



#### **BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

##### **Accommodation**

**Hotel President Budapest**  
Budapest H-1054, Hold utca 3-5.  
Tel. +361 3738200  
<http://www.hotelpresident.hu/eng/>

*The German Marshall Fund has paid for the five nights of your stay and wifi is included in your room. 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.*

##### **GMF Partner:**

**Hungarian Europe Society**  
István Hegedűs, chairman  
Budapest H-1052, Gerlóczy utca 11.  
[www.europesociety.hu](http://www.europesociety.hu)

##### **City Coordinator**

**Enikő Pap**  
E-mail: [papeniko1@gmail.com](mailto:papeniko1@gmail.com)  
Mobile: +3630 6189476  
Skype: pap.eniko1

Emergency Contacts:  
Police Department: 107  
Fire Department: 105  
Ambulance: 104

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#### **Friday, March 22<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Arrivals – Ferenc Liszt International Airport**

*The city coordinator will be waiting for you in the Arrivals hall with a sign bearing your names.*

##### **Hotel check-in**

**7:15 pm**

**Meet in the hotel lobby**

**7:40 pm**

**Program Overview and Introduction to Budapest/Hungary. Welcome dinner**  
**Meeting with Enikő Pap, city coordinator and Györgyi Kocsis, vice chairperson of the Hungarian Europe Society**  
Venue: Menza Restaurant, Budapest VI., Liszt Ferenc tér 2.  
<http://www.menzaetterem.hu/>

*Ms. Györgyi Kocsis is a journalist by professions. She started her career in 1975 at the „Világgazdaság” („World Economy”) economic daily, covering macroeconomic and business issues in Hungary. Afterwards, between 1979 and 2011 she was a journalist and editor of HVG, the biggest quality political-economic weekly in Hungary. Here Ms. Kocsis acted as an editor of the „Domestic Economy” section for twenty years, starting from 1979. Between 1999 and 2005 she was Brussels correspondent of HVG, covering all issues on the European Union and NATO. From 2005 to 2010 she served as the deputy editor-in-chief of HVG, responsible for the the sections on domestic economy, finance and op-ed, while from 2010 to June 2011 she was senior writer of HVG. Ms. Györgyi Kocsis obtained her diploma at Marx Károly University of Economy, Budapest in 1975.*

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### **Saturday, March 23th**

*Dress: Casual attire, good walking shoes*

**9:30 am**

**Meet in the hotel lobby**

**9:30 am- 7:00 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 the 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, March 24th**

**Free day explore.**

*Suggestions for cultural programs will be provided.*

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### **Monday, March 25th**

*Dress: Business Casual*

**8:40 am**

**Meet in hotel lobby**

**9:00- 10:10 am**

***Transparency in Hungary***

**Meeting with Noémi Alexa, Executive Director of the Transparency International Hungary**

**Venue: Transparency International Hungary, Budapest V., Falk Miksa u. 30.**

**<http://www.transparency.hu/en>**

*Corruption causes serious problems in many areas in Hungary, both in the political and economic scenes. In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2012, Hungary is the 46th of 176 countries, positioned in the lower third of all EU countries, but equals with other Central European countries. How does the country perform with regard to transparency of political parties and campaign financing, public procurement, and the judiciary system? How are the whistleblowers protected?*

*Ms. Noémi Alexa has served as the Executive Director of Transparency International Hungary since October 2007 and prior roles in Transparency International include project coordinator and member of the Board. Prior to Transparency International she worked as the Deputy Head of Department at Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity, managing EU-funded projects pertaining to drug prevention and equal opportunities of people living with disabilities. Then she served as a project coordinator and expert at the National Institute for Drug Prevention. Ms. Alexa has extensive experience in EU funds*

distribution and management system from research and practical perspective, as well as scientific knowledge on human rights, democratisation and corruption issues. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Corvinus University of Budapest, an MA in Politics and Government from University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.

**The Transparency International Hungary Foundation** was registered in October 2006 and have been a full member of Transparency International since 2009. As a comprehensive anti-corruption organisation, they strive to deal with many different fields, with the goal to follow up on the political and economic trends and to influence them with trustworthy recommendations.

**10:30- 11:40 am**

**Hungary as a Member State of the European Union**

**Meeting with István Hegedűs (MMF), Chairman of the Hungarian Europe Society**

Venue: Hotel President, Budapest V., Hold utca 3-5.

*Hungary has become the “terrible child” of the European Union since 2010. The current government has had numerous conflicts with European institutions, especially with the European Parliament. Key politicians of the governing party Fidesz use increasingly Eurosceptic language, especially in the domestic arena. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has often been mentioned together with President Putin and other strongmen in the European quality media. Is there still a room for Hungary inside the European Union?*

*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 runs 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 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.

**12:20- 1:30 pm**

**Meeting with Zsuzsanna Szélényi (MMF), founding member of the Together 2014 Electoral Alliance Political Party**

Venue: Patriotism and Progress Association, Budapest III., Seregély utca 3-5.

[www.egyutt2014.hu](http://www.egyutt2014.hu)

**The Together 2014 Movement** (in Hungarian: Együtt 2014) is a political electoral alliance in Hungary, formed on 26 October 2012 for the next Hungarian parliamentary election, to contrast Viktor Orbán's government. Its leader is Gordon Bajnai, former Prime Minister of Hungary. The Movement consists three entities, the Patriotism and Progress Association led by Gordon Bajnai, the One Million for Press Freedom (Milla), originally a Facebook group formed against the 2010 Media Act, and the Hungarian Solidarity Movement, a trade union organization. Members of the three organisations established the Together 2014 Electoral Alliance Party on 8 March 2013.

*What are the Together Movement's and Party's main values, key issues of concerns to be addressed and key strategies and measures to be taken, in order to accomplish the desired regime change? What are the chances of forming political coalitions with the existing parties? Can and how the individual party interests and the coalition's interest be conciliated?*

**Ms. Zsuzsanna Szélényi** is Executive Director of the Savoire Faire Human Development Ltd. In 2010-2011 she was the Executive Director of the Roma Education Fund. From 1996-2010, she worked at the Council of Europe focusing on democracy building and conflict resolution. Ms. Szélényi started her professional career as a politician in the transition period in 1988 and was elected to the first free Parliament in Hungary. Ms. Szélényi's experience encompasses political process, public policy, development policy, conflict management, and general management activities at international level. Ms. Szélényi holds an MA of

*Psychology and an MA of International Relations from Hungarian universities and has completed studies at the Global Masters of Arts Program (GMAP) within the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston (USA) in International Politics and Economics. She holds decision-making functions in several CSOs, including the Hungarian Europe Society.*

**2:00- 3:00 pm**

**Meeting with Gábor Daróczi, Director of the Romaversitas Foundation**

Venue: Romaversitas Foundation, Budapest VI., Teréz krt. 46.

<http://www.romaversitas.hu/en>

*Roma are the largest ethnic-cultural and far the poorest minority in Europe with 12-14 million people living in various Eastern European countries. Approximately 5-7% of the Hungarian population is Roma. The integration of Roma people has become a burning political issue in the recent years in Hungary, inflamed by a series of murders of Roma people in 2008-2009. The Europe-wide strengthening of extreme right forces and growing Roma-phobia focused attention of Roma integration policies, which is a key social and political challenge in Europe. In 2011 the European Union formulated a complex strategy for Roma inclusion. What are the realistic chances for a thorough implementation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy in Hungary?*

*Mr. Gábor Daróczi has been the Director of Romaversitas Foundation since 2008. Before this he spent several years at different NGOs and in the public sector. He started his carrier at Hungarian Soros Foundation working with youth, Roma and environmental programs. Later Mr. Daróczi worked for the Ministry of Health, the Prime Minister's Office, the National Development Agency, and the Open Society Institute. Mr. Daróczi served at the Ministry of Education for two years as the ministerial commissioner responsible for the integration of Roma and disadvantaged children and initiated programs and legal changes. Mr. Daróczi as the youngest of a Roma family with 5 children keeps the tradition of a big family going with his own family. He is the father of a two year old girl, the stepfather of 3 children and "honorary father" of 51 young Roma students at Romaversitas Foundation.*

*The Romaversitas is a special empowerment and scholarship program for Roma youth in higher education for fourteen years. In addition to stipend, Romaversitas Foundation offers selected Roma students a wide range of educational and social services in order to help them to successfully complete their studies and find adequate job. Romaversitas alumni have a key role to keep Roma professionals networked and to support one another to cope with the enormous prejudices they face in everyday life.*

**3:15- 4:40 pm**

**Economic outlook for Hungary**

**Meeting with Ferenc Karvalits, Vice Governor of the Hungarian National Bank**

Hungarian National Bank, Budapest V., Szabadság tér 8-9.

<http://english.mnb.hu/>

*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 81% of GDP and has limited growth prospects. The current government introduced various unorthodox economic policies in response to the economic crisis, which provoked criticism from the international financial institutions. Under pressure of serious devaluation of the Hungarian currency, in the fall of 2011, the government initiated talks with the IMF for a new standby credit and to secure trust of the international markets. However, negotiations have been suspended by the IMF in January. This session will discuss the general economic outlook for Hungary, current economic legislation, as well as the risks associated with continuous delay of the agreement with IMF.*

*Mr. Ferenc Karvalits has served as the Deputy Governor of the Hungarian National Bank since 2007. Throughout his career, Mr. Karvalits held positions in the Hungarian National Bank (Head of Bank Department 1996-1998, Managing Director 1998-2000), and in different commercial banks (Head of the Liquidity and Risk Management Department at MH Bank, 1990-1996, CEO of the CIB Bank, 2002-2005). In 2000-2002, he worked as Deputy CEO of Wallis Rt. He has also been a lecturer at the University of Economics since 1996 and was a member of the Economic Advisory Board of the Prime Minister in 2004-2005. Mr. Karvalits holds a MA in Economics from the Corvinus University, Budapest and a Master of Economic Policy Management from SIPA, Columbia University, New York.*

*The Hungarian National Bank is the central bank of Hungary. The primary objective of MNB is to achieve and maintain price stability. Without prejudice to its primary objective, the MNB supports the economic policy of the Government, using the monetary policy instruments at its disposal.*

**5:00- 6:10 pm**

**Overview of Hungarian party politics, political alternatives**

**Meeting with Kornélia Magyar (MMF), Managing Director of Magyar Progressive Institute**

[www.progresszivintezet.hu](http://www.progresszivintezet.hu)

Venue: Vakvarjú Restaurant, Budapest VI., Paulay Ede utca 7.

<http://pest.vakvarju.com/en/>

*Since the first free election in 1990, four to six parties have participated in the Hungarian Parliament, and two to three of them have formed coalition governments. The 2010 elections changed this history when the Hungarian right wing party, Fidesz, in alliance with the Christian Democratic People's Party, had unprecedented electoral success and gained a two-thirds majority representation in the Parliament. Parties formerly in power have either collapsed or diminished and the current opposition suffers from fragmentation and powerlessness. Now, after three years of power, Fidesz has lost a significant voter basis. The next elections will be in 2014. Can a change of government be expected? Can the current democratic opposition form a reasonable and sustainable coalition?*

*Ms. Kornélia Magyar is the Managing Director of the Magyar Progressive Institute. Previously she was Head of Department at the Prime Minister's Office, Government Communication Centre. Ms. Magyar finished her studies in Budapest, and received an MA in Political Science. She won a grant in 2004 and spent six months in Salzburg, Austria, focusing on the field of E-democracy and Participation. Eventually she specialized on this topic and wrote her final thesis about the E-democratic potential of Hungarian municipalities.*

*The Magyar Progressive Institute is a political consulting firm in Budapest, Hungary. The company was founded in 2008 and became one of the most demanded political analyst actor. The Magyar Progressive Institute run researches about the strengthening of the extreme right in Europe.*

**6:30 pm**

**Dinner. Meeting with local MMF alumni**

Venue: Vakvarjú Restaurant, Budapest VI., Paulay Ede u. 7.

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**Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Dress: Business attire.*

**PLEASE BRING YOUR PASSPORT!**

**9:00 am- 12:00 pm**

**Individual appointments**

**1:10- 2:10 pm**

**Meeting with Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis**

Venue: Embassy of the United States, Budapest V., Szabadság tér 12.

<http://hungary.usembassy.gov/>

*Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis was sworn in to office by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 7, 2010. Before accepting President Obama's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis was president of AKT Development Corporation, one of California's largest and most respected land development firms. A prominent and successful businesswoman, Ambassador Kounalakis earned her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth and an MBA from the University of California at Berkeley. In 2011 she received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the American College of Greece.*

**2:40- 3:45 pm**

**Meeting with Gergely Pröhle (MMF), Deputy State Secretary for EU Bilateral Relations, Press and Cultural Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Budapest II., Bem tér 4.  
<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs>

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs tries to maintain Hungary's external relations in a good shape when critical voices have spread over Europe and in the international community regarding the government. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared the decline of the West many times. How do strategic relations work with the member states of the European Union and the United States under such circumstances?*

*Mr. Gergely Pröhle has performed numerous editorial and publication tasks in different written and electronic medias since 1988. From 1992 to 1998 he was the director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's Budapest Office. In 1998-1999 Mr. Pröhle was state secretary of the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage. In 2000-2004 he served as ambassador in Germany and in Switzerland. Between 2005 and 2006 he was a Deputy Head of Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 2006 to 2010, he was a senior consultant at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants Ltd. Mr. Pröhle gained his MA in Hungarian-German Language at the Faculty of Humanities of ELTE University in 1989. He also studied at the Budapest Institute for Graduate International and Diplomatic Studies.*

**4:00- 5:30 pm**

**Meeting with Dr. Gábor Tamás Nagy, member of the Parliament, vice chairperson of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs**

**Guided tour in the Hungarian Parliament**

Hungarian Parliament, Budapest V., Kossuth tér 1-3.

<http://www.fidesz.hu/index.php?Rovat=10035>

<http://www.parlament.hu/angol/angol.htm>

*The governing party Fidesz, in alliance with the Christian Democratic People's Party, has a two-third majority representation in the Parliament. What are seen as the most important fields, issues of intervention, measures taken and successes of the governing party so far? What are the main challenges?*

*Mr. Dr. Gábor Tamás Nagy is member of the Parliamentary faction of the governing party Fidesz. He is also the Mayor of Budavár Local Government (I. District of Budapest), serving already his fourth term in this position. Mr. Nagy joined FIDESZ party in 1989. Between 1990 and 1994 he was a member of the General Assembly of Budapest, where he acted as the chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Minority. Mr. Nagy became a member of the Parliament in 1993 and has got into the Parliament again in 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2010. He was a member of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs from 1998, and he is acting as the chair of the Hungary-USA Friendship Chamber of the Inter-Parliamentary Union since 2006. Between 1994 and 1998 he was the deputy mayor of the Local Government of the I. District. He was first elected to be a mayor in 1998, then being re-elected in 2002, 2006 and 2010. In addition to his political career, he teaches sociology of law at ELTE University of Sciences. Mr. Nagy obtained a diploma in law at the Faculty of Law of ELTE University of Sciences in 1985, and one year later a diploma on sociology at Faculty of Humanities.*

**6:30 pm**

**Meet at the hotel lobby**

**6:45 pm**

**Wrap-up of the Budapest visit. Farewell dinner**

Venue: Citadella Panorama Restaurant, Budapest XI., Gellérthegy, Citadella sétány

<http://citadellapanorama.hu/index.php>

**Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Departure to the airport**

*Cars will pick you up at the hotel for your flights.*

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