Design Weeks



## High-level multi-stakeholder conference entitled ‘Current and Future Challenges of Coordinated Policies on Artificial Intelligence Regulation’

Budapest, 26 October 2021

On 26 October 2021, three Hungarian ministries - the Ministry of Justice of Hungary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary -, in collaboration with the Council of Europe organised a hybrid multi-stakeholder conference focusing on the ‘Current and Future Challenges of Coordinated Policies on Artificial Intelligence Regulation’.

The event aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of international regulatory processes in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), and highlighted the interlinkages between national policies and the work of the Council of Europe's Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and other key international organisations.

High-level speakers included Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary; Mr. Rik Daems, President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary; Mr. László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary and Mr. Jan Kleijssen, Director, Information Society – Action Against Crime of the Council of Europe.



Mr. László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary



Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary



# The 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 26-28 October 2021

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities held its 41st session from 26 to 28 October 2021.

During the session, an exchange of views took place with the Hungarian Presidency, represented by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

On the margins of the plenary session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, there was an exhibition about the Veszprém-Balaton region, which won the title of European Capital of Culture for the year 2023. The exhibition showcased the beautiful sights and the rich culture of the region, presenting it as a place for creativity, development and innovation.



41st session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Strasbourg



Photo exhibition in Strasbourg





## Fashion show of Ms. Erika Kovács

Strasbourg, 26 October 2021

On the margins of the plenary session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Hungarian fashion designer Ms. Erika Kovács presented her new exclusive capsule collection.

The Hungarian designer created the collection entitled 'Protocol Dress Code' for women, who boldly wear extravagant solutions at all formal and protocol events. The various motifs of the paintings of the famous Hungarian painter, Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka were also incorporated into the design of the clothes.

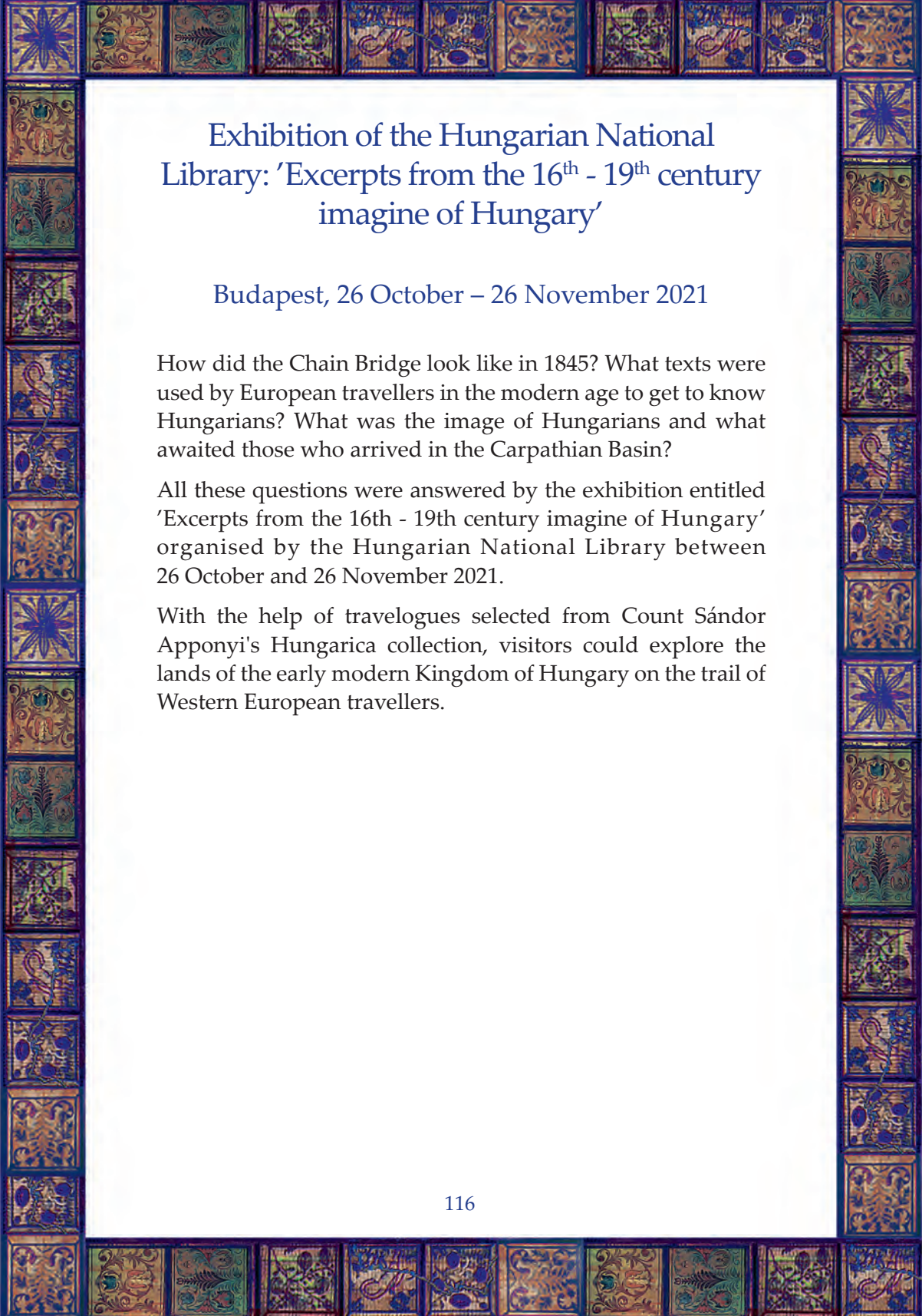


Fashion show of Ms. Erika Kovács in Strasbourg



In the middle: Hungarian designer Ms. Erika Kovács





## Exhibition of the Hungarian National Library: 'Excerpts from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century imagine of Hungary'

Budapest, 26 October – 26 November 2021

How did the Chain Bridge look like in 1845? What texts were used by European travellers in the modern age to get to know Hungarians? What was the image of Hungarians and what awaited those who arrived in the Carpathian Basin?

All these questions were answered by the exhibition entitled 'Excerpts from the 16th - 19th century imagine of Hungary' organised by the Hungarian National Library between 26 October and 26 November 2021.

With the help of travelogues selected from Count Sándor Apponyi's Hungarica collection, visitors could explore the lands of the early modern Kingdom of Hungary on the trail of Western European travellers.



Travelogues selected from Count Sándor Apponyi's Hungarica collection



Hungarian National Library, opening ceremony



## Youth Policy Seminar: 'ReStart, ReNew, ReIntegrate - Opportunities for young people after coronavirus'

Budapest, 27-29 October 2021

On 27-29 October 2021, the Deputy State Secretariat for Youth Affairs organised a conference entitled 'ReStart, ReNew, ReIntegrate - Opportunities for young people after coronavirus.'

The event aimed to respond to the challenges and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and to explore tools to re-launch youth communities in line with the 'next generation' priority of the Hungarian Presidency.

The seminar was opened by Ms. Zsófia Rácz, Deputy State Secretary for Youth Affairs; Ms. Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director of the Directorate General for Democracy and Ms. Andrea Ugrinoska Chairperson of the Advisory Council.

There was broad participation from the Member States of the Council of Europe, including various ministries, agencies and international networks responsible for youth.



Ms Zsófia Rácz, Deputy State Secretary for Youth Affairs addressing the conference



Workshop at the Youth Policy Seminar



## Fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM)

Budapest, 27-29 October 2021

The fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) took place in a hybrid format between 27-29 October at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

The event was opened by Mr. Attila Sztojka, General Director, General Directorate for Social Inclusion, and Government Commissioner for Roma Relations (Hungary) and Ms Katalin Victor Langerné, Deputy State Secretary for Social Inclusion (Hungary). The meeting was chaired by Ms. Tatjana Anđelić (Montenegro).

Participants discussed decisions and developments relevant to the ADI-ROM, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the response of Member States', key reference documents such as the ADI-ROM Terms of Reference and Work Programme 2020-2021 and the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025).



4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues,  
Budapest, Hungary



Panel discussion in the European Youth Centre Budapest





## High-level celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe

Paris, 28 October 2021

On 28 October 2021 a high-level commemorative event took place at the Pompidou Centre in Paris on occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe's International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group).

The opening statements were delivered by Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; Mr. Antonio Lacerda Sales, Deputy Minister of Health of Portugal and Mr. Nicolas Prisse President of the French anti-drug authority, MILDECA.

The event looked back over the Group's history and successes, while also highlighting the importance of placing human rights at the heart of drug policies.



Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



From left to right: Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs



# The contribution of Agriculture 4.0 to the achievement of the agricultural goals of the European Green Deal

Budapest, 2-3 November 2021

On 2-3 November 2021 the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary organised a conference entitled 'The contribution of Agriculture 4.0 to the achievement of the agricultural goals of the European Green Deal.'

The speakers outlined the role of farming and modern technology, the practical challenges of Hungarian agricultural production concerning the European Green Deal objectives and the potential role of digitalization in crop production.

The conference concluded that there is a lack of digital readiness, while complicated electronic systems could lead to a drawback of Agriculture 4.0. The role of sufficient technical expertise to manage and repair electronic systems, the need for the establishment and maintenance of specialized trading networks, and the importance of data, reliability, and authenticity were also underscored.



Ms. Juhász Anikó, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture



Mr. Gergely Papp on the challenges of agricultural production in relation to



## Meeting of the Political Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

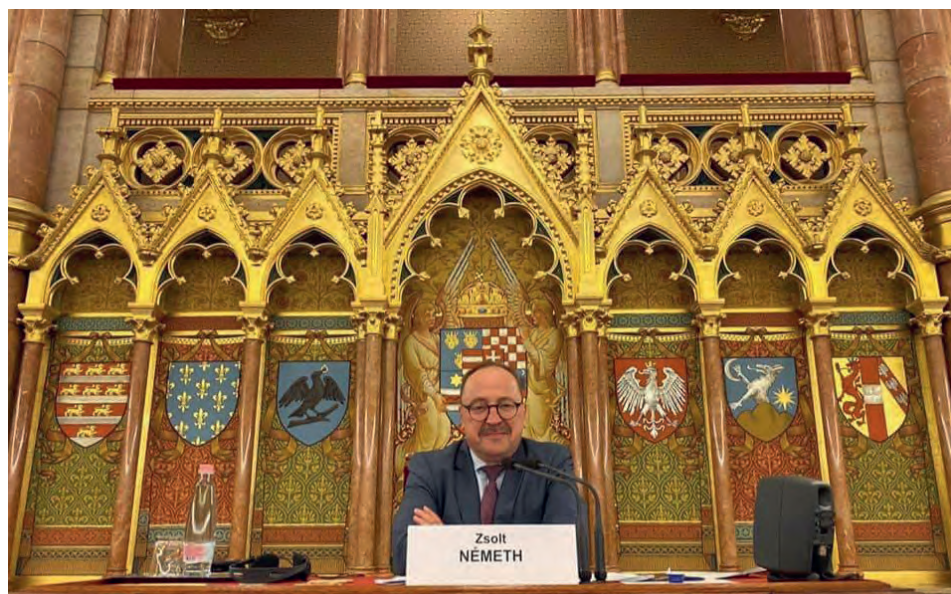
Budapest, 3-4 November 2021

On 3-4 November 2021 the meeting of the Political Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held in Budapest. The venue of the meeting was one of the most beautiful room of the Hungarian National Assembly, the Congress Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Zsolt Németh Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The members of the committee were welcomed and addressed by Mr László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly.

During the meeting the members discussed the protection of national minorities – the top priority of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of Europe – and the most recent environmental challenges.



Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian



Parliament, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly  
addresses the meeting



## Conference on 'National minorities in Hungary: Protection and passing on of national minority values'

Budapest, 4-5 November 2021

On 4-5 November 2021, the State Secretariat for Church and National Minority Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office organised a conference on 'National minorities in Hungary: Protection and passing on of national minority values'.

The main topics of the conference included the preservation of values, the strengthening of national minority identity and use of language, through the collection and presentation of good practises and good examples.

Participants included Mr. Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for Church and National Minority Relations of the Prime Minister's Office; Mr. Sztáray Péter, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, representatives of the recognised national minorities living Hungary, as well as representatives of the Council of Europe, public administration institutions, and political and governmental officials.



Conference on 'National minorities in Hungary: Protection and passing on of national minority values'



Mr. Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for Church and National Minority Relations of the Prime Minister's Office addresses the conference



# Budapest Volunteer Summit

Budapest, 4-6 November 2021

On 4-6 November 2021 the Deputy State Secretariat for Youth Affairs organised a high-level international summit on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers and the 10th anniversary of the European Year of Volunteering.

High-level participants included Ms. Zsófia Rácz, Deputy State Secretary for Youth Affairs and Mr. Dávid Mészáros, Head of Volunteer Policy Unit of Hungary.

The event aimed to outline the positive effects of volunteering in the field of intergenerational volunteering. It covered the topics of national and international good practices in volunteering, new forms of volunteering and the connection between volunteering and family life, and the European Solidarity Corps.

In addition, breakout sessions were organised to explore what volunteering can do for our communities, what can be done to further strengthen the culture of volunteering, and what role the state and the civil sphere may play in the quality development of volunteering.



Video message of Ms. Zsófia Rácz, Deputy State Secretary for Youth Affairs at the Budapest Youth Volunteer Summit



Registration at the Budapest Volunteer Summit



## 9<sup>th</sup> World Forum for Democracy – 'Can Democracy save the environment?'

Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2021

On 8-10 November 2021 the 9th World Forum for Democracy (WFD) brought together intellectuals, politicians, activists, experts and young people from all over the world to answer the question 'Can democracy save the environment?'.

Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary participated at the Second Plenary Session focusing on the question what governing style is best placed to tackle the environmental challenge.

On the margins of the WFD, the Minister had a discussion with the Secretary General Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić and the President of the European Court of Human Rights Mr. Robert Spano with whom she reviewed the results of the Hungarian Presidency and the new case management strategy of the Court.

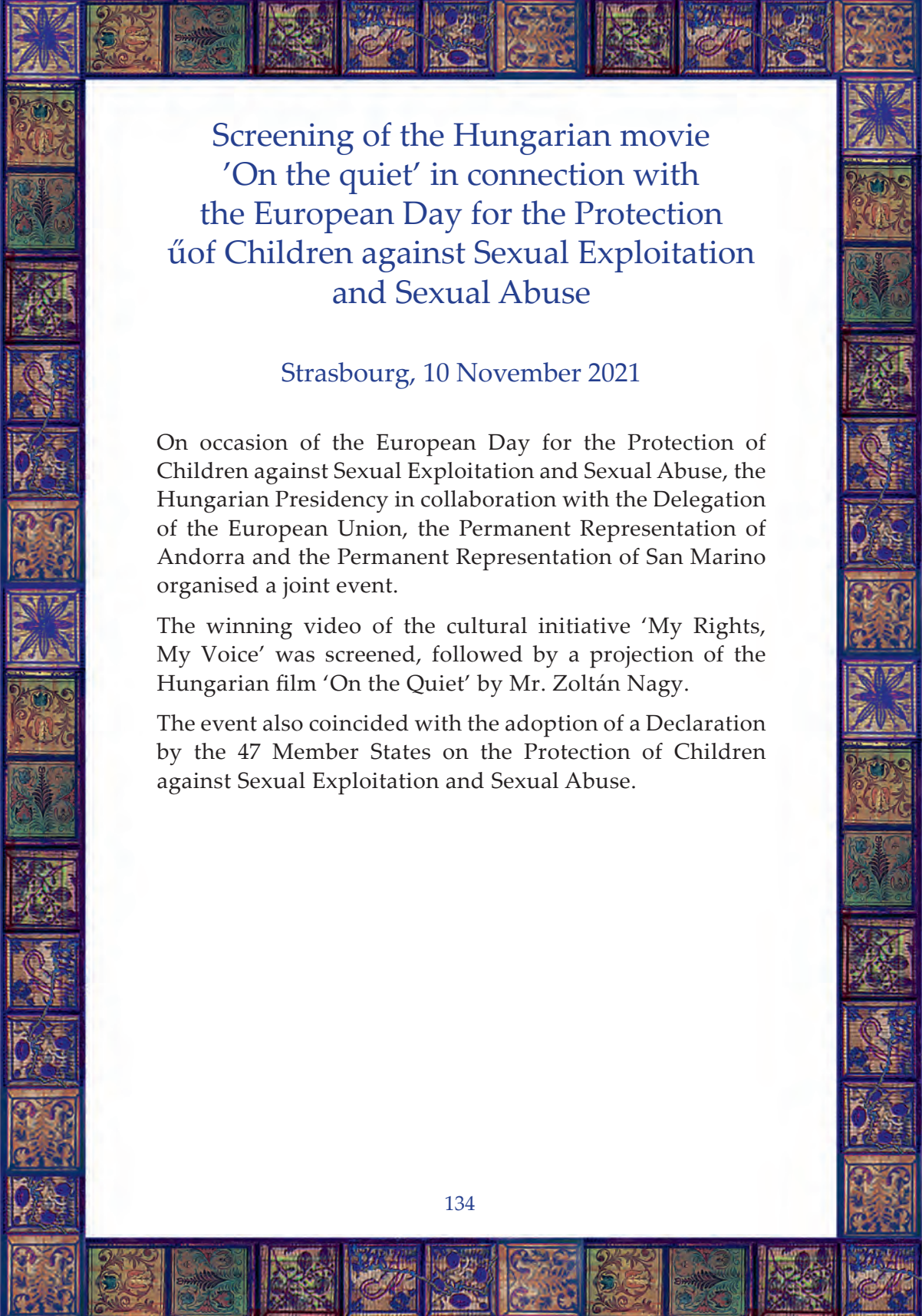


Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary  
addresses the World Forum for Democracy



Plenary session 2: What governing style is best placed  
to tackle the environmental challenge?





## Screening of the Hungarian movie 'On the quiet' in connection with the European Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Strasbourg, 10 November 2021

On occasion of the European Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Hungarian Presidency in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union, the Permanent Representation of Andorra and the Permanent Representation of San Marino organised a joint event.

The winning video of the cultural initiative 'My Rights, My Voice' was screened, followed by a projection of the Hungarian film 'On the Quiet' by Mr. Zoltán Nagy.

The event also coincided with the adoption of a Declaration by the 47 Member States on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.



Mr. Harry Alex Rusz, Permanent Representative  
of Hungary to the Council of Europe



Poster of "On the quiet" (Szép csendben),  
a film of Mr. Zoltán Nagy



## Conference on the 'Best Practices of Local Governments and European Label of Governance Excellence Programmes'

Budapest, 10 November 2021

On 10 November 2021, the Ministry of Interior of Hungary organised a conference entitled 'Best Practices of Local Governments and European Label of Governance Excellence programs' (ELoGE) in cooperation with the the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities and the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the Council of Europe.

Speakers and attendees included representatives of the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities, the Ministry of the Interior, the Association of Hungarian Villages, the Association of Small Towns and the Homo Oecologicus Foundation.

The Hungarian National ELoGE Platform awarded the European Label of Governance Excellence prize to sixteen municipalities.



Video message of Mr. Neil Sheerin, Representative of the Center of Expertise for Good governance and Ms. Alina Tatarenko, Head of the Democratic Governance Division, Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe (CoE)



P Ms. Hajnalka Juhász, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for the furthering of international relations in connection with the priorities associated with Hungary's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe addresses the conference



## Conference on the 'Present and future of environment technology in Hungary'

Budapest, 11 November 2021

On 11 November 2021, the Hungarian Agricultural Ministry organised a conference entitled 'Present and future of environmental technology in Hungary' at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. The event was attended by representatives of Hungarian businesses committed to environmental protection.

The programme was built on three main topics: eco-innovation, the environmental impact of microplastics and environmental technology investments. In this framework a special focus was dedicated to eco-labelling, consumer misconceptions, the role of energy efficiency improvement in environmental protection, and EU funding for environmental technology investments.

The speakers introduced various programmes such as the Operational Programme for Environment and Energy Efficiency Plus, the Operational Programme for Economic Development and Innovation Plus, the Green National Champion Programme, the Horizon Europe Programme and the LIFE Programme.



Presentation at the 'Present and future of environmental technology in Hungary' conference



Workshops at the European Youth Centre in Budapest



## Conference on the 'Practices and experiences in the fight against discrimination in the Member States of the Council of Europe'

Budapest, 11 November 2021

Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Mr. László Gábor Lovászy PhD, Ministerial Commissioner of the Prime Minister's Office responsible for strategic government research organised and opened a conference entitled 'Practices and experiences in the fight against discrimination in the Member States of the Council of Europe', with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The hybrid conference took place on 11 November 2021 in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly.

The conference aimed to discuss the equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination in the Member States of the Council of Europe, but also national strategies and achievements for persons with disabilities.

The speakers concluded that the best possible social integration, training and employment of people with disabilities is not only in the interest of the persons concerned and their families, but is also in the interest of Europe as a whole.



From left to right: Mr. László Gábor Lovászy PhD, Ministerial Commissioner of the Prime Minister's Office responsible for strategic government research; and Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament, and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



The conference was accessible to everyone



## 'The European Court of Human Rights and its Case Law in the Application of Domestic Courts' conference

Budapest, 11-12 November 2021

On 11-12 November 2021, honouring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice of Hungary organised a conference entitled 'The European Convention on Human Rights and its Case Law in the Application of Domestic Courts'.

The aim was to provide an overview of the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights' judgments by the domestic courts, and to examine the application of the Court's caselaw in light of the caselaw of the domestic courts and the Constitutional Court of Hungary.

The conference was opened by Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary and Mr. Péter Paczolay, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights. The National Office for the Judiciary and the Curia of Hungary, experts from the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, and the representatives of various Justice Ministries and national parliaments have also attended the event.

The conference came to the conclusion that the fundamental issue of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights is the relationship between the Court and the Member States.



Ms. Judit Varga, Minister of Justice of Hungary at 'The European Court of Human Rights and its Case Law in the Application of Domestic Courts' conference



Panel discussion at 'The European Court of Human Rights and its Case Law in the Application of Domestic Courts' conference



## High-level conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (Octopus Conference)

Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2021

As part of the Octopus conference, the Council of Europe's flagship event on cybercrime, the Hungarian Presidency organised a high-level conference on 16 November 2021. The event marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Budapest Convention and the Second Additional Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence.

The opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Sándor Pintér, Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary and Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The hybrid event provided an opportunity for cybercrime experts from public and private sectors as well as international and non-governmental organizations to share their experiences.



From left to right: Mr. Ernő Simon, IT specialist of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary; Ms. Nóra Baus, European Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary; Mr. Mátyás Hegyaljai PhD, Deputy State Secretary for European and International Affairs; Mr. Sándor Pintér Minister of Interior; Ms. Eszter Leik, interpreter



From left to right: Mr. Jan Kleijssen Director of Information Society - Action against Crime, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law; Ambassador Mr. Rusz Harry Alex Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe; Ms. Eszter Lelik interpreter; Mr. Sándor Pintér Minister of Interior and Mr. Mátyás Hegyaljai PhD, Deputy State Secretary for European and International Affairs





## Performance of the Hungarian National Folk Ensemble

Strasbourg, 16 November 2021

The cultural program series of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe ended by a grand performance of the Hungarian State Folklore Ensemble entitled “Carpathian Basin Anthology”.

Echoing the priority of the protection of national minorities, the performance included the dances and music of neighbouring countries and national minorities living in Hungary.



Hungarian National Folk Ensemble at the Palais de la Musique  
et des Congrès of Strasbourg



Performance of the Hungarian National Folk Ensemble



# Handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Italy

Strasbourg, 17 November 2021

On 17 November 2021 Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary handed over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

At the ceremony, the incoming Chair presented the priorities of the Italian Presidency, while the outgoing Chair presented a stocktaking report of the six-month period from May to November 2021.

Following the traditions, the Hungarian flag was lowered and the Italian flag was raised at Place de la République, while students of the Strasbourg Conservatory played the Hungarian and Italian national anthems as well as the Ode to Joy. The inauguration of the tram in the Italian tricolor and the flag raising took place on the same day.



Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy receives the key of the presidency from Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary



Handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



