

**BUDAPEST FORUM**

BUILDING **SUSTAINABLE** DEMOCRACIES

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

Based on the success of the last years, Budapest Forum returns in 2024. The two-day conference is 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-organizing partners, the Municipality of Budapest, Political Capital Institute, and CEU Democracy Institute, will draw upon this valuable experience this year when organizing 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.



**DAY 1 – 18 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY****09:30-09:40**      **Opening speeches**

*Benedek Jávor* – Head of Brussels Representation, Budapest City Hall

*Zsuzsanna Szélényi* – 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 in Southeastern Europe**

*(In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation)*

Participants:

*Biljana Đorđević* – Member of the National Assembly of Serbia

*Borislav Sandov* – Former Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies, Minister of Environment and  
Water, Bulgaria

*Erion Veliaj* – Mayor of Tirana

*Kata Tüttő* – Deputy Mayor of Budapest

*Tomislav Tomašević* – Mayor of Zagreb

Moderator: *Burtejin Zorigt* – Program Manager, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

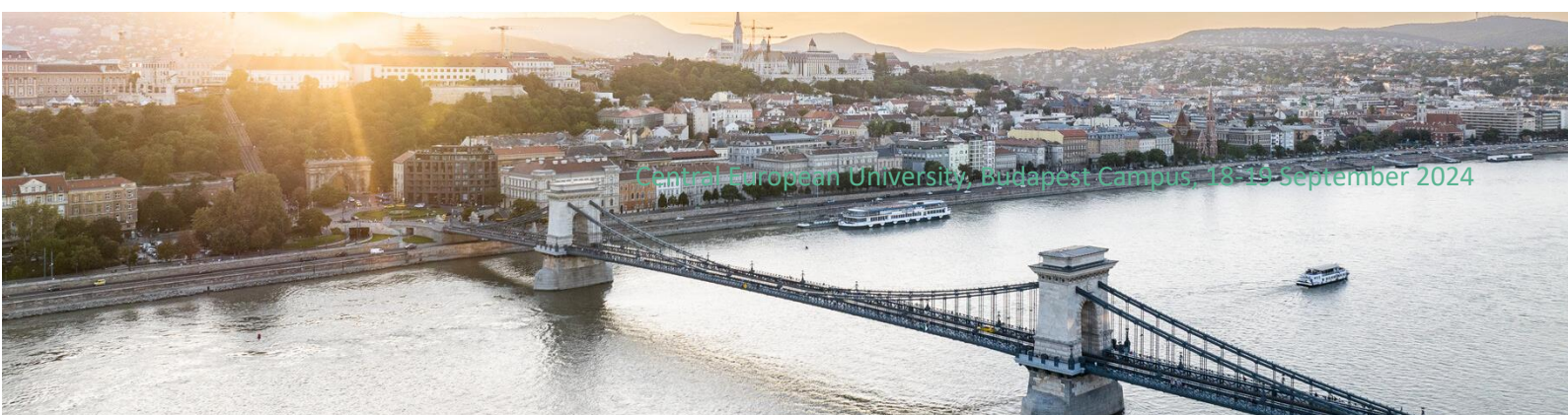
**10:45-11:00**

**Green Transition and 15-Minute Cities: A Path to Sustainable Urban Living**

Lecture by *Carlos Moreno* – Professor, LAE Paris Sorbonne University; 15-Minute City Creator

**11:00-11:30**

**Coffee break**



11:30-12:15

**Navigating Central European Journalism: Unraveling the Current Landscape and Financial Dynamics**

Participants:

*Bartosz Wieliński* – Deputy Editor-in-chief, *Gazeta Wyborcza**Gábor Kardos* – Chief Executive Officer, *444.hu - Magyar Jeti Zrt.**Jan Vitásek* – Publisher, *EU-Media, EurActiv.cz**Veronika Munk* – Director of Innovation and New Markets, *Denník N*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:

*Botond Feledy* – Founding Partner and CEO, *Red Snow Consulting*; Program Manager,  
*European Leadership Program**H. David Baer* – Professor, *Texas Lutheran University**Nathalie Tocci* – Director, *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, Part-time Professor, *School of  
Transnational Governance, European University Institute (online)*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 "The Filter Bubble: What the Internet is Hiding From You";  
Co-Director, New\_Public (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:

**Dimitry Kochenov** – *Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute*

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

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

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

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)*

Participants:

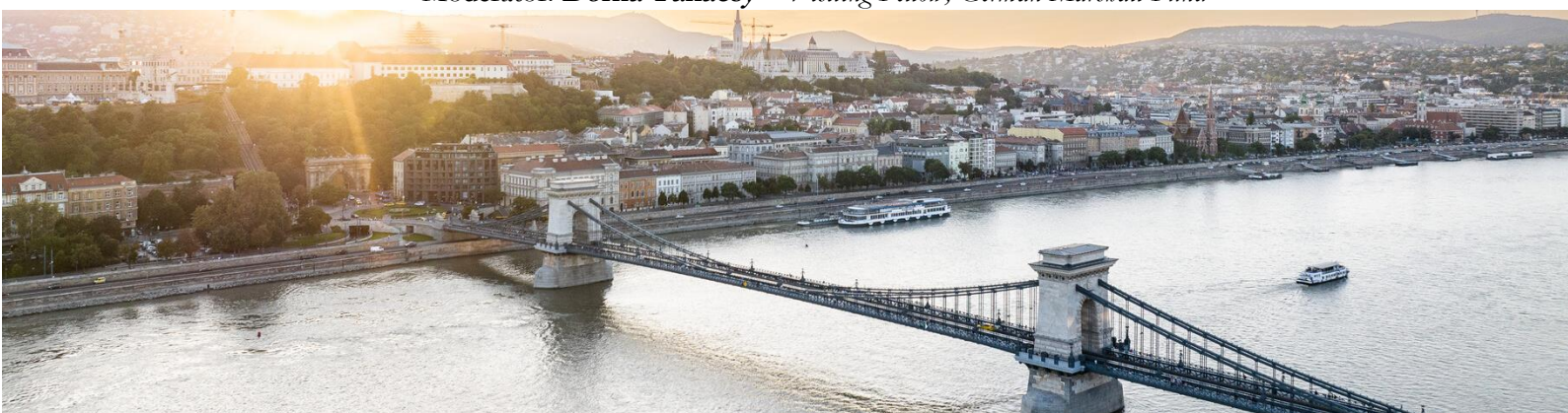
**Amanda Paul** – *Deputy Head of the Europe in the World Programme, European Policy Center*

**András Rácz** – *Senior Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations (online)*

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

**Olha Opalenko** – *Head of Evidence, Truth Hound, Ukraine*

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



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 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Populism, Authoritarianism, Dictatorship

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

Participants:

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

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

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

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

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

10:45-11:20

Coffee break

11:20-11:45

### Why Is Autocracy Thriving?

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



11:45-12:30

**Poland's Re-Democratization Experiment – a Blueprint for Hungary?***(In partnership with the German Marshall Fund)*

Speakers:

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

**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)

**Genevieve Shea** – Resident Program Director for Central and Eastern Europe, NDI

Moderator: **Dániel Hegedűs** – Regional Director, Central Europe at the 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 Naumann Foundation)*

Participants:

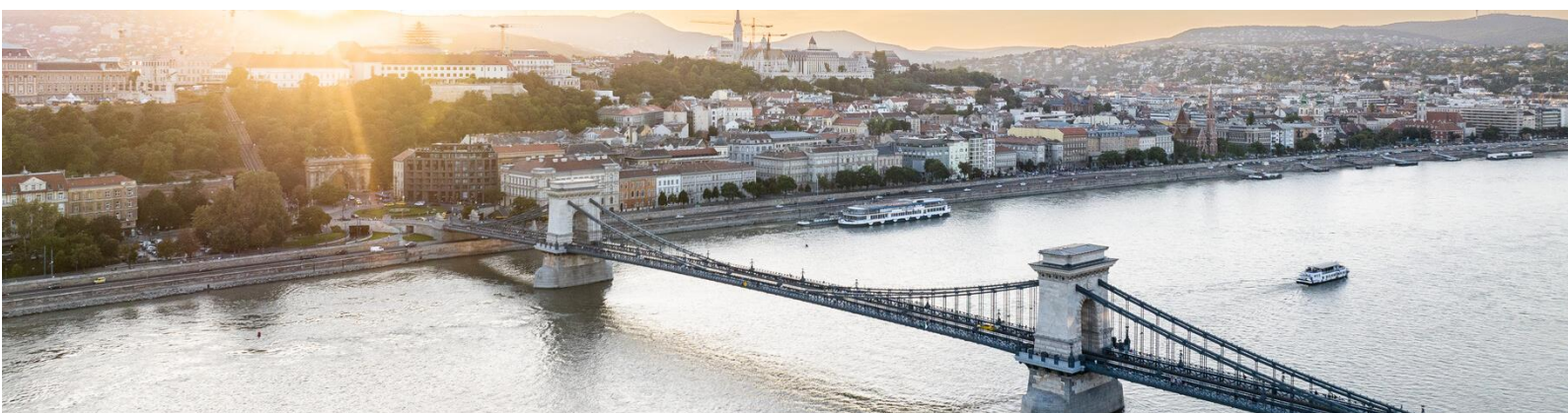
**Alberto Alemanno** – Professor of EU law, HEC Paris; Europe's Futures Fellow, IWM Vienna; Founder, *The Good Lobby* and the *European Journal of Risk Regulation* (online)

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

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

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

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 **Richárd Demény** – Analyst, 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:

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

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

**Liu Shih-chung** – Taiwan Representative to Hungary

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

**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:

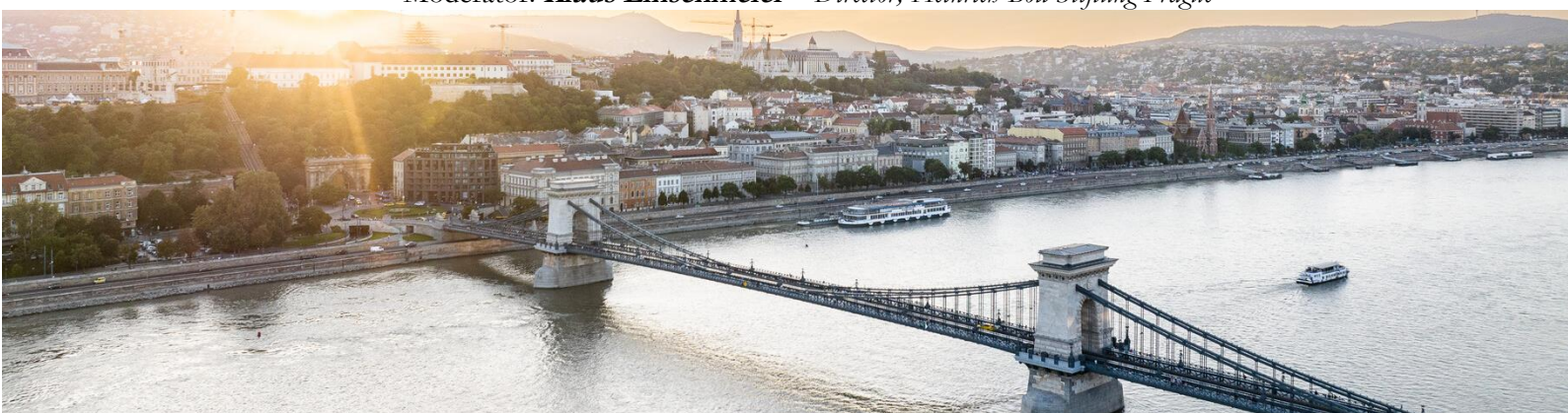
**Donika Emini** – Director, CiviKos Platform

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

**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 (online)

**Petra Guasti** – Associate Professor, Charles University (online)

**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:

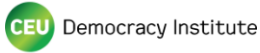
**Murat Somer** – Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Ozyegin University, Istanbul

**Natasha Wunsch** – Professor, Université de Fribourg

**Catarina Leao** – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sciences Po (online)

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





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**IDEAS LEADERSHIP HOPE**



**HEINRICH  
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**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR  
DEMOCRACY**

**SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD**



**TAIPEI  
REPRESENTATIVE  
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