

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN HUNGARY 2022

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EVALUATION AND EUROPEAN OUTLOOK



EMMM FINAL CONFERENCE
30-31 MAY, 2022 BUDAPEST

Almost two months after the decisive general elections at the beginning of April, it is time to take stock of what happened, to look at the European context and discuss next steps. This conference will be the closing event of a 2-year long project managed by Ökotárs in partnership with Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Civil College and Power of Humanity Foundations aimed at building the capacities of Hungarian civil society organisations (CSOs) engaged in activities and campaigns around elections, both locally and nationally. Within this framework we conducted surveys, held trainings and workshops, developed online and visual tools.

The two-day conference is organized with a double goal in mind: (1) to evaluate Hungarian CSOs activities, successes and failures around the elections and the project itself, and (2) to provide an international outlook, discuss experience around Europe and potential cooperation among CSOs as well as next steps in the context after the elections.

Representatives of CSOs, community and citizen groups active around elections or just interested in the subject from Hungary and elsewhere, as well as journalists and experts are welcome to participate.

The project and the event is supported by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizen programme. The organisers cover the costs accommodation and travel to international participants and those coming from greater distances.

The event is free to attend, but registration is needed – please [register here!](#) Deadline: **2 May 2022.**

For more information contact Veronika Móra, move@okotars.hu

Looking forward to seeing you!



Co-funded by the Rights,
Equality and Citizenship program.

Az Európai Bizottság támogatása nem jelenti a rendezvény tartalmának jóváhagyását, amely kizárólag a szerzők álláspontját tükrözi, valamint a Bizottság nem tehető felelőssé ezen információk bármilyen felhasználásáért.

Tentative agenda

Day 1 - Hungarian program

9.30 – 10.00 Arrival, registration

10.00 – 10.15 Opening and welcome

- Veronika Móra, Ökotárs – Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation

10.15 – 11.15 Civic campaigns and actions in the runup to the general elections: highlights and lessons

Panel discussion with representatives of aHang, Let's Count Together, Civil College, HCLU, Unhack Democracy

- What did they do and with what result?
- What worked and why?
- What didn't work, what should have been done differently?
- Q&A

11.15 – 11.40 Presentation of the Civil society and elections project and its closing survey

- Bálint Komenczi - Ökotárs, with contributions from the partners

11.40 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 12.50 Evaluation group discussions, round 1:

Lessons learned in the Civil society and elections project (with local CSOs and citizen groups participating in the project)

Main questions:

- What activities did the group carry out in relation to the 2022 elections?
- What was the objective of the activity, why did they choose to do exactly this?
- Experience with implementation – sharing and evaluation
- Experience and lessons of cooperation with other actors
- Issues of funding

12.50 – 13.10 Report back by group facilitators

13.10 – 14.30 Lunch and networking

14.30 – 15.00 From local community organizing to participation in elections: local stories from the countryside

Two case studies:

- Dániel Fehér, Eleven Gyál
- Monostori Éva, Élettér Közösség- és Településfejlesztő Egyesület, Komárom

15.00 – 15.45 Evaluation group discussions round 2.

Lessons learned in the Civil society and elections project (with local CSOs and citizen groups participating in the project)

Main questions:

- Difficulties and obstacles hindering implementation – systemic and practical
- What conditions and capabilities would be needed to implement the „ideal” campaign and mobilisation?
- Competences – needed and missing
- The learning process

15.45 – 16.00 Report back by group facilitators

16.00 – 16.30 What next for Hungarian civil society? – closing speech

- Róbert László, Political Capital

Day 2 – International program

9.30 – 10.00 Arrival, registration

10.00 – 10.10 Welcome and introduction

- Veronika Móra, director, Ökotárs – Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation

10.10-10.35 Keynote speech: the rise of autocracies in Europe and the world – trends and predictions

- Dániel Hegedűs, German Marshall Fund of the United States

10.35 – 10.50 Elections in Hungary: results and reasons

- Róbert László, Political Capital Institute

10.50 – 11.10 Lessons of the election campaign: how can civil society communicate better?

- Israel Butler, Liberties.EU

11.10 – 11.40 Spark talks: good practices of civil society campaigns linked to elections

- Preventing election fraud and legal aid – Hungarian Civil Liberties Union & Civil College Foundation
- Transparency and civic tech solutions – Elena Calistru, Funky Citizens, Romania

11.40 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 12.15 The final days of civil society in Russia? – struggles and perspectives

- Anna Skortsova, NGO Development Centre, Russia (via videolink, TBC)

12.15 – 13.15 Parallel small group discussions (two of each in case of large audience)

1) CSOs in autocracies: recipes to survival, how to operate? Hosting presenters:

- Jelena Milutinovic, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia
- Paweł Marzewski, ideaForum, Batory Foundation, Poland

2) CSOs in an opening environment after political change: how to utilize new opportunities? Hosting presenters:

- Siri Hummel, Maecenata Institute, Germany,
- Laurentiu Pleasca, Civil Society Development Foundation, Moldova

3) CSOs in political cycle: how does political „back and forth” impact on civil society? Hosting presenters:

- Grigorij Mesežnikov, Institute for Public Affairs, Slovakia,
- Natasha Petkovska, North-Macedonia Helsinki Committee

4) CSOs and activists’ drain and transition to political parties: threat or an opportunity? Hosting presenters:

- Valeriu Nicolae, Casa Bună, Romania,
- Lubomira Kolcheva, Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation

Each small group will start with short presentations from the hosts describing how civil society organizations operate in their specific political contexts and how it developed/evolved over time, followed by a joint discussion.

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch and networking

14.30 – 14.50 Report back from small groups

14.50 – 15.30 Partner search world café

Table hosts are participating CSOs seeking to find partners to their projects fitting with the event’s overall themes (2 rounds)

16.00 – 18.00 City walk in Budapest (with Sétaműhely)

The impression of politics on the architecture and urban landscape of the capital.; important venues and aspects of the parliamentary elections of 2022.

Planned main stops:

- HCLU office: election monitoring, complaints
- MPs’ House: vote counting/enumeration
- National Election Board offices: election system and frauds
- Parliament building: election results
- Constitutional Court: access to justice

19.00 - Joint dinner (venue TBC)