



1

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OF

THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BUDAPEST KNOWLEDGE HUB





INTRODUCTION

2

2025, the fifth year since the launch of the operations of the Budapest Hub on 1 January 2021, was a year in which the AE Budapest Hub strengthened its community, expanded its activities, and launched initiatives towards building a more cohesive and prosperous European Research Area. The March meeting of Hungarian AE members, the XXIV Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students in April, our joint interdisciplinary workshop with HUN-REN on Earth, Environment and Healthy Living, the Wrocław–Budapest online event supporting women researchers’ careers, and the ERC Starting Grant Mentoring event organised with the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) all illustrated our commitment to excellence, openness, and service. In September, we launched the “From Knowledge to Action” call, inviting 29 projects to join our wider effort to address the declining interest in science among young people and to strengthen collaboration across Europe.

Our work throughout the year was guided by the three missions that define the AE Budapest Hub. First, **From Curiosity to Career**, through which we aim to reverse the declining interest in science by developing and implementing a systems-education model that supports students from high school through university and into research careers; this model has now become internationally recognised and we are preparing its adaptation for Europe-wide deployment. Second, **From Science to Society**, through which we strive to translate scientific knowledge into meaningful societal engagement—by organising high-visibility public events, supporting communication between scientists and the public, and enabling interactions between Nobel laureates, researchers, students, policymakers and citizens, thereby strengthening science literacy and trust. Third, **From Barriers to Bridges**, our mission to reduce disparities in scientific excellence across Europe by fostering collaboration, building research capacity, and developing mechanisms such as the emerging European Convergence Research Grants, which aim to support talented researchers in underrepresented regions and reinforce a unified, competitive European Research Area.

At the **“Building Bridges” annual meeting** of Academia Europaea, this year hosted by the Barcelona Hub in October, the Budapest Hub was represented by Academic Director Péter Hegyi.

Currently there are **163 Hungarian members**, including **4 new members** from Hungary registered in 2025.



The Budapest Hub organised or co-organised the following events in 2025, listed in chronological order:

1. At the **first meeting for the Hungarian members of AE**, held on March 27, the new leadership of the AE Budapest Hub was introduced and their goals for 2025 were presented.
2. **XXIV. Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students** between 6-8 April 2025 in Szeged and Budapest.

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

The Budapest Hub was represented by Katalin Fodor, Hub Manager at the event, where the distinguished scientists included Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (2011) from Israel [Dan Shechtman, MAE](#) since 2016, Editor in chief, Gastroenterology, Fox Chase Cancer Center in the USA [David Weinberg](#), Winner of Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award (2022) from Hong Kong [Dennis Lo](#), Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry (2017), Professor at Columbia University, USA [Joachim Frank](#), and Nobel Prize Laureate in Physiology or Medicine (2001) from the UK [Tim Hunt, MAE](#) since 1998.

The three-day programme concluded with a successful [Seminar Lectures event](#) in the Szent-Györgyi Albert Hall, Semmelweis University, Theoretical Medical Center (EOK) on April 8, 2026, which was attended by Nóra Deák, Hub Officer.

SEMELWEIS UNIVERSITY 1783

SEMINAR LECTURES

WITH NOBEL LAUREATES

Tuesday
8 April 2025
13:00 - 18:15

CHANGE OF VENUE

Szent-Györgyi Albert Hall
Semmelweis University
Theoretical Medical Center (EOK)
37-47, Tuzolto street, 1094 Budapest

DAN SHECHTMAN DAVID WEINBERG DENNIS LO JOACHIM FRANK TIM HUNT

COME AND JOIN US AT THIS EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM HIGHLY IMPACTFUL RESEARCHERS.

The event is free to attend, however it requires registration. In case you would like to participate, please **fill in the form** by clicking the link in the description.

SEMELWEIS UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

SEMELWEIS.HU/TKM



3. **Interdisciplinary workshop on Earth, Environment and Healthy Living**, co-organised by HUN-REN between 24-25 April 2025.

The HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network and Academia Europaea held their first joint international scientific conference between April 24–25 in Budapest. The event focused on exploring the links between the functioning of Earth's systems and human health. The two-day [Interdisciplinary workshop on Earth, Environment and Healthy Living](#), co-sponsored by AE Budapest Hub and HUN-REN, the Hungarian Research Network featured leading experts including:

- [Sierd Cloetingh](#), Senior Advisor at the HUN-REN Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science (HUN-REN FI) and Professor at Utrecht University, who shared his expertise on Earth's system dynamics;
- [Pietro Sternai](#), Associate Professor at the University of Milan, who delivered a lecture on the interaction between geology and climate;
- [Márta Berkesi](#), a researcher at HUN-REN FI, who explored the relationship between the deep Earth and human habitats, focusing on carbon dioxide-rich fluids;
- [Gábor Tari](#), Group Geologist at OMV, who provided insights into the current state of natural hydrocarbons;
- [Tom Beer](#), Director of the Australian road safety engineering consultancy Safe System Solutions, who took a novel approach in examining the links between climate, wildfires, air quality, and health;
- [Katalin Solymosi](#), researcher at ELTE and Vice Academic Director of the organising Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, who presented SAPEA and also the OneHealth concept;
- [Péter Hegyi](#), Academic Director of the AE Budapest Hub, who discussed the intersection of science and sustainable healthcare, reflecting on experiences in education and research;
- [Balázs Gulyás](#), neurobiologist and President of HUN-REN, who explored the limits of healthy ageing.





4. **Bridging the Gap: Advancing Women's Careers in Academia and Beyond**, co-organised by the AE Wroclaw Hub on 12 June, 2026

Gender issues in science, focusing on career challenges for women and mothers in academia, and initiatives promoting STEM careers for young girls were discussed at this online event, co-organised by the Academia Europaea Budapest & Wroclaw Knowledge Hubs. Experts from Academia Europaea, Polish, Austrian and Hungarian Academies of Sciences, and the Hungarian Women in Science Association shared insights and best practices.

Dr. [Katalin Solymosi](#) (AE Budapest Hub, FYAE, Eötvös Loránd University), who was the moderator of the event, gave an introduction to the session and its objectives as well as brief overview of gender challenges in scientific careers.

The **keynote address** with the title "*Women and mothers in science – A personal and policy perspective*" was presented by Dr. [Dorota Kołodziejczyk](#) (MAE, University of Wrocław).

As an overview of career challenges for women and mothers in science, including recent publications and initiatives, a **case study** entitled "*Promoting STEM careers among girls – Successful strategies and mentorship*" was highlighted by Dr. [Erika Bálint](#) ([Hungarian Association of Women in Science](#)), followed by a **Panel Discussion** about "*Systemic biases and research assessment in academia*".

Moderated by Dr. [Katalin Solymosi](#) (AE Budapest Hub, FYAE, Eötvös Loránd University), the Panellists included Prof. [Elżbieta Frąckowiak](#) (MAE, Poznan University of Technology), Prof. [Verena Winiwarter](#) (MAE, Austrian Academy of Sciences), Prof. [László Kollár](#) (MAE, Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Dr. [Erika Bálint](#) ([Hungarian Association of Women in Science](#)), and Dr. [Dorota Kołodziejczyk](#) (MAE, University of Wrocław).

The questions raised during the discussion included:

1. What are the biggest personal issues that are affecting the success of women in science in your opinion?
2. What are the biggest systemic issues that are affecting the success of women in science in your opinion?
3. Can you share any personal experiences or observations regarding how gender bias has influenced academic careers?
4. What impact does taking parental leave, particularly maternity leave, have on a woman's academic trajectory?
5. What steps can institutions or funding bodies take to ensure women researchers receive equal recognition and opportunities?
6. How can universities better support parents—especially mothers—who are balancing research and caregiving responsibilities?
7. Are there any policy changes or support systems you've seen work well to reduce parenting-related bias in academia?

During the discussion the main goal was to share opinions, best practices and institutional (RFO and RPO-based) measures that were effective to help women in science.

The Panel concluded with a short **Q&A Session**.

The online event was recorded and the recording is available on the [MTA YouTube channel](#).



5. **5th ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event** co-organised jointly by the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), the ERC National Contact Point team, and AE Budapest Hub on 25 September 2025, online

The fifth edition in the ERC Starting Grant mentoring event series of Young Academy of Europe took place on September 25th. The fifth event in the so far successful series focused on the **oral interview process**.

6

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

25 September 2025 (online, Zoom)

14:00-15:00 - Plenary part **14:00 - 16:00 CET**

- **Alban Kellerbauer (ERCEA): Latest changes in ERC's 2026 and 2027 Work Programmes**
- **Eörs Szathmáry (MAE): Tips and tricks of successful oral interviews**

15:00-16:00 - Three parallel sessions featuring ERC StG holders by domain

- Domain SH – Interviewee: Scott Bremer, Panellists: Özen Nergis Dolcerocca, Phoebe Koundouri, Ronen Palan, Mona Simion
- Domain PE – Interviewees: Toma Susi & Monica Moráles-Masis, Panellists: Steve Evans, Nicoletta Liguori, Linn Leppert, Jovana Milic, Sara Nocentini, Wolfgang Tress, Gianvitó Vilé, Ina Vollmer
- Domain LS – Interviewee: Nitzan Gonen, Panellists: Gautam Dey, Zohreh Hosseinzadeh, Sebastian Leidel, Mangala Srinivas, Shahrokh F. Shariat, Marc Yeste

Started by the Young Academy of Europe back in September 2020, the mentoring event series aimed at young researchers having the ambition to apply to an ERC Grant call (typically a Starting Grant) has been a great success in the virtual arena of mentoring and grant application training events. Organised in collaboration with the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, the fifth event took place - again online - on 25 September 2025, from 14:00 to 16:20 hrs (CET).

The online event consisted of two parts. First, a plenary information session was held with welcoming remarks from [Katalin Solymosi](#) (Outgoing Chair, YAE and Vice Academic Director, AE Budapest Hub) followed by a presentation from [Alban Kellerbauer](#) (FYAE, MAE, Head of Unit 'Support to the Scientific Council', ERC Executive Agency) **about the latest changes in ERC's 2026 and 2027 Work Programmes**. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session moderated by [Anna Kuppuswamy](#) (YAE Vice-Chair). Finally, in a pre-recorded pitch, [Eörs Szathmáry](#) (MAE, ERC Advanced and Synergy Grant Holder, former ERC Advanced Panel member and Synergy Panel Vice-President, Parmenides Foundation, Eötvös Loránd University) provided useful **tips and insights for ERC oral interviews**.

7

The second part of the event focused on providing insights into **how oral interview panels work** and how interviewees should present their project and answer questions from the evaluation panel. Although these were only mock interviews and panels, we believe that they offered an important opportunity for applicants to gain key insights into what makes a successful ERC application and a better understanding of the evaluation process. **We had three parallel sessions by domain, featuring as interviewees YAE members who have received an ERC StG, and expert panel members with relevant expertise in oral interview evaluation.**

With more than 200 registered participants there were around 100 participants actually attending the virtual event. Special thanks were due to the **30 excellent, high-level participating researchers** for their efforts and commitment. The online event was recorded. The videos of the event are published on the [YouTube Channel](#) of the YAE (the video of the plenary part is available [here](#), while those of the domain-specific breakout sessions are available on these links: [Life Sciences](#), [Physical Sciences and Engineering](#) and [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)).

Online visibility: 432 (103/100/87/142 respectively) views on YouTube in 3 months

6. **Symposium “From Barriers to Bridges: Towards a More Cohesive European Research Area”,** held on 5 November 2025 at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

On the third day of the bicentenary celebrations of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences a hybrid symposium was organised by the AE Budapest Hub to discuss what is to be expected in terms of challenges for the 2028–2034 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Two speakers joined the event online: first [Joerg Niehoff](#), Deputy Head of Unit of the European Research Area, presented the European Research Area pillar of the European Union’s flagship research and innovation programme, *Horizon Europe*, then [Lidia Borrell-Damian](#), Secretary General of Science Europe, followed by providing some perspective on challenges for the 2028–2034 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10). The plenary session, moderated by [Gergely Bóhm](#), Head of the President’s and Vice Presidents’ Office, Secretariat of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Member of the ERC Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee and ERC National Contact Point, included two in-person presentations by [Henk Kummeling](#), Chair of CoARA and [Katalin Solymosi](#), Former Chair of YAE, member of the ERA Forum Access to excellence – R&I and Cohesion Managing Authorities Network (RIMA) sub-group.



In the second part of the event **Péter Hegyi**, Director of the Academia Europaea (AE) Budapest Knowledge Hub, provided some opening remarks before a panel discussion on how a more cohesive European Research Area can be achieved. The panellists, joined by **Éva Kondorosi**, Research Professor at the Institute of Plant Biology, HUN-REN Biological Research Centre, Szeged and Chair of Life Sciences, Academia Europaea, then shared their views and suggestions which were aimed at improving EU RDI performance and competitiveness by achieving a more balanced distribution of funding for excellent research across Europe.

8



A summary of the key messages of the symposium is available at <https://mta.hu/english/the-hungarian-academy-of-sciences-at-200-thought-leaders-discuss-a-more-cohesive-european-research-area-on-day-three-of-the-conference-114893>

7. **XXV. Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students between 23-25 November 2025 in Szeged and Budapest.**

The XXV. Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students, jointly organized by the National Academy of Scientist Education operating in Hungary and the Academia Europaea Budapest Hub, held in November at Szeged's largest capacity venue, attracted more visitors than ever before – approximately four thousand guests. Thousands of secondary school pupils, along with hundreds of teachers, university students and mentors, awaited the arrival of Nobel Laureate Professor **Sir Peter Ratcliffe**. The British scientist, who is a researcher at the Oxford Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and a Fellow of the Royal Society, received the highest-level medical-physiological award in 2019 for discovering how cells sense oxygen availability and adapt to changes in it, with particular focus on oxygen deficiency, or hypoxia. Another guest of honour of the conference was **Shahrokh Shariat**, an Iranian-born physician who serves as the head of the Department of Urology at the Medical University of Vienna and is one of the most highly regarded experts in urological oncology.

The event also saw the announcement that the National Academy of Scientist Education is expanding into a new scientific field: chemistry.

A detailed article with photos can be found at the [Hub's website](#).

8. **Wikipedia Editing Workshop – To Promote Women Researchers’ Visibility was organised on December 11, 2025 online**

In the frame of the [From Knowledge to Action initiative](#), the AE Budapest Hub launched 29 different research projects in 2025. One of them, the **Empowering women in science within Europe with emphasis on the Danube Region** initiative, coordinated by [Katalin Solymosi](#) and [Eszter Gselmann](#), focuses on increasing the visibility of women in science through the creation of Wikipedia profiles. It also helps researchers manage their own profiles and improve scientific content in their respective fields.

The speaker at the online workshop was Professor [Dezső Csupor](#) from the University of Szeged, Hungary. The workshop provided practical guidance on Wikipedia editing, including creating new profiles and improving existing content. This was an excellent opportunity to contribute to gender equality and knowledge dissemination.

The “Empowering women in science within Europe with emphasis on the Danube Region” project of the AE Budapest Hub presents a

Wikipedia Editing Workshop (not only) for women researchers

by Prof. Dezső Csupor (University of Szeged)

11 December 2025 at 14:00 CET, Online



Registration:
<https://forms.gle/jhfeRecgaZkjZqkc7>

The workshop was well attended, and the participants was active at the Q&A session at the end.



Web communication and social media:

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

We use the username/handle @aebudapest for our X (formerly known as Twitter) [Academia Europaea Budapest](#) profile. In July 2025, based on the other Hubs' experiences, a Bluesky account was also created, our username is [aebudapest.bsky.social](#)

News, updates about the activities of MAEs, and events organised by our Hub are shared regularly. The profiles of all the other AE Hubs are also followed, thereby promoting their activities, too. The Budapest Hub staff are especially grateful to the staff of the Cardiff Hub for their support.

Finance:

Under the renewed Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), signed in January 2025 for a period of 5 years, MTA provides the administrative services required for the operation of the Hub, as well as the agreed annual funding to support the Hub activities.



AE Budapest Hub staff:

Péter Hegyi, Academic Director

László Lovász, Past Academic Director (2021-2024)

Katalin Solymosi, Vice Academic Director

Katalin Fodor, Hub Manager

Nóra Deák, Hub Officer

Viktória Barna, Project Coordinator

11

Academia Europaea Budapest Hub

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

9, Széchenyi István tér, 1051 Budapest, Hungary

<https://mta.hu/aebudapest>

aebudapest@office.mta.hu

Phone: +36-1-411-6163

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter/X](#)

[Bluesky](#)

About Academia Europaea

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