

## BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Accommodation **Hotel President Budapest**  
Budapest H-1054, Hold utca 3-5., Hungary  
Tel: +36 1 510 3400

*The German Marshall Fund has paid for your stay and breakfast is included in your room. Complementary Wi-Fi is available in the hotel. You are responsible for incidental charges such as phone calls, laundry, or room service. The hotel may ask you for a credit card or deposit when you check in.*

City Coordinator **Enikő Pap**  
Mobile: +36 30 618 9476  
[papeniko1@gmail.com](mailto:papeniko1@gmail.com)

**Hungarian Europe Society**  
Budapest H-1052, Gerlóczy utca 11., Hungary  
[info@europatarsasag.hu](mailto:info@europatarsasag.hu)

Taxi Főtaxi +36 1 222 2222

*Fellows are expected to pay for local transportation. Public transportation or taxis will be used during the visit, as well as walking in some cases. Assistance to buy public transport tickets will be provided.*

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### Friday, 5 May 2017

*Dress: business casual*

**8:55 am** **Arrival from Thessaloniki**

**11:15 am** **Arrival from Rome**

**3:40 pm** **Arrival from Bilbao**

A person will be waiting for fellows in the arrivals hall of the Liszt Ferenc International Airport with a nametag. Assistance to city transport will be provided upon arrival.

**6:30 pm** **Meet in the hotel lobby with city coordinator**

**7:00 – 8:45 pm** **Reception – Meeting with local MMF alumni**  
**Welcome: István Hegedűs**, Chair, Hungarian Europe Society  
[House of Hungarian Art Nouveau](#), [Útisz Gallery](#), [Budapest 1054, Honvéd utca 3.](#)

*Mr. István Hegedűs has become politically active at the beginning of the Hungarian regime-change. In 1989 he participated at the national roundtable negotiations on the transition to democracy as a delegate of the opposition groups. He was a permanent member of the media committee during the talks. He became a liberal member of the first free elected Hungarian Parliament in 1990 and served as the vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. After leaving politics in 1994, Mr. Hegedűs began working as a free-lance scholar and lecturer in different universities. Amongst others, he has run courses on Hungarian and European politics for visiting students of the Education Abroad Program of the University of California located at the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences in Budapest. Mr. Hegedűs received his Ph.D. in sociology at the Corvinus University of Budapest in 2004. His main research fields are political parties, media and politics as well as EU institutional decision-making. Since 2011 he mostly lives in Brussels.*

The [Hungarian Europe Society](#) (HES) is a Budapest-based NGO. Since 2000, HES has organised numerous conferences and workshops on current international affairs, focusing especially on European Union issues. The organisation aims that Hungarians understand the role and values of the European Union and Hungary takes full part in the wide range of policies and activities of the Union.

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**Saturday, 6 May**

*Dress: casual attire, comfortable walking shoes*

**8:50 am**

**Meet in the hotel lobby with city coordinator**

**9:00 am – 7:30 pm**

**Whole day guided tour to the Danube Bend: Esztergom, Visegrád and Szentendre cities**

River Danube is one of the most famous rivers in the world, passing through or touching the borders of ten European countries. In Hungary, a curve in the river near the city of Visegrád gave the name of the Danube Bend. Three historic places of the Danube Bend are [Esztergom](#), [Visegrád](#) and [Szentendre](#).

Esztergom was a capital of Hungary between the 10th and the 13th century and is situated on the border with Slovakia. Its cathedral, the Esztergom Basilica, is the largest church in Hungary.

Visegrád is a small castle town on the right bank of the Danube, being famous of the remains of the Royal Palace and the Citadel of Visegrád Castle, on the top of the Castle Hill.

The medieval town of Szentendre is well known for its art scene; the streets are lined with museums, contemporary art galleries, craft shops and boutique stores. The Szentendre Open Air Museum presents folk architecture, interior decoration, farming and way of life in the Hungarian language area between the 18th and 20th century.

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**Sunday, 7 May**

**Free time**

Suggestions for cultural programs will be provided.

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**Monday, 8 May**

*Dress: business casual*

*Please bring your passport!*

**9:00 – 10:00 am**

**Overview of Hungary's internal affairs and political landscape**

**Róbert László**, Election Expert, Political Capital Policy Research and Consulting Institute

[Hotel President Budapest](#), Mozart room

The 2010 elections changed the election history since the regime change: the right wing party, [Fidesz](#), in alliance with the Christian Democratic People's Party, had unprecedented success and gained a two-thirds majority representation in the Parliament. Parties formerly in power have either collapsed or diminished. Fidesz experienced a significant loss of its voter basis, but gained again a two-thirds majority in 2014. The supermajority was lost in the interim elections afterwards. The current opposition suffers from fragmentation and powerlessness, at the same time new players have appeared in the political palette, and the support of extreme-right party is considerable. How the political landscape and voter preferences look like? What are the main determinants, key issues of internal politics? What is the forecast for the 2018 national elections? Can the current democratic opposition form a sustainable coalition?

Mr. **Róbert László** earned his university degrees from the University of Economics and Public Administration of Budapest (2004) and Corvinus University (2009). He is a professor in the electoral programme at the National University of Public Service, Budapest. Robert's research speciality is the Hungarian electoral system, and he is the leader of Political Capital's initiatives in this area.

**Political Capital** is a policy research, analysis and consulting institute founded in 2001 in Budapest, Hungary. The institute is committed to the basic values of parliamentary democracy, human rights and a market economy; it owes no allegiance to any government or political body. Political Capital focuses on issues such as [democratic institutions and related challenges](#), [political risks, radicalism and extremism](#), [electoral systems](#), [international migration and policies](#), [international relations \(especially between Europe and Russia\)](#), the diplomatic ties of the Visegrad countries, and relations between EU member states.

**10:45 am – 12:30 pm**      **Business environment, entrepreneurship and innovation in Hungary: opportunities and challenges**

**Graphisoft Park site visit**

**Gábor Bojár**, Founder and Chairman of Graphisoft SE, Graphisoft Park SE, and Aquincum Institute of Technology (AIT)

**Greg Borsa**, General Counsel, AIT-Budapest

Graphisoft Park, [Budapest 1031, Záhony utca 7.](#)

Hungary, one of the leading developed countries in the region after the democratic transition, has gradually lost its leading position over the last decade, and was profoundly impacted by the global economic crisis. During the years the country has accumulated a national debt of 78% of GDP and has limited growth prospects. The government introduced various unorthodox economic policies in response to the economic crisis, which provoked criticism from the international financial institutions. How the general economic outlook for and business environment in Hungary looks like now? How they can be improved to advance business development, innovation and entrepreneurship? What is the role of education here?

Mr. **Gábor Bojár** is founder and chairman of [Graphisoft SE](#) and [Graphisoft Park SE](#). He founded the architectural software company Graphisoft in 1982 in Hungary, well before the fall of the Iron Curtain. Today Graphisoft is the worldwide market leader in the field of 3D building modeling. Graphisoft Park SE a real-estate enterprise, spin-off of the software firm, re-cultivated an industrial site on the bank of the river Danube and turned it into a state-of-the art science park, which now hosts Microsoft, SAP, Servier and many other high-tech companies. In 2007, Gábor Bojár established [Aquincum Institute of Technology \(AIT\)](#), a school of information technology and entrepreneurship for an international student body. AIT is an example of social entrepreneurship demonstrating the viability of a self-sustaining investment in higher education. Mr. Bojár was a member of the Governing Board Executive Committee of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology between 2012 and 2016. He has decorated for its work several times, among others by the Széchenyi Prize and Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Prize. Gábor Bojár graduated from the Budapest-based Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences (ELTE) as a physician in 1973.

Mr. **Greg Borsa** is the general counsel of the Aquincum Institute of Technology (AIT-Budapest) and assistant to its founder, Gábor Bojár. Greg studied law in Hungary and in the United States, and he is admitted to practice in New York. Besides his role at AIT, he is of counsel to the company developing and operating Graphisoft Park, the science and office park, home to AIT-Budapest and a host of IT and biotech companies. In a previous role he worked at the Hungarian government's environment protection agency.

**12:50 – 2:00 pm**      **Working lunch: Is there a momentum now for systemic change in Hungary?**

**András Fekete-Győr**, Chair, Momentum Movement

**Barnabás Kádár**, Member of the Board, Momentum Movement

[Zappa Café, Budapest 1088, Mikszáth Kálmán tér 2.](#)

Fellows are expected to cover the costs of their lunch.

Mr. **András Fekete-Győr** is the chair of the Momentum Movement. He obtained his diploma at the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences, Faculty of Law in 2015. During the university years he spent two semesters in Ruprecht-Karls University, Faculty of

Law in Heidelberg, Germany, in the framework of the Erasmus program. Since 2016 he is a student in political science at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Mr. Fekete-Győr decided in 2014 to working on a new generation political community in Hungary. In 2014–2015 together with the fellow activists he was working on building the community and networking. He became the chair of the newly established formation, the Momentum Movement in 2016, and has been reelected again for a year in March 2017.

Mr. **Barnabás Kádár** is a member of board of the Momentum Movement. In 2016 he worked as an EU Affairs Researcher at Clean Europe Network, Brussels, then from 2016 to 2017 as an EU Funds Consultant at KPMG Hungary. Between 2016 and 2017 he served as the international coordinator, deputy director, then general director of Momentum. In 2017 he was the campaign manager of Momentum's Nolympics Campaign. Barnabás Kádár gained a BA in International Relations from Eötvös Loránd University, and MA in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University, as well as an MA in European Union Studies from Leiden University.

The **Momentum Movement** was established in 2015, by members of the first free Hungarian generation, with the aim to resolve Hungary's systemic problems. In February 2017 the Movement succeeded to collect more than 266,000 signatures to call for a referendum about Budapest's bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games, actually campaigning against the games. After the successful campaign the bid was withdrawn, without a referendum. Momentum announced in 2017 that they will be transformed to a political party and will run to the 2018 elections.

2:10 – 3:40 pm

**Hungary's international relations in the EU and beyond, in light of the refugee crisis**  
**Botond Feledy**, Director, Saint Ignatius Jesuit College of Excellence

[@botidoki](#)

**István Hegedűs** (MMF '93), Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society

**András Kováts**, Director, Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants

Saint Ignatius Jesuit College of Excellence, Budapest 1085, Horánszky u. 18.

Key politicians of the governing party Fidesz use Eurosceptic language, especially in the domestic arena. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has often been mentioned together with Russia's President Vladimir Putin in the European quality media and political arena. How this relationship affects Hungary's position in the EU, especially its relations with Western and Central and Eastern European countries?

Refugee crisis is a key issue in the political arena influencing both internal affairs, both bilateral and regional relations. What is the current situation; what have been the key determinants and directions in policy responses and communication at national level, taking into consideration the regional and EU context? What are the possible directions for future?

Mr. **Dr. Botond Feledy** is a lawyer, foreign policy expert and analyst, as well as the director of the St. Ignatius Jesuit College of Excellence, Budapest. He studied at Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences, Freie Universitaet Berlin and Sciences Po Bordeaux, later he was the founder and editor in chief of the Hungarian thematic foreign policy news portal called Kitekintő. Besides working at the European Parliament, he co-founded a simulation game initiative where players participate at virtual European Summit negotiations. He is an invited professor at Pázmány Péter Catholic University Institute of International Relations and at Sciences Po Dijon, Campus of Central European Studies.

Mr. **András Kováts** is the director of the Menedék Association. He obtained degrees in special education and in social policy at ELTE University, Budapest. Since 1998 he has been in charge of co-ordinating the activities of Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants, first as a programme co-ordinator, later as director. Besides working with Menedék, he has been a part-time research fellow of the Institute for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His fields of interest are immigration and asylum policies, immigrant integration and welfare policy. He has authored or edited 8 books and over 40 book chapters and journal articles. He regularly teaches on international migration and immigrant integration at various higher education and other training courses.

The **Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants** is involved in promoting the social integration of foreign citizens migrating into Hungary, as well as Hungarian and other citizens emigrating from here for more than twenty years. The organization have established a complex system of services, through which they have supported and continue to support thousands of refugees and other foreigners in finding a new home in the country. Menedék organize and run training courses for professionals who deal with immigrants (social workers, teachers, police officers or armed security guards working in

immigration detention centres). In addition, the organization tries to build a bridge between the host society and immigrants by realizing various public awareness educational and cultural projects and programs.

4:10 – 5:50 pm

**The situation of human rights and human rights defenders in Hungary**

**Máté Dániel Szabó**, Director of Programs, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

**Ágnes Oravecz**, NGO Grant program coordinator, Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation

**Sándor Léderer** (MMF 2012), Director, K-Monitor

**Györgyi Tóth**, Expert and former Chair, NANE Association, Hungarian Women's Lobby

**Tibor Béres** (MMF 2009), Program Officer, Autonómia Foundation

**Tamás Dombos**, Member of the Board, Hungarian LGBT Alliance

[Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Budapest 1056, Szerb utca 17-19.](#)

Following the 2010 elections, Fidesz announced fundamental constitutional and political reconstruction of the country. An ambivalent new constitution was created, new cardinal laws cemented the ruling party's power, and restrictive media laws were adopted. All these measures weakened the political system of checks and balances. Moreover, between 2012 and 2015, the NGOs managing the EEA/Norwegian NGO grants in Hungary and certain beneficiaries especially those working in the field of democracy and human rights, faced with labeling communications by the government/governing party and with audits of different authorities. A new wave of such communication was intensified at the end of 2016, targeting mainly NGOs getting funds from the Open Society Foundations. It was followed by introducing a draft law on registration obligation of those benefitting from foreign funding. How far democratic values and the rule of law are challenged today? What is the assessment of NGOs in the fields of civil liberties, transparency, antidiscrimination and gender equality?

*Mr. **Máté Dániel Szabó** is a lawyer specializing in the protection of fundamental rights. His PhD thesis focused on the constitutional borders of the informational power of the state. Currently he is the director of programs at the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, a leading Hungarian human rights NGO. Previously he was the director of Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, and a Lecturer at the University of Miskolc. He formerly served in the staff of the Hungarian Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, and in the Office of the Commissioner for Educational Rights.*

*For over two decades, the [Hungarian Civil Liberties Union](#) (HCLU) has been active in protecting the rights of citizens against undue interference by those in position of public power. The HCLU monitors legislation, pursues strategic litigation, conducts public education and launches awareness raising media campaigns. It stands by citizens unable to defend themselves, assisting them in protecting their basic rights. HCLU lawyers provide free legal aid service in about 2000 cases per year and this number is increasing. The HCLU, with headquarters in Budapest, litigates across the country and all the way to the Hungarian Supreme Court. The HCLU is present in the courtrooms, in the ministries, at international events, at universities and in small villages. Its many partners include domestic and foreign individuals and institutions, as well as international organizations. It works in cooperation with volunteers to ensure that fundamental rights and principles may indeed prevail in Hungary. The HCLU's activities cover two major areas: the protection of civil liberties and the safeguarding equality for the most disadvantaged groups.*

*Ms. **Ágnes Oravecz** is the NGO Grant program coordinator at the Hungarian Environmental Partnership (Ökotárs) Foundation since 2013. Previously she worked with different NGOs. Between 2004 and 2005 she was a project coordinator-volunteer at the Maholnap Hungarian Welfare Foundation. Later, she acted as a project manager and a head of office (in 2005–2008), then a head of finance (from 2008 to 2010) at the Kurt Lewin Foundation. Afterwards in 2010–2012 Ms. Oravecz was the development director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union. Between 2012 and 2013 she worked as a corporate relations manager at WWF Hungary Foundation. Ágnes Oravecz gained an MA in communication (2004) and an MA in sociology (2005) from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities.*

*The [Hungarian Environmental Partnership \(Ökotárs\) Foundation](#) (HEPF) aims at enhancing the development of an environmentally aware, participatory democratic society and institutional system by strengthening and supporting the civil environmental movements. The foundation promotes the development of the environmental movement through providing grants, training, fellowships and technical assistance where necessary. Since its inception in 1991, the foundation has managed grant programs funded by a variety of private, governmental and intergovernmental donors, supporting almost 2000 NGOs in Hungary in total. Most recently, as a head of the 4-member consortium it has acted as the intermediary operator of the European Economic Area/Norwegian NGO Programme, as well as the Swiss-Hungarian NGO Block Grant and Scholarship Fund.*

Mr. **Sándor Léderer** is a founder and director of K-Monitor. He is the local country correspondent for the European Commission's anti-corruption report, as well as a NewEurope100 challenger. He co-founded K-Monitor with the aim of drawing attention to issues of corruption and to bring a new level of transparency in the field of governance for the purpose of fostering democracy and the rule of law in Hungary. His duties include operative coordination of the activities of the NGO, fund-raising, project management, overseeing the development of the unique database of corruption related online articles and a website on state funds and elite networks, leading research work in the field of transparency, anti-corruption, open government. He is a regular speaker at international conferences and workshops focusing on anti-corruption, transparency, good governance and open data; he spoke to various audiences in Berlin, Budapest, Washington DC and Yerevan. Sándor Léderer holds an MA in International Studies from Corvinus University, Budapest.

The **K-Monitor** is an anti-corruption grassroots NGO founded in 2007. K-Monitor strives against corruption and promotes the transparency of public spending in Hungary. K-Monitor operates open data websites, conducts research and advocates for legal reform. With the contribution of researches, analyses and recommendations, the organization aims to challenge and overcome the social indifference to corruption, to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge. K-Monitor develops databases and online tools by which public expenses become trackable, and decision makers can be held accountable. Principles of K-Monitor's operation are openness, independence and a critical approach.

Ms. **Györgyi Tóth** has been a women's rights activist for 20 years, and a freelance human rights trainer for more than 12 years. She joined NANE Women's Rights Association as a volunteer and continues to volunteer her time as a helpline counsellor, trainer of helpline workers, and facilitator of domestic violence prevention workshops for young people. Györgyi Tóth served as a managing officer then a permanent staff member of NANE between 1998 and 2017. She was the chair of the Association from 2004 to 2015. She also served as a chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby between 2008 and 2012. Ms. Tóth was decorated with the International Women of Courage Award of the U.S. State Department in 2008. She holds an MA in American Studies of the School of English and American Studies, Faculty of Humanities, ELTE University, Budapest.

The **NANE Women's Rights Association** (NANE) was established in 1994, with the aim to step up against violence against women and children. It is a non-profit NGO, following a human rights approach, and being active at the individual, community, and societal level. NANE provides continuous services for victims of gender based violence – mainly through its helpline –, and running short and medium term public education, training and advocacy projects. NANE's mission is to contribute to a world free of any form of gender based violence stemming from, reinforced by, and serving patriarchal notions and goals.

The **Hungarian Women's Lobby** (HWL) is an umbrella organization dedicated to advocating for the women's human rights agenda as laid down by international norms. The HWL recruits, unites and represents the interests of Hungarian women's organizations with a gender equality and human rights-based agenda. HWL is the Hungarian member organization of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the largest gender equality-oriented umbrella organization in the EU. As such, the Hungarian Women's Lobby represents the national women's organizations' agendas internationally, while at the same time it takes up, represents and campaigns for gender equality issues that are relevant Europe-wide and concern Hungary as well.

Mr. **Tibor Béres** currently works as the program officer at the Autonomía Foundation since 1999. He has managed here numerous projects funded by different donors and participated in several research programs as a researcher and conductor in the field of antidiscrimination and social inclusion. Between 2004 and 2010 he was member of the Board of Directors of Mikrohitel Zrt., dealing with microcredits. Tibor Béres graduated as a Hungarian literature teacher and nonprofit manager at Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College, Szeged, and as a sociologist at József Attila University Szeged in 1995. Obtaining his PhD in regional development at Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences is in process.

The **Autonomía Foundation** was established in 1990 to promote civil society development. It supports civil initiatives in which people mobilize the available local resources to reach their goals. The NGO partners with Roma and non-Roma civil organizations in its development and grant giving activities among marginalized people. Besides direct development work Autonomía do training and research, and as they do not have own resources now, facilitate the efficiency of government and European programs targeting the improvement of labor market conditions of Roma and poor. It is a priority that the lessons learnt in 20 years' work should be used by the widest possible public.

Mr. **Tamás Dombos** serves on the board of the national umbrella organization, the Hungarian LGBT Alliance since 2012, and since 2013 he is also a board member of Háttér Society. Between 2001 and 2011 he worked as a researcher at the Center for Policy Studies at Central European University (CEU) conducting research on equal opportunity policies. He has been working for Háttér Society since 2007, first as a volunteer then as a paid staff member. He coordinated several research and advocacy projects

of the organization, including a large-scale quantitative survey among LGBT people in 2010, a study on LGBT public policies in Hungary for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2013-2014, and several projects on the rights and support for victims of hate crimes. He teaches courses on social theory and sexual minorities at Corvinus University of Budapest and Eötvös Loránd University. He graduated from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration (now Corvinus University of Budapest) in 2003 with an MA in International Relations and Economics. He received an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology in 2004 at CEU; he is currently a PhD candidate at the same department.

The [Hungarian LGBT Alliance](#) is an umbrella organization bringing together lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations in Hungary. The Alliance was registered in 2011, and currently has eight member organizations. The aim of the Alliance is to advance the legal and social equality of LGBT people, to represent their interests and to support groups and organizations working for them. The Alliance aims to protect human rights, fight discrimination and prejudices, foster the social inclusion and visibility of LGBT people, and to strengthen their identity and awareness.

6:15 – 7:15 pm

**Academic freedom in Hungary: the case and future of Central European University**

**Liviu Matei**, Provost and Pro-Rector, Central European University

[Central European University, Budapest 1051, Nádor utca 9.](#)

In April 2017 the Parliament adopted a modification of the act on higher education. The new regulation restricts academic freedom and operation of the Central European University (CEU) and other international universities settled in Hungary. During the related legislative process and after the adoption of the legislation there was a highly visible support of academic freedom, solidarity with CEU, as well as against the law: tens of thousands of people attended several related demonstrations, many institutions and well-know and recognized academic and public figures raised their voices, as well as a petition protesting the amendment was signed by more than 30,000 people. Furthermore, the EU initiated a procedure for the assessment of the legislation. What has been and is the strategy of CEU in this case? How the relations and negotiations with the governments can be assessed? Is there a chance that CEU can continue its operation in Hungary?

*Mr. **Liviu Matei** is CEU's Provost and Pro-Rector, and Professor at the School of Public Policy. He served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 2008 to 2014, and as Academic Secretary of CEU from 1999 to 2008.*

*He benefited from fellowships at the Institut Supérieur de Formation Sociale et de Communication, Bruxelles, The New School for Social Research, Université Paris X Nanterre, Université de Savoie, and the Salzburg Seminar. He taught at universities in Romania, Hungary and the U.S., and consulted extensively in the area of higher education policy for the World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and other international organizations and national governments in Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the European Higher Education Area. He studied philosophy and psychology at Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj, and Sociology at Bucharest University, Romania. He received his PhD from the latter.*

7:15 – Free time for dinner

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**Tuesday, 9 May**

*Dress: business professional attire*

*Please bring your passport!*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Individual appointments**

**Free time for Lunch**

1:15 pm

**Meet with city coordinator at the entrance gate No. XVII of the Hungarian Parliament**

[Hungarian Parliament, Budapest 1055, Kossuth tér 1-3.](#)

(The gate is situated in the northern part of the building.)

1:30 – 2:30 pm

**Working in an opposition party: strategies, challenges and difficulties in 2017**

**Zsuzsanna Szelényi** (MMF '93), Member of the Parliament, founding member of the

Together 2014 Political Party  
Hungarian Parliament, Budapest 1055, Kossuth tér 1-3.

Hungary, once a forerunner of democratic development in Central Europe has changed significantly since Viktor Orbán took power in 2010. With a supermajority, a great number of crucial laws were changed. At the same time according to the opposition and international observers Viktor Orbán introduced a new populist political style, turning the country into a semi-authoritarian regime. Opposition is claiming to be challenged every day by a reduced level of democracy in the Parliament's legislative work. This situation requires an innovative way of political talk and action. How opposition is working in Hungary? What are the learning points from Hungary's drastic political change? What is the forecast for the 2018 national elections? Are there any similarities between the claimed populist style of Viktor Orbán and Donald Trump?

*Ms. Zsuzsanna Szelényi is Member of Parliament in Hungary representing the party [Együtt](#) (Together). She covers foreign policy, migration, human rights and gender issues. Before rejoining to politics in 2013 in Hungary, Ms. Szelényi spent most of her career at the international arena. For fourteen years she served at the Council of Europe advising governments and NGOs on various issues. Between 2010 and 2013 she worked as human development consultant for international organizations in various Central European and North African countries. Ms. Szelényi started her career as founder of Fidesz, a youth party at the régime change in Hungary in 1988. She became Member of Parliament in 1990 but left politics in 1994 and had a professional career. In 2013 she returned to the Hungarian politics for the call of former Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai, who formed a new party, 'Together'. Ms Szelényi completed studies at the Global Masters of Arts Program (GMAP) within the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (USA). She holds an MA of Psychology of the Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), and an MA of International Relations of the Corvinus University (Hungary).*

2:30 – 3:45 pm

**Overview and evaluation of internal and external policies of the governing party Fidesz**

**dr. Szabolcs Ágostházy**, Chief of the Staff of the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament responsible for legislation, dr. Gergely Gulyás

**dr. Ernő Schaller**, Foreign Affairs Advisor at the Cabinet of the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Director of Foreign Affairs of the Foundation for a Civic Hungary  
[Hungarian Parliament, Budapest 1055, Kossuth tér 1-3.](#)

Possessing a unique two-third majority, what has been the most important issues, legislative and policy measures and successes, as well as the main obstacles and challenges of the government and the governing party so far in the field of internal affairs?

Hungary's judgment in the international arena has been rather unfavorable in recent years. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared the decline of the West several times, and established good relationship with Vladimir Putin. It has brought critical reflections, similarly to Hungary's responses to the refugee crisis. What have been the main determinants, directions, successes and challenges of Hungary's and of the Fidesz party's foreign policy? How do and can strategic relations work with EU member states and the US now?

*Mr. dr. Szabolcs Ágostházy is the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament responsible for legislation. Since 2013 he serves as the deputy head of Codification Department at the Office of the National Assembly. Between 2014 and 2015 he was the head of Secretary of Committee on Legislation. In 2011 and 2012 he acted as the deputy head of Public Relations Office, then an advisor in the field of legislation at the Office of the National Assembly. Previously he worked at the Youth Coordination and Service Association, Callidus Invent Nonprofit Ltd., then at the Training Centre of the German-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Between 2015 and 2016 he was a fellow and a policy advisor at the Bellevue Programme, a scholarship and training programme funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation, Germany. Dr. Szabolcs Ágostházy graduated as a lawyer at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest. He also awarded a public sector manager postgraduate qualification at the National University of Public Service.*

*Mr. dr. Ernő Schaller is a foreign affairs advisor at the Deputy Speaker's Cabinet of the Hungarian Parliament since 2014. He also serves as a Director of Foreign Affairs of the Foundation for a Civic Hungary since 2013. Previously, between 2010 and 2013 he was a legal advisor at the Cabinet of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. From 2010 to 2012 he served as the head of foreign affairs cabinet, then between 2012 and 2015 as a vice president of*

the Young Christian Democratic Union. Mr. Schaller graduated as a lawyer at the Faculty of Law of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

**3:45 – 4:15 pm**

**Guided tour of the Parliament**

**Tamás Wachsler** (MMF 1995), Head of the Steindl Imre Program  
[Hungarian Parliament, Budapest 1055, Kossuth tér 1-3.](#)

Fellows will get a guided view of the Hungarian Parliament and see the inner-workings of the facilities from Tamás Wachsler, who served as a member of Hungary's first democratically elected parliament.

Mr. **Tamás Wachsler** is the head of the [Steindl Imre Program](#) - the restoration project of the Kossuth square around the Hungarian Parliament building - since 2012. Tamás Wachsler started his career as a Member of Parliament in 1990, in the first free elected Parliament. After serving two terms between 1990 and 1998, he was appointed as administrative state secretary for defense (the top non-political appointee status) at the Ministry of Defense. Having finished his public administration career after two years, he returned to his original job as an architect in 2000, and worked as the Project Manager of the Budapest Arena project on construction of a new sport and cultural building complex. From 2002 to 2012 he worked as a real estate developer on logistics and airport developments. Tamás Wachsler graduated as an architect at the Budapest University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture in 1993.

**4:45 – 5:45 pm**

**Overview of the relations between Hungary and the United States: successes, opportunities, challenges and issues of concerns**

**David J. Kostelancik**, Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, Embassy of the United States, Budapest

**David Van Cleve**, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States, Budapest

[Embassy of the United States, Budapest 1055, Szabadság tér 12.](#)

Hungary and the United States has a long collaboration records from security issues to investment and trade. However, the bilateral relationship was deteriorated from the 2010's years; a manifestation of it was that the U.S. introduced an entry ban in 2014 against several Hungarian state officials claiming alleged corruption. Beyond corruption, the U.S. expressed concerns in recent years as regards to state of checks and balances and democratic institutions, the rule of law, media freedom, a place for an independent civil society, the refugee crisis, and lastly the higher education legislation affecting the operation of CEU. What is the current state of affairs of Hungarian-U.S. relations? What are the key successes, opportunities, challenges and issues of concern?

Mr. **David Kostelancik**, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States, rank of Minister Counselor, has served as Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim of the Mission since Ambassador Colleen Bell concluded her service on January 20, 2017. From August, 2014 until August, 2015 he served as the Senior State Department Advisor to the Congressional Helsinki Commission. From July, 2012 until August, 2014 he served as Director of the Office of Russian Affairs in the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Prior to that assignment, he served as Director of the Office of Europe and Asia in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. He served as Deputy and Acting Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 2008 until 2010. He also served in Moscow earlier in his career as the Special Assistant to then-Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Other overseas postings include the U.S. Mission to the OSCE as Deputy Political Counselor, the U.S. Mission to NATO, the U.S. Embassies in Albania and Turkey. He has held additional assignments in Washington, including as Deputy Director of the Office of Central Europe in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Mr. Kostelancik received Bachelors of Arts degrees from Northwestern University in Mathematics and Political Science, a Masters of Arts degree from The University of Michigan in Russian and East European Studies, and a Masters of Science degree from the National War College in National Security Policy.

Mr. **David Van Cleve** is the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy, Budapest. Prior to this, since August, 2015 he acted as the Counselor for Political & Economic Affairs at the Embassy, covering a range of issues, including migrant crisis, defense and security policy, macroeconomics, corruption, human rights and religious freedom. Previously he run Embassy Islamabad's Countering Violent Extremism Office between July 2013 and July 2014, and he was the acting Counselor for Public

*Affairs from June through October, 2014. Prior to this he served as the Political Counselor in Paris, France, acting Political Counselor in Warsaw, Poland, and entry level tours in Budapest and Singapore. In the Department of State, he served in a variety of positions relating to European affairs and on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He holds degrees from Tufts University (BA), the London School of Economics (MSc), Harvard Law School (JD) and France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) (CIC). Before the Foreign Service, Mr. Van Cleve was a lawyer in private practice in San Francisco.*

<b>5:45 – 6:45 pm</b>	<b>Free time</b>
<b>6:45 pm</b>	<b>Meet with city coordinator in hotel lobby</b>
<b>7:00 – 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Debrief and farewell dinner</b> <a href="#">Columbus Restaurant &amp; Pub, Budapest 1051, Vigadó tér, Pier No. 4.</a> <i>The German Marshall Fund will cover the costs the dinner.</i>

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**Wednesday, 10 May**

**Departures**

We recommend referencing your individual flight itinerary and confirming departure details online prior to departure, and if possible, to share taxis to the airport.