



## WE ARE EUROPE CITIZENS' AGORA

[Andrássy University Budapest](#)

[Pollack Mihály tér 3, 1088](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 | Budapest, Hungary

[European Youth Centre Budapest](#)

[Zivatar u. 1, 1024](#)

23-24 February 2019 | Budapest, Hungary




# We are EUROPE

*Empowering civil society for a citizens Europe*

## Get the word out with Social Media!

We welcome and encourage you to use social media during the Meet Up. Follow us on social media:

 Twitter (**@federalists**),

 Facebook (**European Federalists**)

 instagram (**european\_federalists**)

Use the hashtag [#WeAreEurope](#) and [#IChooseEurope](#) for all [We Are Europe Citizens' Agora](#) related tweets and posts. Here are some guidelines that will help you to have a great social media presence:

- Tweet and create posts about the sessions (without sharing sensitive information) - discuss topics of interest and comment on political debate and testimonies
- Engage with other Citizens' Agora participants online
- Take pictures during sessions and tweet or post them on Facebook or on Instagram
- Retweet!
- Provide feedback to UEF staff
- Be respectful in tone and content -- remember, **your posts are public and live forever!**

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the We are Europe Citizens Agora!

We are Europe Citizens' Agora is a public political event co-organised by “[We are Europe](#)” partners in view to consolidating the participant organisations’ and citizens skills, offering them political visibility and reinforce cross-border partnerships. The event is organised by [UEF](#) in cooperation with [UEF Hungary](#), [JEF](#) and [The Spinelli Group](#).

The Agora promotes societal engagement within the debate on the Future of Europe. It allows participants to address crucial topics in this particular context, such as future and challenges of democracy and rule of law in Europe and the Visegrad prospective on the future of Europe debate.

Three months from the European Parliament elections and in the context of raising populism in Europe, the We are Europe Agora in Budapest aims to stimulate and organise a reflection on the challenges for democracy and Rule of Law and their impact on the debate on the future of Europe involving political representatives and civil society actors from European Union member states and particular from the Visegrad countries.

The event includes:

- public political debate with members of the European Parliament from The Spinelli Group, local politicians and civil society from Hungary and other Visegrad-Group countries taking place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February;
- seminar with experts, academics and representatives of civil society organisations on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

The event includes the sessions on following topics:

- Towards the European Parliament elections: what is at stake for Hungary and for Europe?
- Democracy and rule of law: European trends and the Central European perspective
- Hungary 15 years after the European Union accession: perspectives on Europe and challenges for democracy and Rule of Law
- Scenarios for the Visegrad Countries and their impact on the future of Europe: between national and European Sovereignty
- What can the European Union do for democracy and rule of law across Europe?

PROGRAMME WE ARE EUROPE CITIZENS' AGORA & PC – BUDAPEST | 22-24 FEBRUARY 2019

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Venue: Harmonia Palace – Muzeum u. 9, 1088 Budapest

15:15 – 15:30

**FLASHMOB: Kálvin square**

**I CHOOSE EUROPE | EURÓPÁT VÁLASZTOM**

Join us with European Flags to sing the European anthem and support the future of Europe

15:30 – 16:00

**PUBLIC DEBATE**

*Registrations*

16:00 – 17:30

1<sup>st</sup> panel with Members of the European Parliament and local political representatives:

- **“TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS: WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR HUNGARY AND FOR EUROPE?”**

*Introduced and moderated by*

*Andrew DUFF, President of The Spinelli Group*

with the participation of

*Katalin CSEH, Momentum lead candidate for the European Parliament elections*

*Arató GERGELY, Member of the National Council of the Democratic Coalition and of the National Parliament*

*Márton GYÖNGYÖSI, Executive Vice-President Jobbik*

*Gábor HARANGOZO, Member of the European Parliament (MSZP)*

*Miklós HARASZTI, Politician, writer, journalist, human rights advocate, and university professor*

Followed by Debate

17:30 – 19:00

2<sup>nd</sup> panel with Members of the European Parliament and local political representatives

- **“DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW: EUROPEAN TRENDS AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE”**

*Introduced and moderated by*

*Eszter NAGY, Secretary General of the Union of European Federalists Hungary*

with the participation of

*Péter BALAZS, Director of Center for European Neighbourhood Studies*

*Anna DONATH, Vice-President of Momentum Movement*

*Sandro GOZI, President of the Union of European Federalists*

*Ágnes KUNHALMI, Member of the National Parliament of Hungary (MSZP)*

*Bernadett SZEL, Member of the National Parliament of Hungary and member of Committee of European Affairs*

Followed by Debate

19:00

*Drinks*

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019

Venue: European Youth Centre Budapest – Zivatar u. 1, 1024 Budapest

**OPEN SEMINAR**

08:30 – 09:00

*Registrations*

09:00 – 09:30

**OPENING**

- Welcoming
- Introduction of participants
- Outline of the programme and the objectives of the day  
*Introduced by Paolo VACCA, Secretary General of the Union of European Federalists*

09:30 – 12:00

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“HUNGARY 15 YEARS AFTER THE EUROPEAN UNION ACCESSION: PERSPECTIVES ON EUROPE AND CHALLENGES FOR DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW”**

- Discussion with academic and political experts and representatives of civil society  
*András DÉSI, Senior Editor & Reporter at Népszabadság*  
*Gábor GYORI, Senior analyst at the think-tank Policy Solutions*  
*Stefánia KAPRONCZAY, Executive Director at Társaság a Szabadságjogokért - Hungarian Civil Liberties Union*  
*András PULAI, Director of Strategy at Publicus, Millennium Institute*  
*Zsuzsanna SZELENYI, Visitor fellow of the Institute for Human Sciences, Former MP, Hungary*  
*Moderated by Eszter NAGY, Secretary General of UEF Hungary*

Debate with participants

12:00 – 13:00

*Lunch*

13:00 – 14:30

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“SCENARIOS FOR THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: BETWEEN NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY”**

- Discussion with academic and political experts and representatives of civil society  
*Dániel BARTHA, Director at Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy*  
*Magdalena JAKUBOWSKA, Vicepresident, Res Publica Foundation / Visegrad Insight*  
*Petr FLEISCHMANN, Advisor on Foreign Affairs*  
*Moderated by Leonie MARTIN, Vice-president of the Young European Federalists (JEF)*

Debate with participants

14:45 – 16:30

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW ACROSS EUROPE?”**

- Discussion with academic and political experts and representatives of civil society  
*Dóra GYORFFY, Professor of international Political Economy at the Péter Pázmány Catholic University and the Corvinus University of Budapest*  
*Krisztina HEGEDUS, Policy Advisor at the European Parliament*  
*Gabriella HORN, Web editor for the Open Society Archives and freelance journalist*  
*Leonie MARTIN, Vice-president of the Young European Federalists (JEF)*  
*Anita SZUCS, Professor at Corvinus University*  
*Erik USZKIEWICZ, Hungarian Europe Society*  
*Moderated by Sebastiano PUTOTO, Executive Board member of the Young European Federalists (JEF)*

Debate with participants

16:30 – 17:00

*Coffee break*

17:00 – 18:30

**POLITICAL COMMISSION MEETING (internal UEF/JEF meeting)**

**Session I: Defining the background and the key issues**

- European trends and national developments
- Existing mechanisms on European level

*Introduced by Leonie MARTIN, Vice-president of the Young European Federalists (JEF) and Sebastiano PUTOTO, Executive Board of the Young European Federalists (JEF)*

19:30

*Dinner*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019 | Political Commission**

**Venue: European Youth Centre Budapest – Zivatar u. 1, 1024 Budapest**

**POLITICAL COMMISSION MEETING (internal UEF/JEF meeting)**

**Rotating group discussions**

09:00 – 11:00

**Session II: Preparing JEF and UEF policies - Deep dive into selected topics:**

**What measures can Europe implement to safeguard democracy and rule of law across Europe?**

- The “Article 7” procedure and Review mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights  
*Facilitated by Leonie MARTIN, Vice-president of JEF*
- The role of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office  
*Facilitated by Eszter NAGY, Secretary General of UEF Hungary*
- Rule of Law conditionality in the EU budget  
*Facilitated by Sebastiano PUTOTO, Executive Board of JEF*
- Media literacy and a European media space  
*Facilitated by Jacopo BARBATI, Vice-President of JEF*

11:00 – 11:20

*Coffee break*

11:20 – 12:30

**PLENARY SESSION**

**Outcomes of the Session II**

12:30

**CLOSING**

## PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

Civil society activists meeting the following criteria are eligible to participate in the “We are Europe: Citizens’ Agora” programme:

- Applying candidate need to be officially be resident in an EU member state, an EU-candidate country, a country being part of the European Economic Area
- Applying candidate must agree with the main objectives of the “We are Europe” scheme and pursue the objective of an ever closer union between European citizens and nations

### Travel Reimbursement

Participants residing outside Budapest will be eligible to **reimbursement of their travel expenses** (accommodation and subsistence excluded) **70% and up to a maximum reimbursement of 150 EUR**. Reimbursements will be made on the spot and in cash, **upon presentation of proof of payment**. Please, don’t forget to bring **the original receipts and tickets** with you.

### Contribution

Accepted participants are required to make a **contribution of 60 euros** to help towards covering the costs of venue hire, catering (accommodation for event days, a welcome reception, breakfasts, one lunch, one dinner and coffee break), documents and other expenses.

The contribution **fee is waived for local, Budapest based participants**.

### Accommodation

The accommodation has been booked at the [European Youth Centre Budapest](#) for the participants according to the requests of the registration forms for participants who have paid the contribution fee as stated in the participation conditions. Rooms are accessible from 10am, however early arrivals can drop their luggage in the storage room at the reception. For any question do not hesitated to contact UEF secretariat.



## VENUE



**CITIZENS' AGORA VENUE | 22<sup>nd</sup> February 15:30 – 16:00**

[Andrássy University Budapest](#)

[Pollack Mihály tér 3, 1088](#)

Metro stop: Klavin tér



**WE ARE EUROPE CITIZENS4 AGORA & POLITICAL COMMISSION | 23-24 February**

[European Youth Centre Budapest](#)

Zivatar u. 1-3, 1024 Budapest, Hungary



**Bus stop:** Zivatar utca

**Tram stop:** Mechwart liget (line 4, 6, 17)

## HOW TO GET TO THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE BUDAPEST?

### FROM AIRPORT

#### **Minibus Shuttle:**

The minibus service is provided by [Minibud Airport Shuttle Service](#). It will drop you at the address you wish to reach. Please refer to their website for further information: <https://www.minibud.hu/en>.

### FROM TRAIN STATION

#### **Nyugati pu. (Western Station):**

Take the **bus number 91** or **291** just outside the train station. It will cross the Margit Bridge, and start its ascent up a hill. Get off the bus at the fourth **stop** called '**Zivatar utca**', cross the road, walk on downhill until you find Zivatar Street on your right. The Centre is further up the street, to your left. Please note, the hill is on a steep incline and the pavement is not totally smooth.

## CONTACT

### **Union of European Federalists Secretariat**

Square de Meeûs 25

1000 Brussels

[www.federalists.eu](http://www.federalists.eu) | E-mail: [kristine.roke@federalists.eu](mailto:kristine.roke@federalists.eu)

**In case of emergency, you can reach us by phone on +32 2 508 30 30**