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2023

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## **STIPENDIENPROGRAMM 2023** **Alpbach-Ungarn**



## ■ ■ ■ Das Projekt „Alpbach-Ungarn 2023“ ■ ■ ■

**Die Gesellschaft Österreich Ungarn unterstützte den Wiederaufbau einer ungarischen Alpbach-Alumni-Gruppe und organisierte auch für Alpbach 2023 die Teilnahme ungarischer StipendiatInnen.**

Das Forum Alpbach ist eine interdisziplinäre Plattform für Wissenschaft, Politik, Wirtschaft und Kultur. Sein Ziel ist es, internationale VerantwortungsträgerInnen aus allen gesellschaftlichen Bereichen mit engagierten jungen Menschen zu vernetzen, und im Dialog Impulse zur Weiterentwicklung des europäischen Integrationsprojekts zu setzen.

2019 haben uns nach erstmaliger Ausschreibung unseres Projektes insgesamt 21 Bewerbungen ungarischer StudentInnen erreicht und wir konnten mit der Unterstützung von Partnern insgesamt acht ungarischen StudentInnen die Teilnahme ermöglichen. 2020 fand das Europäische Forum Alpbach nur Online statt, die GÖU finanzierte gemeinsam mit Partnern 30 Online-Stipendien, die allerdings nur teilweise genutzt wurden. Das war der Grund, warum sich die GÖU beim hybrid durchgeführten Forum 2021 nicht engagierte.

2022 konnte die Organisation des Forum Alpbachs die Zusagen von vier StipendiatInnen erreichen. Im Frühjahr 2023 hat auf Vermittlung der GÖU eine Präsentation des EFA in der Ö. Botschaft in Budapest stattgefunden, zu der wir auch StipendiatInnen aus 2019 und 2022 einluden. 2023 konnten wir dann erneut mit Unterstützung unserer PartnerInnen wieder vier ungarische StipendiatInnen übernehmen.

### **Zsófia Berta, Csenge Pap, Simon Noel und Evelin Hornyák**

reisten rechtzeitig zum Beginn des Forums an und ich konnte sie gleich zu Beginn in Alpbach treffen. Bei dieser Gelegenheit im Rahmen einer Jause im Alpbacherhof hatten auch die StipendiatInnen den ersten Kontakt untereinander. Den ungarischen StudentInnen wird bei diesem Programm nicht nur die einmalige Möglichkeit geboten, am Europäischen Forum Alpbach teilzunehmen, ihr Netzwerk auszubauen und zu lernen, sondern auch von Rahmenveranstaltungen zu profitieren.

Beim zweiten Treffen am Ende der Europa-Tage erhielt ich bereits sehr positive Berichte über die ersten Tage beim Forum, die sich bis zum Ende der zwei Wochen des Forums Alpbach noch sehr verstärkten. Aber lesen Sie bitte selbst!

Finden Sie in dieser Broschüre die Berichte unserer StipendiatInnen über das Programm und ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen dabei! Wir möchten damit unseren PartnerInnen vor allem der VIG, die nun schon zum vierten Mal dieses Programm begleitet, für die Unterstützung im Jahr 2023 danken und hoffen auf weitere Kooperation!

BM a.D. Maria Rauch-Kallat, MBA  
Präsidentin der Gesellschaft Österreich Ungarn

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## StipendiatInnen

2023

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## Erstes Treffen mit den ungarischen Stipendiaten im Forum Alpbach 2023



## Feedback Report 2023

### Zsófia Berta

EFA Scholarship holder - Hungary

One week after the official ending of the European Forum Alpbach, I feel a sense of nostalgia while recalling the event's intense experience. It was a truly multidimensional opportunity incorporating a wide range of professional, social, cultural and physical activities. Personally, I feel I could participate in every field mentioned above; however, as a scholarship holder, I frequently faced the problem of having to make trade-offs between one event and another. This does not mean, however, that I was dissatisfied with the Alpbach experience, quite the opposite: I carried the spirit of the Forum with me, which continues to be a source of motivation. In my view, the EFA is a life-changing experience – besides an opportunity to develop professional skills and knowledge, the Forum serves as an intercultural networking hub which enables true cross-cultural communication and thus fosters tolerance and understanding. That is why I feel highly motivated to pave the way for the creation of a Hungarian Club to ensure youth participation from Hungary. Making my country represented in the Forum is essential due to the rising problems of democracy erosion, populism and radical Euroscepticism, which are also present EU-wide. Ensuring continuous participation of Hungarian youth would facilitate discussion, also forge a pro-European societal group within the country that is empowered for action and keen on intercultural cooperation.

Regarding the professional aspect, I engaged in a wide variety of events, such as conferences, workshops and an influential fireside chat where I had the opportunity to meet with Shalini Randeria – the rector of my current university, CEU. Besides these, as a scholarship holder, I could participate in two seminars which were '*How to Revive Multilateralism?*' and '*Re-Imagine Cooperation: Build Your Essential Negotiation Skills*'. In the former, we engaged in compelling discussions about the



current nature of multilateralism and how to reform it, with special reference to the UN and the OSCE as key players in the international sphere. Considering my second seminar, I was completely unfamiliar with the theory and practice of negotiation, so in this sense, I gained much valuable knowledge from these sessions that I can later apply in professional settings. Engaging in actual negotiations helped me not only to use my acquired soft skills actively but also to understand myself better psychologically. Working closely together in smaller groups forged a lot of friendships, which made my Alpbach experience richer. Moreover, connecting with fellow Hungarians abroad never felt so amazing: we have had intriguing conversations with a brilliant professor and two strong, female politicians who constantly fight for our unstable democracy at home. Interestingly, these conversations gave me hope in my country and further incentivized me to take my role in promoting EFA.

Despite having learned a lot from the professional events, the social aspect of EFA was the one I cherish the most. I have met young, like-minded people from all around the world: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Finland, Greece, Georgia, India, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova and Portugal are only a few of the countries where I, thanks to Alpbach, have new, close contacts now. I can say without any exaggeration that I advanced considerably in terms of intercultural knowledge and further



increased my openness towards others. Also, European Forum Alpbach has been a unique experience for me because it made me step out of my comfort zone, thus embark on a road to personal development. Due to my more reserved and quiet character, I tend to have difficulties when it comes to networking and opening up to people – however, here I felt included, respected and heard during conversations. Thus, I could maximize my interpersonal potential with the help of other participants. My post-Forum sadness is compensated by the fact that I have the opportunity to stay in the event's bloodstream: not only as a CEU student but even as a liberal-minded Hungarian who believes in a bold Europe.

*Zsófia Berta*

## **Csenge Pap**

EFA Scholarship holder - Hungary

I spent a wonderful two weeks in Alpbach at the European Forum Alpbach Conference at the end of August. My general experience was really good although I faced some inconveniences. I really enjoyed the programs and the venue however I had serious problems with the accommodation and with the transportation.

As a scholarship holder I was obliged to attend two seminars during the first week. For the morning I chose the seminar titled as Envisioning a Net-Zero Europe. It was a really good experience, the seminar chairs did a really good job. We learned about the meaning of net zero, how to do branding, utopistic theories and some random topics to be bold. On the other half we were separated into 5 groups to create “utopistic islands” based on the idea of education, infrastructure, agriculture, identity and living spaces. In the education group we created the valley of knowledge (picture at the end, left), where the education is free and accessible, the classrooms are various (in nature, in rooms with pillows etc.) and the subjects are connected to each other (history-geography, chemistry-biology-cooking). Then we translated the utopistic ideas into reality and made feasible suggestions on how to apply them in real life. With the members of the seminars, we got to know each other and spent a good time together.

I chose financial literacy as my second seminar because I was really interested in how to manage my money. Probably a lot of other participants had the same idea because we were almost 60 in the room. As this seminar was more like a lecture than an interactive class this was not a big problem. Although with the numerous questions and poor moderation we ran out of time every day. I would have appreciated a more practical knowledge from this, because I am able to read the book on investing at home, but I am not able to meet experts to help me. Maybe next time it would be better to indicate if the course is for beginners or more advanced investors and make it more practical.

On the second week I attended several other events like Why sports can never be apolitical, Why women should run the world, Democracy Vs autocracy. Most of them were really interesting and I learned a lot. Also, with the other Hungarians we organised some dinners with two Hungarian European Parliament Members (Anna Donáth (picture at the end, right) and Katalin Cseh) and a CEU professor Balazs Trencsenyi. These dinners were very successful to talk without formalities with these people. However, I was not able to attend some programs due to the bad bus schedule and lack of access to my accommodation.

I also managed to join one of the Ideas Camp programs on creating an application for young people for the next year's EP elections. We created a video about the idea, collected some information about how previous similar apps worked and we still have meetings and really hope that we will be able to bring the idea to life.

As a scholarship holder without a club, I was accommodated in Radfeld in Lengauer Hof. This was one of the furthest accommodations from Alpbach but at the beginning I was okay with it because I believed the extra shuttle buses would solve the transportation problem. I was disappointed when I realised how badly this was managed. For the morning seminars we had to wake up hours before the seminars which is not easy if you spent the night networking and talking in Jakober. Also, in the evening the direct bus to Radfeld was at 18:24 and the next at 21:24 and our seminars ended at 18:30. This way we had way less opportunity to go home freshen up (especially those who had activity-based seminars). The way we can use the free taxis was not clearly communicated. The drivers didn't really speak English and were not always accessible in time. My suggestion for the future would be to match the shuttle bus schedule at the first week for the seminars and on the second week for the events to make the Forum equally accessible for everyone.



The accommodation was also kind of a problem. Those who lived in Alpbach had mostly double rooms with bathrooms and a kitchen. In Radfeld we were in 3-6 person rooms with low quality beds and no space to store our stuff outside the luggage. Also, the breakfast was nice but we had to solve the lunch and dinner out of 20 euros per day which is quite impossible. However, with a public kitchen opportunity at the accommodations or at the CCA it would have been way more easier to cook and heat/reheat food.

Because of my accommodation problem I was quite often really tired and sleepy during the day. However outside of the camping chairs at the top of CCA there was not much possibility to chill a bit or sleep. In the future it would be very much appreciated to create a quiet room with beanbags, pillows, couches for people to rest there. In summary I had a really good time in Alpbach except the inconveniences and I would like to thank that I got the scholarship. I also hope that my feedback will find a way to make next year's EFA better.



Csenge Pap

## Noel Simon

EFA Scholarship holder

The EFA 2023 was among one of the most significant experiences so far in my professional experience – this was the first opportunity I got to participate in, where I got to foster and share my experiences, professional assets, and knowledge. I consider myself extremely grateful for the opportunity and financial contribution I received as a scholarship holder.

EFA gave me an insight into European politics and societal tendencies that I have never seen before. I got to broaden my horizons by participating during the two weeks period of EFA. During the first week, I was enrolled on the democracy and rule of law track. I attended a session on contemporary questions in philosophy in the morning and a functional workshop on making progress in polarised times in the afternoon. I was delighted with the scene, professionalism, and academic curriculum. Programmes were diverse, and so were the participants – coming from different parts of Europe and the World.

I was convinced, however, that EFA was not only about the “high professionalism” and the scene for only professional and academic talks, but I was also surprised by the social events the organisers offered us. As someone who works in politics, I cannot say how much I appreciate when networking events are made the focus of an event series. Besides, I cannot go by the fact that we got the chance to be in the beautiful scenery of the Austrian Alps – which I have never seen before.

I must admit, however, that I have severe criticism regarding the organisational team behind the scholarship holders. Many of us felt that those who were not Austrian, German, or a part of a so-called club were not equal to those who were. What do I mean here precisely? – we gathered the accommodations we were basically sent to. We realised that the more “East” or the “global south” you were from, the further you got accommodated. I was also highly dissatisfied with how Russian nationals were made to participate in an interview – unquestionably because of their nationality. I believe this is discrimination at its finest since none of us who were European nationals needed to do an interview. Moreover, once we complained about our accommodations, the organisational team only replied with a “thank you, we will take your insights into consideration next year”. However, we know that it was also a problem in the years before us. This was highly unprofessional and uncomfortable towards the end of our journey in Alpbach.

Furthermore, I was utterly upset that those who didn’t get an invitation to the Lab days couldn’t have a chance to network with MEPs, MPs and other political stakeholders – of course, I must highlight that the Hungarian team came together in this matter and organised events for themselves and asked for meetings with stakeholders with prospects to Hungary.

To be frank, I have a bittersweet feeling about EFA 2023 – first, I felt surrounded by amazing people who encouraged me to give my best. And to continue this on my journey. While I cannot

be thankful enough for the enormous chance EFA and the Austrian-Hungarian Association gave me, I must reflect critically on those two weeks I spent in Alpbach, Austria. I will be thankful for all the valuable conversations, friendships, and even more, I got to experience at EFA 2023.

*Noel Simon*

### **Evelin Hornyák**

EFA Scholarship holder

I am immensely grateful for the scholarship that allowed me to attend the European Forum Alpbach 2023. This experience was not only enriching and transformative but also pivotal for my professional and political aspirations. I had the chance to interact with like-minded peers from different countries, as well as some of the role models in my field.

The theme "Bold Europe" resonated with my academic and professional aspirations, leading me to participate in two particularly impactful seminars. The "Giving Voice to Future Generations" seminar, skilfully led by Alberto Alemanno and Elizabeth Dirth, was a profound exploration of long-term governance and policymaking. This seminar challenged me to think innovatively and develop impactful ideas for the representation of future generations.

The "Housing of the Future" seminar, conducted by Anna Hagen and Julia Halbauer, merged theoretical discourse with practical experimentation. This approach deepened my understanding of sustainable housing strategies and the challenges of future urban development, marking a highlight of my EFA23 experience.

### **Meaningful Connections**

Interacting with a diverse and dynamic group of individuals was one of the most enriching aspects of the forum. Meeting young, politically active women and exchanging ideas with peers from various countries provided a powerful platform for both personal and professional growth. These connections, grounded in our shared vision for a bold Europe, have fostered enduring relationships that I will cherish during the years to come too.

### **Enhancing Skills and Broadening Perspectives**

The workshops and discussions at EFA23 were instrumental in honing my skills and broadening my perspectives, particularly in areas related to democracy, security and foreign policy, civic participation, and sustainable development. The insights and knowledge gained have deepened my understanding of these critical topics, directly contributing to my research and future career aspirations.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to you, Maria Rauch-Kallat for this incredible opportunity. The knowledge, insights, and connections I gained at EFA23, under the theme "Bold Europe," have immensely enriched my professional journey. I am excited to apply these valuable learnings in my future endeavours.

Warm regards,

*Evelin Hornyák*  
(Hungary/Belgium)



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## PRESSEARTIKEL 2023

**Artikel aus: APA, 04.09.2023**

<https://science.apa.at/power-search/877952384842347453>

## Zuwachs auf rund 4.200 Teilnehmer beim Europäischen Forum Alpbach

### Medienkooperation

Am Europäischen Forum Alpbach (EFA) haben heuer rund 4.200 Menschen teilgenommen - und damit um etwa 400 mehr als im Vorjahr. Das teilten die Organisatoren am Samstag zum Abschluss des Kongresses per Aussendung mit. Generalthema der von 19. August bis 2. September stattfindenden Veranstaltungen war in diesem Jahr "Bold Europe".



© APA

### APA - Organisatoren ziehen positive Bilanz - Erstmals 53 Prozent der Sprecher weiblich

Die Zielsetzung, das Event "internationaler, jünger und weiblicher" zu machen, sei voll aufgegangen: 98 verschiedene Nationalitäten seien in diesem Jahr in Alpbach vertreten gewesen, darunter viele Repräsentantinnen und Repräsentanten europäischer Institutionen, das Durchschnittsalter der Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer sei bei 39,6 Jahren gelegen, und erstmals seien 53 Prozent der Sprecherinnen und Sprecher weiblich gewesen, bilanzierten die Organisatoren. "Das European Forum Alpbach hat bewiesen, dass es internationale Strahlkraft besitzt und ein wichtiger Treffpunkt für Menschen ist, die sich für ein stärkeres Europa engagieren", hielt EFA-Generalsekretär Feri Thierry fest.

Das Generalthema "Bold Europe", im Rahmen dessen die Klimakrise, die wirtschaftliche Souveränität Europas, die neue Sicherheitsarchitektur sowie Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit diskutiert wurden, sei "wirklich sehr gut angekommen", hatte schon zuvor Forums-Präsident Andreas Treichl im APA-Gespräch betont. "Wir müssen in der Umwelt- und Klimapolitik mutig sein. Wir müssen sehr mutig sein, um die Sicherheit Europas zu gewährleisten, und wir müssen mutig sein, um die wirtschaftliche Zukunft und Eigenständigkeit Europas abzusichern."

Unter den in Alpbach zu Wort kommenden Spitzenvertretern aus Politik, Wirtschaft und Wissenschaft waren heuer unter anderen Bundespräsident Alexander Van der Bellen und seine Amtskolleginnen aus dem Kosovo und Slowenien, Vjosa Osmani und Nataša Pirc Musar, aber auch die belarussische Oppositionsführerin Swetlana Tichanowskaja und die ukrainische Menschenrechtsaktivistin Oleksandra Matwijtschuk sowie Regierungsmitglieder aus Österreich und anderen europäischen Ländern.

**Forum Alpbach Presse Blog vom 02.September 2023**

<https://www.alpbach.org/de/blog/abschluss-efa23>

## „Das neue Konzept ist voll aufgegangen!“



Knapp 3.800 Teilnehmende aus rund 100 Nationen waren in Alpbach dabei. Foto: Philipp Huber

Massiver Besucherzuwachs beim European Forum Alpbach 2023: Rund 4.200 Menschen haben von 19. August bis 2. September 2023 am European Forum Alpbach Event teilgenommen.

Erfolg auf ganzer Linie: Rund 4.200 Menschen haben von 19. August bis 2. September 2023 am European Forum Alpbach Event teilgenommen, um etwa 400 mehr als im vergangenen Jahr. Die Zielsetzung der Organisation, das Event künftig internationaler, jünger und weiblicher zu machen, ist voll aufgegangen: 98 verschiedene Nationalitäten waren in diesem Jahr in Alpbach vertreten, darunter viele Repräsentant:innen europäischer Institutionen, das Durchschnittsalter der Teilnehmer:innen lag bei 39,6 Jahren und erstmals waren 53 % der Sprecher:innen weiblich.

„Das European Forum Alpbach hat bewiesen, dass es internationale Strahlkraft besitzt und ein wichtiger Treffpunkt für Menschen ist, die sich für ein stärkeres Europa engagieren. Der massive Zuwachs an Teilnehmer:innen und ihr überaus positives Feedback sowie die Rekordzahl an Partnerorganisationen bestärken uns: Unser neues Konzept ist voll aufgegangen!“, erklärt Feri Thierry, Generalsekretär des European Forum Alpbach.

Die im vergangenen Jahr implementierte Neuausrichtung des Events folgt während seiner zweiwöchigen Dauer einem dramaturgischen Aufbau: Der Auftakt am ersten Wochenende fokussiert mit den Euregio-Days die Euregio-Region Tirol/Südtirol/Trentino dank regionaler Gastfreundschaft und mit der Ehrung wissenschaftlicher Innovationen. Zeitgleich starten die renommierten Alpbach Seminars, ein Programm, das jungen Stipendiat:innen aus aller Welt eine Woche lang Seminare mit wissenschaftlichen, künstlerischen und persönlichkeitsbildenden Inhalten ermöglicht. Mit ihrer Teilnahme über die gesamte Dauer des Forums hinweg ist die nächste Generation überdies Inspirations- und Impulsquelle für die unzähligen Diskussionen, die das European Forum Alpbach seit 1945 maßgeblich prägen. Auf die Seminare folgen die Lab Days, wo kuratierte Gruppen von Expert:innen konkrete Antworten auf spezifische Problemstellungen entwickeln. Die Labs bereiten den fachlich fundierten Boden für die im Anschluss stattfindenden Europe in the World Days, welche den europäischen Kontinent und seine globale Rolle aus interdisziplinärer Perspektive betrachten. Zum Abschluss bilden die Austria in Europe Days den Saisonauftakt der österreichischen Politik. Entscheidungsträger:innen, Zivilgesellschaft, Unternehmer:innen, und Wissenschaftler:innen debattieren die Positionierung Österreichs in Europa.

Erstmals zeichnete 2023 eine Gastkuratorin für die Kunst und Kultur während des European Forum Alpbach verantwortlich. Mit Yana Barinova konnte die ehemalige Kiewer Kulturstadträtin dafür gewonnen werden, die Inhalte des Forums künstlerisch in Szene zu setzen. Die kuratierten Ausstellungsstücke und Installationen von neun verschiedenen Künstler:innen erzielten ein breites Medienecho und fügten sich ins Ortsbild ein.

Die vier thematischen Schwerpunkte des EFA23 griffen inhaltlich ineinander und erzeugten über die gesamte zwei Wochen hinweg das zusammenhängende Bild eines übergeordneten „Gesprächs“: Im Rahmen des Jahresthemas „Bold Europe“ wurden die Klimakrise, die wirtschaftliche Souveränität Europas, die neue Sicherheitsarchitektur sowie Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit diskutiert.

**Wir danken unseren Sponsoren!**



**und**

**Eine Stiftung,  
die nicht genannt werden möchte,  
vertreten durch  
MMag. Karin Meier-Martetschläger.**