

Central European University, Budapest Campus, 18-19 September 2024

Based on the success of the last years, Budapest Forum will return in 2024. The two-day conference will be organized again by the Municipality of Budapest, Political Capital, and CEU Democracy Institute to discuss the most pressing issues currently facing citizens of democratic and nominally democratic countries. The Forum will explore and examine policy proposals under the banner of ‘Building Sustainable Democracies’.

Budapest Forum has hit the international policy event scene in the last three years gathering mayors, commissioners, MEPs, decision makers, policy experts, academics, and activists for 15-20 panels and sessions per year, multiple side events and discussions. The public interest was equally large with more than 450 in-person participants and almost 40.000 viewers online per year, as well as hundreds of Hungarian and international media appearances. The feedback from participants and partners was very positive, highlighting the organizational quality, impressive line-up, thematic diversity and hitting a niche with the role of cities in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time.

In 2024, we will focus on the topic of “The Year of Elections” – The elections of the year 2024 will profoundly influence our collective European experience and extend their impact beyond our borders. Against the backdrop of the rotating EU Presidency of Hungary and the establishment of the new European Commission, discussions on the rule of law, democracy, and the trajectory of European integration hold heightened significance.

Our democracies face mounting challenges exacerbated by various internal and external factors. While some tensions are deliberately stoked by populist movements, others stem from organic societal shifts, necessitating a unified approach and extensive collaboration to navigate. In the forthcoming Budapest Forum conference, we aim to confront these challenges alongside global decision-makers and experts. Together, we seek to steer discussions and formulate impactful policy solutions that address the evolving dynamics of our democracies and the European integration process.

Budapest Forum is a markedly pro-democratic, anti-populist Central Eastern European platform. After the success of last year’s policy-heavy discussions focusing on the most pressing challenges democracy is facing today, we are convinced that it is not only the multitude of crises that define our time, but also the commitment and the intellectual prowess of broad segments of our societies to tackle these crises. The palpable interest that we have seen, attested that we are on the right path when we seek to galvanize policy debates across borders and levels of government, and provide a joint platform for all relevant stakeholders in search of a sustainable and democratic future.

We, as co-organising partners, the Municipality of Budapest, Political Capital Institute, and CEU Democracy Institute, will draw upon this valuable experience this year when organising the fourth Budapest Forum, scheduled for September 18-19. We are looking forward to expanding our growing Budapest Forum network with the most impactful changemakers.



ALL CONFIRMED SPEAKERS ARE INDICATED IN ITALIC.

DAY 1 – 18 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

09:30-09:40

Opening Speeches

János Kenderney – Senior Adviser on City Diplomacy, Budapest City Hall*Zsuzsanna Szelényi* – Director, Leadership Academy (DILA), Central European University
Democracy Institute; Senior Fellow, CEPA*Péter Krekó* – Director, Political Capital Institute; Senior Fellow, CEPA

09:40-09:50

Welcome Speech by *Gergely Karácsony* – Mayor of Budapest

09:50-10:45

Green Transition of the Capitals of the EU Enlargement Countries

(In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Participants:

Biljana Đorđević – Member of the National Assembly of Serbia*Benedek Jávor* – Head of Brussels Representation, Budapest City Hall*Borislav Sandov* – Former Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies, Minister of Environment and
Water, Bulgaria*Tomislav Tomašević* – Mayor of Zagreb*Kata Tüttő* – Deputy Mayor of BudapestModerator: *Burtejin Zorigt* – Program Manager, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

10:45-11:15

Coffee break

11:15-11:30

The Role of Churches in Authoritarian Influence

Lecture by *Alexander Faludy* – Freelance Journalist

11:30-12:15 Navigating Central European Journalism: Unraveling the Current Landscape and Financial Dynamics

Participants:

Gábor Kardos – Chief Executive Officer, 444.hu - Magyar Jeti Zrt.

Veronika Munk – Director of Innovation and New Markets, *Dennik N*

Jan Vitásek – Publisher, EU-Media, *EurActiv.cz*

Bartosz Wielński – Deputy Editor-in-chief, *Gazeta Wyborcza*

Moderator: *Attila Kert* – Head of Office, *Euronews*

12:15-13:15 Lunch

13:15-13:30 Keynote Speech by *David Pressman*, Ambassador of the United States to Hungary

13:30-14:15 Foreign Policy Outlook Before the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election

Speakers:

H. David Baer – Professor, Texas Lutheran University

Botond Feledy – Founding Partner and CEO, Red Snow Consulting; Program Manager,
European Leadership Program

Nathalie Tocci – Director, *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, Part-time Professor, School of
Transnational Governance, European University Institute

Moderator: *Flóra Garamvölgyi* – Contributing Writer, *The Guardian*; Investigative Reporter,
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

14:15-14:30 The Relevance of Filter Bubbles in Polarized Countries

Lecture by *Eli Pariser* – Author of *Beware online “filter bubbles”*; Director, *MoveOn.org (online)*

14:30-15:00 Coffee Break



15:00-15:45

Empowering Europe: Strengthening Democracy, Protecting Citizens from Authoritarian Influence, and Addressing External Economic and Political Challenges

Participants:

Roland Freudenstein – Director, Free Russia Foundation Brussels; Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Brussels Freedom Hub

Dimitry Kochenov – Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute

Olga Richterová – Member and Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic

Matej Šimalčík – Executive Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies

Moderator: **Péter Krekó** – Director, Political Capital; Senior Fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis

15:45-16:00

Democratic Russia – A utopia?

Lecture by **Vladimir Milov** – Former Deputy Minister of Energy of Russian Federation (online)

16:00-17:00

What does it Take to Win? – Insights and Lessons from Russia's War in Ukraine

(In partnership with the European Policy Center)

Keynote Speech: **Vitali Klitschko** – Mayor of Kyiv

Participants:

Oleksandra Azarkhina – Former Deputy Minister of Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, Ukraine (online)

Olha Opalenko – Head of Evidence, Truth Hound, Ukraine

Amanda Paul – Deputy Head of the Europe in the World Programme, European Policy Center

András Rácz – Senior Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

Moderator: **Dorka Takácsy** – Visiting Fellow, German Marshall Fund



SIDE-EVENT – AUDITORIUM

DAY 1 – 18 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

17:30-18:30

Art in the Shadow of Power (In Hungarian)

Participants:

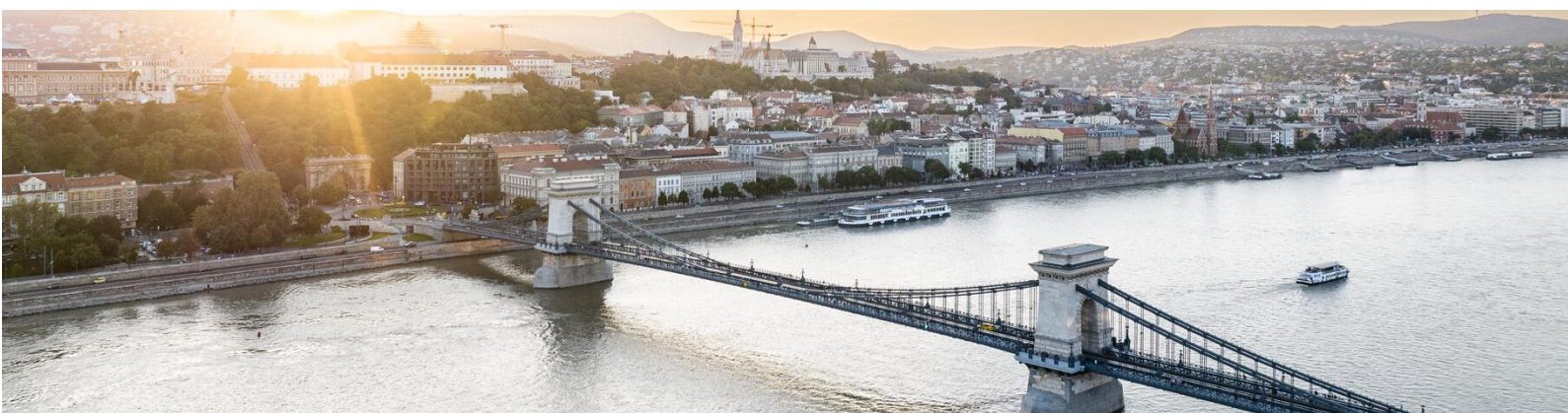
György Dragomán – József Attila Prize-winning Hungarian Writer, Literary Translator,

Member of the Berlin Academy of Arts

Zsófia Kemény – Poet, Writer, Screenwriter, Slammer

Dénes Krusovszky – József Attila Prize-winning Poet, Critic and Translator

Moderator: *Krisztián Nyáry – Writer, Publisher*



DAY 2 – 19 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

09:30-09:45

A New Global Gender Divide is Emerging?

Lecture by **Alice Evans** – *Visiting Fellow, Stanford University; Senior Lecturer, King's College London; Author of the book titled "The Great Gender Divergence"*

09:45-10:45

Political Leadership in the 21st Century: Populism, Authoritarianism, Dictatorship

Keynote speech: **Mikuláš Dzurinda** – *President, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies; Former Prime Minister of Slovakia*

Participants:

Mikal Hem – *Journalist, Author of How to Be a Dictator: An Irreverent Guide*

Levente Littvay – *Senior Research Fellow, Center for Social Sciences, CEU Democracy Institute*

Julia Sonnevend – *Associate Professor of Sociology and Communications, New School for Social Research*

Mark Van Vugt – *Professor of Evolutionary, VU University Amsterdam; Research Fellow; University of Oxford*

Moderator: **Benjamin Novak** – *Doctoral Candidate, John Hopkins University; Research Affiliate, CEU Democracy Institute*

10:45-11:25

Coffee break

11:25-11:45

Why is Autocracy Thriving?

Interview with **Anne Applebaum** – *Pulitzer Prize Winning Historian, Journalist (online)*



11:45-12:30

An Examination of the Rule of Law in Poland*(In partnership with the German Marshall Fund)*

Speakers:

Barbara Grabowska-Moroz – Senior Research Fellow and Director of Rule of Law Clinic, CEU
Democracy Institute

Dariusz Mazur – Deputy Minister of Justice in Poland (online)

Anna Wójcik – Assistant Professor, Institute of Legal Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; Co-founder
and Editor, *The Wiktor Osiatyński Archive* and *ruleoflaw.pl*

Moderator: **Dániel Hegedűs** – Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:30

State of Liberalism in the Central Eastern European Context – After the European Parliament Elections*(In partnership with the Friedrich Neumann Foundation)*

Participants:

Alberto Alemanno – Professor of EU law, HEC Paris; Europe's Futures Fellow, IWM Vienna;
Founder, *The Good Lobby* and the *European Journal of Risk Regulation*
(online)

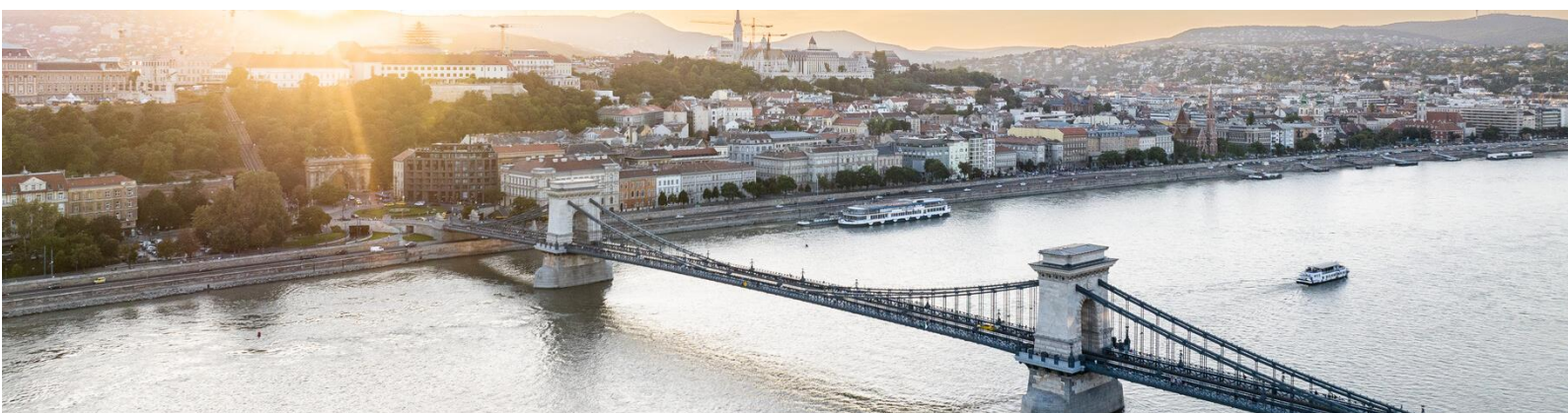
Zora Jaurová – Member of the Parliament of National Council, Slovak Republic; Vice-
Chairwoman, *Progressive Slovakia*

Alexandru Muraru – Member of the Chamber of Deputies for the National Liberal Party,
Romania

Zsuzsanna Szelényi – Director, *Leadership Academy (DILA)*, Central European University
Democracy Institute; Former Member of the Parliament, Hungary

Tomáš Valášek – Member of the Parliament of National Council, Slovak Republic

Moderator: **Lars-André Richter** – Director, *Friedrich Naumann Foundation*, Prague



14:30-14:45 **Attitudes Towards Foreign Policy and Authoritarian Superpowers, Impact of Disinformation, Polarization and Tribalism**

*Presentation of the research by **Political Capital***

14:45-15:15 **Coffee Break**

15:15-16:00 **What would happen to the World if China Invaded Taiwan?**

(In partnership with the Taipei Representative Office Hungary)

Speakers:

J. Michael Cole – *Research Fellow and Executive Editor, Prospect Foundation; Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Global Taiwan Institute; Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute (online)*

Ivana Karásková – *China Team Lead, Association for International Affairs*

Tamás Matura – *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest*

Liu Shih-chung – *Taiwan Representative to Hungary*

Tzuli Wu – *Associate Research Fellow, Institute for National Defense and Security Research*

Moderator: **Lili Takács** – *Journalist, 444.hu*

16:00-16:45 **The Future of Europe in Light of the EU Enlargement: Challenges, Opportunities and Reforms**

(In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Keynote Speech: **Gert Jan Koopman** – *Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (online)*

Participants:

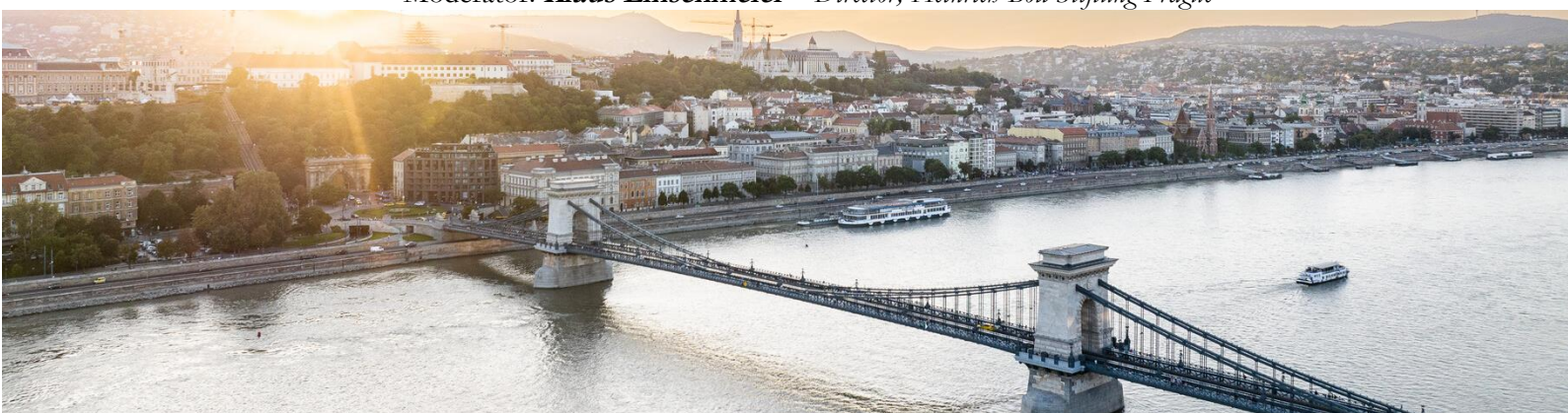
László Bruszt – *Director, Central European University Democracy Institute*

Donika Emini – *Director, CiviKos Platform*

Sergey Lagodinsky – *Member of the European Parliament, Greens/European Free Alliance (online)*

Thu Nguyen – *Deputy Director, Jacques Delors Centre*

Moderator: **Klaus Linsenmeier** – *Director, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague*



SIDE-EVENTS IN ROOM 103

DAY 1 – 18 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

13:15-14:30

Illiberal Challengers of Liberal Democracy in Europe

(In partnership with the AuthLIB – Neo-authoritarianisms in Europe and the liberal democratic response project)

Participants:

Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik – Professor, University of Vienna

Petra Guasti – Associate Professor, Charles University

Marlene Wind – Director, Center for European Politics; Professor, University of Copenhagen

Moderator: **Zsuzsanna Végh** – Program Officer, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

16:00-17:30

Political Polarization in modern democracies – Origins, Dynamics, and Consequences

Keynote Speech: **Kirk Hawkins** – Professor, Brigham Young University

Participants:

Catarina Leao – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sciences Po

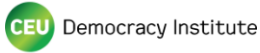
Carlos Melendez – Professor at Universidad Diego Portales (Chile); Post-doctoral Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute

Murat Somer – Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Ozyegin University, Istanbul

Natasha Wunsch – Professor, Université de Fribourg

Moderator: **Alexander Bor** – Post-doctoral Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute





BUDAPEST FORUM

BUILDING **SUSTAINABLE** DEMOCRACIES

Central European University, Budapest Campus, 18-19 September 2024

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IDEAS LEADERSHIP HOPE



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