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# A COMPASS FOR AUTUMN

## Interview with Rector Dr. Attila Miseta

Éva Harka  Szabolcs Csontos

### What can we expect for the autumn semester in preparation for the epidemic?

We are flexible! The forms of education are very different at every faculty. Some of them can shift to digital education easily any time. As for the practical courses, there are two options: we either start the courses as usual, and in case of a second wave of the virus, we immediately continue in the form of digital learning and postpone the practical training for later, or we start with the practical training in September, and in case a state of emergency would be announced again, we can continue with the online lessons about the theoretical issues. I entrusted the deans to work out the specific solutions optimized for each study programme.

### There has been a decline in the number of university applicants in Hungary, which is to some extent a result of a decline in demography. In your opinion, why has higher education become less attractive?

Last year, the news about the possible changes in the admission process of higher education, such as a compulsory advanced final exam and language exam, have motivated several prospective students to take counteractions in advance. Others decided to wait until the end of the Covid epidemic and submit their application after it has passed. Late admission still might improve our situation.

In the case of foreign students, there are bigger problems: foreign representation operating in the countries marked red by the Hungarian government offer limited services, and there are countries where air travel is prohibited at the moment. However, our admission results are better than expected. Higher education has not become any less attractive, than before, but some people are inclined to draw general conclusions from temporary trends.

### Some of the university's funding has been withdrawn. What can we expect in this regard?

We have promises for compensation. In addition to defunding, the battle against the coronavirus epidemic also caused significant additional expenditures, which have



been only partially compensated. I am confident that we will be able to make up for this from tenders and emergency public funding - I see no other option, because our state revenues for education will certainly not increase.

### In the middle of summer, there have been some rumours about the possible merger of medical schools into one big university - since then, it has been categorically denied. However, the transformation of Hungarian higher education is in progress. What path do you see for UP?

The principle of the transformation is to create a more practice-oriented university environment with more intensive ties to the market. This is to be supported. The ministry sees the creation of the preconditions for this clearly: one of the most important issue is to give universities more space in terms of being able to adequately respond to the needs of market participants for example. If this is highly centralized, it will be inevitably slower and may not serve the needs of the university at the right quality and pace. I support the idea of letting university leaders become truly responsible for management, having clearly defined objectives with deadlines. I think UP can handle its challenges in its current format as well.

### What do you see as the biggest challenge?

The constant and biggest challenge for a university has always been quality. Quality in education, science, innovation and health care. This goal can even require changes in the educational methods. One element of this is that we need to rely more on students' self-preparation and on quality feedback as well. There is also a need to improve the work of academic staff. We must also strengthen our cooperations with the county, the city and the industrial and service sector.

### RECTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

From 1 September, Rector Attila Miseta is going to hold a consultation every month. Consultation appointments can be requested online by providing a few sentences summarizing the subject of the discussion. Further information: <https://rektorifogadoora.pte.hu>

# CONTENTS

|                          |  |       |
|--------------------------|--|-------|
| <b>FIRST PAGE</b>        | <i>A Compass for Autumn – Interview with Rector Dr. Attila Miseta</i>                    | 1     |
|                          | <i>Contents</i>  | 2     |
| <b>UNIVERSITY LIFE</b>   | <i>Welcome!</i>  | 3     |
| <b>DEVELOPMENTS</b>      | <i>The New Theoretical Building of the Medical School Nearly Complete</i>                | 4     |
|                          | <i>Dynamic Progress at the Construction of the New Theoretical Building of Dentistry</i> | 5     |
| <b>UNIVERSITY LIFE</b>   | <i>Do We Dare to Sit on Our Favorite Bench?</i>  | 6     |
|                          | <i>Significant Donation to UP Foundation</i>   | 6     |
|                          | <i>Faculty of Humanities Changing its Name</i>   | 7     |
|                          | <i>Are Robots Taking our Jobs or are Humans just Becoming more Human?</i>                | 8–9   |
|                          | <i>The Miracle Scholarship</i>   | 10–12 |
|                          | <i>Put in the Effort to Achieve Higher Goals</i>   | 13–14 |
| <b>COVID-19</b>          | <i>Safe and Sound!</i>   | 15    |
|                          | <i>UP: Outstanding and Exemplary on an International Level as well</i>                   | 16    |
|                          | <i>14 Lessons of the Pandemic</i>  | 17    |
|                          | <i>Light at the End of the Tunnel is Near</i>  | 18–19 |
|                          | <i>The Virus Does Not Respect Luck</i>   | 20–22 |
|                          | <i>Cutting-Edge CT at the Clinical Center</i>  | 23    |
|                          | <i>Inside the Red Zone</i>   | 25–27 |
|                          | <i>Experiences of the Digital Transition</i>   | 28–29 |
|                          | <i>The Student Council during the Coronavirus Pandemic</i>                               | 30    |
|                          | <i>REVIDPécs: the Local Economy Escaping Forward</i>                                     | 31–32 |
|                          | <i>Our Cyber Security and the COVID-19</i>   | 33    |
|                          | <i>What Can we Do before the Second Wave?</i>  | 34    |
| <b>UNIVERSITY LIFE</b>   | <i>Giving Back to the Community</i>  | 35–37 |
| <b>CULTURE</b>           | <i>Like the Sea</i>  | 38–41 |
| <b>GREEN THUMB</b>       | <i>Green Patch – Community Garden in the Heart of the City</i>                           | 42–43 |
|                          | <i>Innovative Solutions in Education – Pécs Summer School</i>                            | 44    |
|                          | <i>Digital Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University</i>                          | 45    |
| <b>LANGUAGE LEARNING</b> | <i>The Man, who Collects Language Exam Certificates</i>                                  | 46    |
| <b>MUSIC</b>             | <i>Singing as a Way of Life</i>  | 47–48 |
| <b>CULTURE</b>           | <i>Red-hot Uniqueness</i>  | 49–50 |
| <b>GASTRONOMY</b>        | <i>Golden, Glittering Bubbly!</i>  | 51    |
| <b>HOT TOPIC</b>         | <i>Dead Mosquitoes = Good Mosquitoes?</i>  | 52    |

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# THE NEW THEORETICAL BUILDING OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL **NEARLY COMPLETE**

*They are adding the finishing touches to the Medical School's new theoretical building, this way, the technical handover process can begin in autumn at the earliest.*

Vilma Both |  Szabolcs Csontos

The new building is the "flagship" of the Modern Cities Programme, since it is both the biggest and the most expensive project within the programme. The design of the building was inspired by multiple 21<sup>st</sup> century institutes. The open lab spanning multiple floors and the layout combines the structural aspects of the Janelia Research Campus (Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA) and the new Max Planck Research Campus (Germany). The highly esteemed TSPC Technical Supervision and Planning Consulting Hungary Ltd. a workshop, which has great renown in the architect profession, created the general design.

The design procedure of the educational and research space was done with the faculty's and the healthcare professionals' best interests in mind. The main building on Szigeti street will be expanded with a 12 000 m<sup>2</sup> wing, into which four departments will relocate from the old building. The second floor will serve as the new home for the Institute of Physiology (left wing) and the Institute for Translational Medicine (right wing), while the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy (left wing) and the Department of Public Health Medicine (right wing) will move in to the third floor.

The centre block of the building will house the core-facility research laboratories, which will provide the general infrastructure needed for the specialized research in complex, interdisciplinary research projects. Although the institutes in the building focus primarily on education and research, they will shoulder patient tests related to their fields of research as well, however, only in small numbers. In the case of the Department of Public Health Medicine, the Institute for Translational Medicine and the Institute of Physiology, at the two ends of the building, vertical traffic will be possible, enabling walk-in patients to access examination rooms and doctor's offices without going through other institutes and areas.

The large-scale student traffic will occur on the ground and first floors, which house the auditoriums (with the capacities of 2x336 people and 2x96 people) the seminar rooms and the social spaces. The parking level will house the research facility's support and storage rooms alongside the parking lots.

The bottom floor of the eastern wing will house a high capacity kitchen and restaurant. The restaurant will be accessible from the outside through a paved space as well. The machinery will be placed out of sight in the crawl space, in the basement machine room and on the roof.

The garden has been created on the northern side of the new building that would not only help the university students to relax, but might also serve as an attractive destination for many of the citizens living in the area.





# DYNAMIC PROGRESS AT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW THEORETICAL BUILDING OF DENTISTRY

*Progress Report on Human Resources Development Operational Programme EFOP-4.2.1-16-2017-00008 with the title Infrastructural Development of the University of Pécs*

Vilma Both |  Szabolcs Csontos

The two billion forints EU project investment for the establishment of the new theoretical building of Dentistry on the grounds of the former La-kits-Barack is progressing according to plan. The five-storey educational institution with a total useful floor area of 2750 m<sup>2</sup> will house more than 60 dentistry seats. The building's geometrical layout has been designed with the optimal service size around dentistry seats in mind, determined by the 25 panels under each of the 540x540-pillar roof span. The vertical traffic elements, stairs, elevators and the public sanitary facilities on all levels are located in the central core of the building, which serves as the strengthening of the pillar-frame structured building.

The preparations, groundwork and construction of the scaffolding was done during the past few months and as of now the construction of the basement level is complete, the slab above it has been covered with concrete and the ground floor's loadbearing pillars can be seen as well. The basement serves as a predominantly technical space; the economic infrastructure, the ma-

chinery and the storage facilities will be placed here. The main entrance will be on the ground floor, including patient registration, radioscapy and orientation. The south-eastern segment will house the children's dentistry with a separate waiting room. Periodontology, operative dentistry, orthodontics seats and the residents' dental treatment rooms will be placed on the first floor. The second floor will house the prosthetic and conservative dentistry seats. On the third floor, you will find offices and doctor's offices, meeting rooms and a dining area with access to the rooftop garden.

Seeing the rapid progress of the construction, the main structure of the building will be completed by October 2020, so the 2021 August-September handover seems to be realistic. With this development an education centre will be created for dentistry, which provides a solid background for dental studies, from elementary to specialized training as well postgraduate courses. The building was designed by Masszi Architects Office Ltd. The construction was carried out by STRABAG Construction Ltd..





## Do We Dare to Sit on Our Favorite Bench?

**The coronavirus pandemic even has affected our use of public space. Do we dare to sit on our favorite bench? What kind of challenges do our new habits and social distancing bring for future architects? The professors and students of the Hubei University of Technology in Wuhan and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology in Pécs have started to work together to answer these questions in a joined research project.**

The students and professors of the two universities are mapping out together the changes in our habits of public spaces usage, and they are looking for the ideal environment for working from home as a result of the pandemic. The main question of architecture is how to integrate recent healthcare regulations regarding the safe usage of public space due to the pandemic well into the design process, since these spaces are stages for human contact. Chinese and Hungarian students and lecturers are ap

*Moreover, another interesting topic is how to create the optimal workspace environment at home, which has been more widespread due to the pandemic than ever before.*

proaching the problem from the point of view of interior design. They are aiming to answer various questions, such as what factors architects should take into account while designing a house, if they need to create a place for work as a part of it. They are also looking into what the concept of home office means to the employees. Furthermore, the research collaboration also focuses on how the ergonomic character of the space would influence the workflow, how this would be supported by the furniture, and how these could boost efficiency and productivity.

This is not the first joint project between the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Pécs and the Asian university; they have been working together closely for years. Following previous successful co-operations with other Chinese universities in 2015, they have been invited to an architecture workshop where the experts from Pécs could participate alongside 11 Chinese universities as the only international partner. This is where the strong bond with the Wuhan University was forged and they invited a guest lecturer from Pécs to teach in Wuhan for a semester. (Gergely Kottász)

## Significant Donation to UP

**A number of donations have been made recently to the Foundation of the University of Pécs. One of the donors was Anna Szabó, who has made a significant contribution to the fight against the coronavirus.**



**The young Hungarian woman is a well-known dog photographer, who lives abroad. We asked her why she decided to organize a photo shoot for charity and to support UP with a significant donation.**

### How did pandemic affect you?

At first, I did not take the coronavirus situation seriously. I got word in England that Italy was closed down, but I thought it was mass hysteria. Then I got coronavirus, I was seriously ill. For me, this is a sort of atonement. When I recovered and was not dangerous to others, I went to Sweden to continue my work there. Scandinavians really like to do good, to give to charity, and they also have the opportunity to do so.

### Why did you support UP?

I have a friend, who lives in Pécs and was a student of the University of Pécs. The parents of one of my dear clients are also from Pécs. I asked them, who I should support, where the donation would be responsibly used for the most necessary purposes. I have absolute confidence in UP; this university has a good reputation in Scandinavia as well, many people know it. Pécs is one of my favourite cities since childhood, which also played a role in my decision.

### What can we learn as a lesson?

We should not take everything for granted, and we should appreciate the things in life more. I felt like a miracle has happened to me, when I bought my first cappuccino after two months. I have reassessed everything. We live in a very selfish society, and we have to recognize that. Unfortunately, a lot of half-information is spread, even from sources that are considered reliable. Let us use our common sense, do not lose our minds and think about what is really happening.

Read the full interview: [international.pte.hu](https://international.pte.hu)  
(Mariann Tóth)

## Undoubtedly **World-Class**

**The international EFMD EPAS accreditation that the BSc in Business Administration and Management programme of Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs (UPFBE) received in March 2020 is an acknowledgment, which means recognition not only for the faculty, but for the University of Pécs. We asked Krisztián Szűcs, vice-dean of the faculty and Viktória Gerdesics, EPAS coordinator about the value of this achievement and the way leading there.**

This leading international system of quality assessment is the most thorough for business and management degrees and courses. Through this, the UPFBE joined an elite group; we are second in Hungary and one of the first few in Central Europe – highlighted Krisztián Szűcs. The vice-dean said that the most well-known business programmes are assessed by three organisations, UP has decided to join the European organization EFMD. After acceptance, a procedure spanning several years has started, out of which the accreditation process took three years.

Viktória Gerdesics informed us about the three-step process of assessment, which according to her is the most objective procedure: It is a meticulous, objective system, which ensures that the degrees issued in Pécs, Vienna or anywhere in the world from Australia, to Japan are equivalent. There can be differences among the programmes, but the overall quality has to be the same. This programme emphasizes outstanding quality. The competence of professors, the quality of students, and even the study materials have been examined during the process. We have received the accreditation for three years, until then we have to hand in annual reports, followed by the next evaluation in three years.

The vice-dean added, that in harmony with the university's internationalization plans the visibility of the Faculty of Business and Economics has also become more prominent, and the recruitment of international students has also become more convenient utilizing this achievement. Not only the faculty, but the university and the city also benefits from welcoming higher quality students from abroad.

(Robert Balogh)

## Faculty of Humanities **Changing its Name**

*The new name: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

**From 1 August 2020, the Faculty of Humanities is changing its name; the new name is going to reflect that the faculty is offering study fields related to the social sciences as well. The Hungarian abbreviation "BTK" is going to remain unchanged. We asked Dean Dr. György Heidl about the reasons.**

### **Why was it necessary to change the name?**

In the past decades, the number of students and academic staff has been steadily growing in humanities, as well as in social sciences programmes. The students of social sciences programmes has exceeded 600 in the Bachelor, Masters and PhD programmes as well. Our new name will reflect the current situation. One of our goals was to make ourselves available for those current and future partners who would like to build connections along the social sciences programmes; this way they will know right away from the name that we are what they are looking for. As far as I am concerned, I like to call things what they are.

### **The Faculty of Humanities is a member of the recently established Hungarian Chamber of Humanities and Social Sciences. Is this a step forward as well?**

This forum is mainly concerned with public affairs and the protection of interests and it is a member of the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities international organization, which has members worldwide.

### **Are you planning to launch new programmes in the near future in connection with current trends of Social Sciences?**

We are proceeding with caution when it comes to creating new programmes. One of our plans is to offer Philosophy, Politics and Economics major in English, which has been recently accredited in Hungary. In this study programme, social sciences and humanities are combined with economics. As the Dean, I highly support the idea of creating training programmes beyond focusing on a special field of science, which are composed of different fields of science and methodology, thus providing the students with knowledge that is more extensive, more versatile knowledge and competences.

Read the full interview: [international.pte.hu](http://international.pte.hu)  
(Éva Harka)

# ARE **ROBOTS TAKING OUR JOBS** OR ARE HUMANS JUST BECOMING MORE HUMAN?



*The managing director of Deutsche Telekom IT Solutions, **Erik Slooten** will become an honorary professor of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Pécs. He held his impactful inaugural lecture with the title "Artificial Intelligence and a Glance into the Future" on 2 March at the faculty's lecture hall A007. Unfortunately, the inauguration ceremony had to be postponed, because of the pandemic, to be held at a later date.*

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

**E**rik Slooten started his coruscating presentation with a glimpse into his own educational past "I still remember when one of our professors told us what to expect in the next 20-30 years. He talked about mobile phones and about what changes their use will bring. I was so awestruck that by the time the lesson was over, my mind was made up: I must work in communication technology. Everything he told us came true." – highlighted Slooten. He explained, that the market value of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry will jump from 21 billion to 190 billion dollars per year by 2025. Those countries, who invest the most in this industry will rule the future. As of now, China and the USA are the two biggest investors, with the former one being the more prominent agent. Ten or twenty years from now, 80% of jobs will disappear: robots will replace human workers due to their faster, cheaper and better performance.

He pointed out that AI learns faster than humans do, it remembers longer and more clearly, it has faster and more accurate reactions and it can copy or mimic anything more precisely and more quickly. However, it cannot be creative or funny, it has no ego, it cannot be social, it does not have intuitions or instincts, nor does it have "street smarts". Slooten also gave an example; when for the first time in history an AI beat the world

champion in Go (Chinese board game): the Go master broke down crying, while the AI did not react to the situation at all.

As why Artificial intelligence cannot be written off as a simple whim, Erik Slooten answered by correcting the common misbeliefs most often associated with AI. According to some, artificial intelligence threatens our lives and livelihoods... The future honorary doctor pointed out:

*"We can try to hide from it, we can fear it, but this trend is unstoppable."*

Twenty years from now, there will be more robots in the medical sector than ever before. Among the innovations, there will be a toilet, analysing its user's excrement and it could find out whether the user is at risk of cancer 15 years before the symptoms would form. "This has a working prototype in the US" – added Erik Slooten. More and more factories will use a zero human touch method of production, the Hell energy drink and the Mercedes factories already use this method. However, education will become "smarter" as well: an AI could



compile your study-plan, taking into account your learning needs perfectly.

Robots will replace chefs as well: the invention of the 'goulash 2.0' is obviously a creative process, however, peeling carrots and potatoes, slicing ingredients and following recipes are tasks that robots could perform faster and more accurately. Artificial intelligence could bring an era of peace, since they have no ego, they could negotiate more rationally than diplomats would. The widespread use of self-driving cars would drastically reduce the number of traffic accidents. AI will develop and carry out space research and space travel. Because humans often disregard greater overarching connections, robots make better decisions concerning the legislation system as well. Erik Slooten highlighted:

*"Things will become simpler and humans will be able to focus more on their human sides. We can become more human."*

He also addressed the risks in cybersecurity and talked about protecting private data. The risk of people with ill intent trying to weaponize AI is a very real concern according to him. Slooten asked his audience who would implant robots into their body in order to enhance their health or skills. "25 years ago, no one would have dared to make this decision. Artificial intelligence was so unknown and alien to most people that those who would have been willing to, often were labelled as someone who has turned to the "dark side" – as if they would become Darth Vader. We are living in an age of shifting paradigms" – emphasized Slooten. "We have to learn how to live and work with artificial intelligence. We have to re-evaluate our attitude towards work, effort and money. We will not be enslaved by our jobs anymore and we will have more time to spend on aspects that make us special. Creativity, affection, sympathy, altruism, humour and care: these are real human values, which cannot be replicated. Are we ready to reinvent ourselves to deal with the disruptive effects of AI?" – asked Erik Slooten. After a moment of silence, he answered: "No, we are not ready, but we have to ready ourselves."

*"Let us ride this wave, because it is coming! What we do with all this, will depend on your generation. Do not mess it up!"*





## THE **MIRACLE** SCHOLARSHIP

*Stipendium Hungaricum is a generous scholarship programme for international students making it possible for them to come experience excellent and affordable education in the heart of Europe. Thousands of students from all around the world apply for higher educational studies in Hungary each year, and the number of applicants for this scholarship is continuously increasing. I asked **Áron Bánáti**, the institutional Stipendium Hungaricum coordinator of the University of Pécs about the programme.*

Fatima Majid Malik | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

### **When was the Stipendium Hungaricum (SH) Scholarship Programme initiated?**

The Hungarian Government has launched the programme in 2013 in the framework of a government policy called "Eastern and Southern Opening". Its core mission is to increase the number of foreign students in Hungary and to encourage Hungarian higher education institutions to attract top foreign students. At the same time, we also hope that those students who graduated at UP will always have a special place in their hearts for Hungary and Pécs.

### **The SH programme is based on bilateral educational cooperation agreements, how many countries are sending students?**

Currently 72 sending partners are engaged in the programme. Every year, hundreds of international students gain admission to our university with the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship.

### **Is Hungary planning to expand the geographical scope of the Scholarship Programme targeting left out countries such as Afghanistan?**

The future expansion of the program is always decided by the Hungarian Government. I have no information regarding ongoing bilateral negotiations.

### **How is Tempus Public Foundation managing the SH Programme, how is it related and what role does it play?**

Tempus Public Foundation (TPF) is a non-profit background organization of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology and it is responsible for a very wide range of mobility programmes in Hungary (such as the Erasmus+, Erasmus International credit Mobility, or the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme). TPF is the main organizer behind the programme and as







such, it is managing both individual and institutional applications, maintaining the operational regulations, furthermore it is also in regular contact with our foreign partners as well.

**What is the current influx of students through SH and do you see it increasing in the future?**

This September we are expecting around 350 new scholarship holders to begin their studies at the University of Pécs (UP). This number is a result of a rapid increase of new incoming students starting from only nine in 2013. This is in line with – and as a result of – our Internationalisation Strategic Programme, which has been embracing all walks of life at the university since 2016.

**The Hungarian education system is well recognized in the EU. But can the scholars pursue further education in the United States or in the United Kingdom?**

Absolutely. Our degree programs are recognized all over the world, what is more, we even have joint degree and double degree programmes as well, which are also popular among students from outside the European Union.

**Are there any specific clauses the students must keep in mind while being on the scholarship, such as GPA, Attendance, Credits?**

Being a merit-based scholarship program, SH students must attend classes regularly and collect at least 36 credits in every academic year, otherwise they will lose their scholarship.

**The sending countries add personal clauses to the scholar-contracts (such as going back and serving home countries for a period of 2-3 years after graduation). Do you think that is fair, given that some of the students would like to pursue further higher education before heading back?**

Yes, in some cases the sending countries expect their students to return home and work after graduation for a given period of time. This indeed poses an obstacle for further education, but in a way, it is also understandable that countries need young professionals more and more, since brain drain is an increasing problem worldwide. On the other hand, students are welcome to continue their studies at UP even after they worked for a period back home.

**Do you think the current monthly stipend is sufficient for students with limited family financial backup and limited jobs especially in Pécs?**



Everyone is used to different lifestyles and habits and accordingly the SH allowances might not cover every students' needs. However, the aim of this financial contribution is not to fully cover living expenses, and even if we consider increasing rent fees, this support can still be considered to be a very generous contribution of the Hungarian government. It is also worth to mention that Pécs is significantly less expensive than Budapest, therefore our students get a better bargain by studying here in financial terms as well.

**There have been rumours about an increase in monthly stipend for the students, is it true?**

Unfortunately, I have not heard any official news about the increase. We always tell students to rather come to us if they are not sure about something and most importantly, never trust rumours.

**Being the Institutional Coordinator of SH at UP, what challenges have you often faced?**

I have been working in my current position for five years now, and during this time, I have faced various challenges. No matter what the problem is, we always strive to help our students and to improve the ways we operate. Our office does not only deal with SH-related issues, but we are also actively contributing as a think tank to those developments, which help to better our students' everyday life. I am proud to say that many of our recommendations were accepted and implemented by TPF, and UP wishes to remain an active contributor to the improvement of the SH Programme in the future as well.

**There is an excellent initiative called Stipendium Hungaricum Mentor Network organized by HÖÖK, how helpful do you think it is for the students?**

I truly believe that HÖÖK's mentor programme is a very important tool to help incoming freshmen during their first weeks and months in Pécs effectively. I have also worked and studied abroad in different countries and therefore I am completely aware, how difficult it can be to find yourself in a completely different culture and environment. That is why beyond the Mentor Network, UP is offering a wide range of free services to our inter-

national students – such as the Legal Aid Clinic, Student Counselling, guaranteed dormitory placement for our freshmen, Cultural Sensitivity Programme etc. Along with the SH scholarship, these comprehensive student services can make a real difference for our international students.



**Under the current pandemic COVID-19 this question is unavoidable, would things be normal for the 2020 scholars? Will they be able to fly in for a regular academic year?**

The arrival of international students mainly depends on the reopening of borders and the lifting of travel bans across the globe. As of now, UP is preparing for a regular academic year and is expecting for the arrival of our international students. But we also have a plan B for a so-called online/distant or hybrid education. Whatever happens, the doors of UP will be open, education will be continuous in the next academic year as well. A successful higher education institution has to be flexible in many ways as possible. I believe our university has succeeded remarkably well so far not only in terms of online education but also in protecting the health of our university citizens. What is for sure, quality teaching and the safety of university citizens will remain a priority in the upcoming fall semester regardless of the mode of education.

*(The interview has been conducted in May 2020)*

**SH TESTIMONIAL BY FATIMA MAJID MALIK:**  
*I call Stipendium Hungaricum my Miracle Scholarship. I stumbled upon this amazing opportunity, when I was at the lowest point of my life. This scholarship gave me an opportunity to experience excellent education at the University of Pécs in an international environment at the Heart of Europe. I came across amazing people from different countries and cultures and learnt integration, acceptance, love and tolerance.*

## PUT IN THE EFFORT TO **ACHIEVE HIGHER GOALS**

*Xin Yuan (Cindy) is an English major from Shandong University, Jinan province of China. She was very happy to be able to come to Pécs with a national programme, offered by Hanban, which is the headquarter of Confucius Institutes to teach Mandarin Chinese in two secondary schools Pécs, Leőwey and Babits. She arrived in Pécs in September 2019, I had the chance to talk to her about teaching, languages and other experiences in the Traditional Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs.*

Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

### **Where are you from?**

I come from Harbin, which is a large city in the North of China with a relatively cold climate: in winter, it can be as cold as -35°C. Since the city is famous for snow and ice, there is an annual snow and ice festival. Every year, there is an exhibition of snow and ice sculptures in a huge park, which are also beautifully lit in the evening! There is also a 50 meter high ice slide.

### **How far is your university from your hometown?**

Two thousand kilometres. Despite the distance, my parents supported my decision not to study in my hometown, but much further away. They wanted me to achieve higher goals. They were happy for me, when I got the chance to travel abroad.

### **How was it for you to come to the other end of the world?**

I was so different! I read an article, which said that where you live in your twenties, will shape your lifestyle later in the future. The article also gave an example of a girl,





who lived in Paris for some time, after which experience she had that Parisian style. It is probably because the way you live here, is totally different from China.

### **What is different here?**

Pécs is so peaceful. I think it is a favourable place to live, to settle down. It is one of my favourite places! I feel at home here! In China, life is fast-paced, competitive.

### **Do you teach Mandarin Chinese in Pécs?**

Yes, it is the official language taught in every school. We have 56 ethnic groups, and there are many dialects in China, especially in the Southern part of China. One of my roommates at my university is from Southern China, and every time she called home, it was like coded; we did not understand a word of what she said (laughs).

### **Are all your students here beginners?**

I teach 40 pupils altogether. Two of my classes have learned Chinese for one year, and four classes are total beginners. I am surprised by how fast they learn! I think they review after class, and they have great motivation for learning Chinese, which I really appreciate.

The students, who already studied for one year, they have passed the elementary level (HSK 1) exam. They can understand some basic things; they are familiar with many topics. I am trying to give them a cultural background knowledge as well, about modern Chinese way of life, and society.

The beginners had to start from zero. My goal is to cultivate their interest in Chinese first, not to teach a lot of things. Because it is a steady progress, you will not become a master of Chinese language overnight.

*They know that some parts of learning  
might not be as fun as before,  
but they have to put in the effort  
in order to achieve  
proficiency someday.*

After half a year, they can talk with Chinese people, they have a basic knowledge, and they are motivated to study further.

### **How is the English of the pupils here?**

Very good, sometimes they correct me to the best of their knowledge. It is a win-win situation. That is a

good thing about Hungarians, whenever they have a question, they just raise their hand and we can discuss what was not clear. Asian students are too shy to ask questions in public, in front of the others.

### **Would you like to add anything?**

Maybe a message to my students: I am so proud of them, of what they have achieved by now! I hope that one day they can visit China. I hope that they can use their language knowledge and experience a different oriental culture through it.





# SAFE AND SOUND!

*At the start of the spring semester of the 2019/2020 academic year, only a few people could have guessed, how drastically life will change in a matter of days. Regulations against COVID-19 infection have overwritten every individual plan. The first confirmed COVID-19 patient in Hungary has been announced by the prime minister personally on 4 March. On 11 March, the state of emergency has been declared in Hungary, and from 28 March curfew restrictions have been introduced. The state of emergency ended on 18 June, since then there is a state of alert due to the pandemic.*

*At the University of Pécs, an Operative Crew has been set up at the end of February, which has done everything in their power to prepare for mass coronavirus infections. Since it is possible, that there will be a second wave of the disease, the UP Operative Crew continues to work on keeping all university citizens safe.*





## UP: OUTSTANDING AND EXEMPLARY ON AN **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL** AS WELL

*The message of **Prof. Dr. József Bódis** Minister of State for Education, former rector of the University of Pécs to the present Rector and the citizens of the institution.*

*Dear Rector!*

*Although the state of emergency with regard to the novel coronavirus has imposed additional burden on all participants of Hungarian higher education, the role of universities teaching medicine and the University of Pécs among them, has unquestionably become more significant in the fight against the virus, and their performance has been outstanding and exemplary on an international level as well.*

*I warmly congratulate the university on their solutions in order to enable the non-Hungarian students to continue their studies. I am particularly glad that you managed to focus on the safety of students again.*

*Although it is obvious that there are some matters waiting to be resolved, the experts responsible for higher education will do everything in their power to support the international students in their smooth and uninterrupted studies in the 2020/2021 academic year.*

*I would like to express my appreciation to all staff members and students of the University of Pécs for their efforts for resolving matters of higher education during the state of emergency with excellence.*

*Prof. Dr. József Bódis  
Minister of State, your former rector*





## 14 LESSONS OF THE PANDEMIC

### *As the Rector sees it!*

*A sudden change is not predictable, however, you can prepare in advance for it. Not with pre-established plans, regulations, but with flexibility, open-minded thinking and mobilisation of our resources, otherwise known as adaptation. This can mean a competitive advantage for the University of Pécs and every one of its faculties.*

1. A crisis can bring development, if after the necessary shock, we do not discuss the problems endlessly, but focus on finding solutions.
2. Everybody is a partner, who wants to and can do something to solve everyday problems. And who would not be able to make decisions on their level, when they are entitled to do so?
3. Trust must be the fundamental mode of operation within the university. Where there has been trust among the academic staff, students and co-workers, they have found the solutions faster.
4. If we try to find win-win solutions, we will not be less, on the contrary! The individually invested knowledge, experience and work become a shared value among departments, institutes, clinics, offices, faculties and the university.
5. Much depends on the leaders as well as on the co-workers, and our students. We are "wired" together, made for cooperation. We also have to learn that!
6. Most of our co-workers have realized the advantages the university can offer: a safe workplace, financial stability, flexible work, and sometimes even emotional support.
7. The new, digital education methods are different, than the traditional; however, they can be effective and experience-based as well. It is essential to develop and to embed these into the new learning environment.
8. Much depends on establishing sensible and not overly bureaucratic systems, but even more depends on human relationships. In situations that needed a difficult or fast solution, we looked to each other instead of form-filling.
9. The government management of the state of emergency has been good in a completely unknown situation. The correct measures must have contributed to Hungary being among the best to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.
10. It is best to avoid people, who view the state of emergency, as an opportunity for self-fulfilment. This can happen, unfortunately.
11. Communication has intensified, the processes have become more transparent, innovation and creativity have come from surprising places.
12. We have seen our immediate surroundings and the world in a new light, new paradigms have been created, because we had no choice! Meanwhile – what a surprise – we have evolved!
13. Everything changes, and change can bring something good as well! For this to happen, we have to learn about the world, ourselves, about cooperation and trust. I think we can do it. There is no other way!

*Dr. Attila Miseta  
Rector*



## LIGHT AT THE **END OF THE TUNNEL** IS NEAR

*In Hungary, the coronavirus epidemic has entered a calmer phase. We interviewed Vice Rector Dr. József Betlehem, the leader of the UP Operative Crew.*

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

### **What challenges did the Operative Crew have to overcome and what tasks are still ahead?**

The UP Operative Crew has been established in order to create quick and effective solutions for academic, HR management and health care questions in accordance with the legislative environment at the university. The Crew has been operating for four months now; we have entered a new phase since the government lifted the state of emergency on 18 July; therefore in the near future, we will be able to answer upcoming questions, for example about summer internships and postings abroad following the easing of restrictions. The University of Pécs has proved in the past period that it is capable of tackling the challenges created by the pandemic by being prepared and able to adapt to the state of emergency. We made the decisions early, but not prematurely, which kept our colleagues as well as our students safe.

### **How will the healthcare system in Pécs change as we get close to the end of the state of emergency?**

In the healthcare system, after providing COVID-19 care we can and must shift the focus back to regular patient care. The restoration of the outpatient and specialized care systems continues, we are doing everything we can to ensure that it happens as quickly, as smoothly, and as safely as possible. The fact that the cutting edge of COVID-19 research is carried out at the University of Pécs gives us hope as well.

### **It is unknown, if or when the second wave of the epidemic will hit us. Does the university have a plan B for the worst-case scenario?**

We successfully applied digital technologies in online education; the institute is currently conducting the final examinations, primarily online. During the online education period every educational institution at UP compiled their experiences and the Directorate for Education supervises the summary of good practices and the refinement of education-technology and methodology. It requires a



completely different set of online tools to conduct the education of medical students than the students at the Faculty of Humanities, just to mention the two extre-



mes of the spectrum. The regulation of inpatient medicine education and the enforcement of the aforementioned regulations are of the utmost importance both during the epidemic or otherwise.

**The University of Pécs is a member of the EDUC, which focuses on internationalization and digitalization. To what extent did the situation caused by the virus catalyze the work with the EDUC alliance?**

Being an EDUC member allowed us to take a look at how our partner universities tackled the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, how did two members in Paris or the

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*The fact that the cutting-edge of COVID-19 research is carried out at the University of Pécs gives us hope as well.*

geographically closer Czech institution handle the new situation. The coronavirus-epidemic changed the attitude towards higher education and these new approaches must be more prominently present in university strategies. The European Digital UniverCity alliance is about creating digital educational processes for the newer generations of students; moreover, it is about preparing the academic staff for these changes, concerning attitudes and the possible new platforms of education.

*(The interview was conducted in the middle of July.)*





## THE **VIRUS** DOES NOT RESPECT LUCK

*The new National Virology Laboratory will be established under the supervision and management of Ferenc Jakab, professor of virology at the University of Pécs – announced minister László Palkovics at the end of May. I asked the expert, who has become nationally well-known during the COVID-19 epidemic, at the University of Pécs Szentágotthai János Research Centre about what to expect concerning the virus.*

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

**There have been conversations about the possibility of a pandemic such as the coronavirus-outbreak for years, why did it happen now? Why has east become the focus?**

Everyone has different theories as to what could be the cause of this and I am no exception. Without meaning any disrespect towards my fellow humans living in the east, I have to state that their traditions are completely different.

For example, one of my colleagues, Gábor Kemenesi has sent me a picture from Vietnam, which I still keep on my phone. The picture depicts a dinner in a restaurant, which at first glance would seem ordinary: the tablecloth is nice; there are cans of coke the table; the cutlery is clean; however, on the plate you can see on top of the neatly organized salad a plucked, but completely raw chicken, which they eat raw. The traditions are different there. It could easily be the case that they do not cook game either or they could just accidentally cut their finger, while preparing the meal. If the animal was infected with some kind of a virus, the potential risk of spreading it to humans is very real. Their relationship with the environment is different too. In Africa, the reappearance of the Ebola virus is closely related to the consumption of bushmeat: they either specifically hunt wildlife or gather the carcasses in order sell them at the market. As long as these traditions remain unchanged, we can expect similar events to occur.

**A lot of people say that simply closing these markets would solve the problem.**

However, this is not a real solution, since they would just continue these traditions illegally and then we would not even be able to trace back the origin of such





viral outbreaks. In today's global world, there is no local problem; what emerges today in Asia, will be at our doorstep the day after tomorrow. COVID-19 is the first real example for this: it took only days for the virus to reach Europe. Some even theorize that the virus arrived even sooner it was just discovered later.

**You have been researching the same type of virus, as the one causing the current outbreak. This could not have been a coincidence.**

Yes, we have been researching this type of virus as well. Coronaviruses fundamentally carry the potential to cause a pandemic, take SARS for example. They can transfer from animals to humans very easily. This is nothing new; COVID-19 was not the first and will not be the last one to cause serious, global problems.

**You have stated multiple times that there will be a second wave. When is it expected and is it certain to come?**

Chances are, there will be a second wave. There are approximately 6.5 million infected worldwide and their number is growing. For a virus that is spread through contact and respiratory droplets, it is responsive to human cells and can infect them easily; 6.5 million is an enormous number. I am certain of the second wave. It might calm down for the summer, but come autumn and winter, when the weather is colder and more humid and upper-respiratory tract infections are more common, we will possibly see a resurgence in the number of people newly infected with coronavirus. Of course, there is always a possibility for the virus to just simply disappear; however, I do not think that is very likely. We might be doing fine, but take a look at the rest of the world: numbers are rising everywhere. I would give it little to no chance of it disappearing in just three months. No one knows for certain though. However, our healthcare system is prepared, we have tests and routines which will allow us to react much faster, which is good.

**We got off easy with lower case numbers compared to other countries because the influenza season has already been over?**

No. We had relatively low case numbers, because thanks to the Western-European and Chinese news reports, everyone took the situation



seriously. Of course, many people have been skeptical at first, but I think that the majority of people came to understand the weight of the situation and the government quickly realized that this is no joke. I am convinced that the measures taken have been good and they have been decided in a timely manner. They made these decisions when there were only a couple dozen cases in Hungary while in Western Europe, they only reacted when there were already hundreds or thousands of cases.

**I think that if there are no infected there is no further infection. It is that simple.**

When we stayed at home and closed down, we stopped the pandemic from exploding. There could have been as many cases here as there were in Italy... It is not true that we simply got off easy "just because". The virus does not respect luck. And why would we have been any more fortunate than the Italians or Austrians? It all depended on the timely decisions and the fact that people took the situation seriously. In my opinion, the majority of people were very disciplined; I am saying this based on the data collected from the mobile phones of the population by a group of mathematical-analysts: after social distancing has been announced urging everyone to stay at home, the average mobility of the population decreased by 70-80%. It is obvious that based on the law of large numbers, an increasing number of infections will bring an increasing number of deaths.

**In the beginning, I read a lot of skeptical opinions in January, some of them even said that we do not have to take COVID-19 seriously, since it has approximately the same risks as the seasonal influenza.**

Back in December 2019, when I saw the first report about a virus from the coronavirus family that spreads via droplet infection and causes upper-respiratory infection is taking lives and it is spreading ten-twenty times faster than any other previous coronavirus, I knew that it had to be taken seriously. I personally know two people, whose elderly relatives passed away because of the virus.

We still do not know precisely, what the mortality rate of this virus is, but fortunately, it is not too high. My biggest nightmare is another virus that spreads the same way but has a 40% mortality rate compared to the 2% of COVID-19. And the emergence of such a virus is just as likely, as the current pandemic.

**There have been news about the worldwide cooperation of researchers in the field; however, in the meantime, a new phrase, vaccine nationalism, has emerged; after**

**all it is a matter of prestige, which nation discovers the vaccine. What is your opinion on the matter?**

I think that researchers work closely together and we share the information we have. Obviously, the first scientist to create the vaccine will be celebrated as a national hero and the company that puts it on the market first, will make a fortune. We discussed this with my colleagues and we believe that no brand would get away with pushing for monopoly of the vaccine and insisting on exclusivity of distribution. I personally believe that whoever creates the vaccine first, will make it publicly available. However, I might just believe in the goodness of human nature too much. The pharmaceutical industry is a "dark horse" from this point of view; we cannot foresee what will happen.

**The team has done a remarkable job, everyone has been impressed. How would you assess your performance?**

Oh, this has been something. I go to bed and wake up every day wondering whether I did everything I could. Sometimes I wake up at dawn thinking that we should have started developing a vaccine sooner or I remember a medicine the active substance of which could have been tested. We have to aim for 110% and as far as I am concerned I must do more. I am used to being physically tired, but emotional and mental exhaustion is a lot more stressful.

**To what extent did you manage to spread the reputation of the laboratory and the team internationally?**

We have written multiple research papers, we are working on more, and we maintain good and close relationships with other international research teams. My team has been working as hard as they can. It is true that I have been supervising a national system, but the lion's share of the work, the virus research has been conducted here. Moreover, starting with research on an early screening survey aimed towards testing the international students, my colleagues have proved themselves in the diagnostic field as well (nucleic acid extraction), after which they worked with the virus itself well into the night. My hats off to the team, I am very proud of them!

*The interview was conducted in June 2020*



## CUTTING-EDGE CT AT THE CLINICAL CENTER

*The University of Pécs Clinical Centre received a cutting-edge imaging diagnostic machine on 31 July, which will be used at the Department of Medical Imaging in Rákóczi street. The UP Clinical Centre performs around 53 thousand computed tomography examinations every year on patients coming from the Transdanubian region.*

Gergely Kottász |  Szabolcs Csontos

The University of Pécs has been playing a major role in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and it has been exceptionally efficient in the treatment of the virus. The institute's new CT machine – the acquisition of which was authorized through the mediation of the National Healthcare Service Center and the support of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology and the Ministry for Human Resources by the Operative Group for Coronavirus Control – will greatly improve imaging diagnostics used in battling the coronavirus. The modern CT machine purchased with the 133 million forints transferred from the Epidemic Protection Fund is capable of identifying any pathological changes caused by coronavirus infection, or any other clinical lesions, thus making the treatment of patients at department of pulmonology and infectious diseases much easier. During a CT scan we can find answers to questions that would be impossible to find with other imaging diagnostic methods such as ultrasound, X-ray.

The new machine was ceremoniously presented by Parliamentary and Strategic State Secretary Tamás Schanda Deputy Minister of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, Attila Miseta Rector of the University of Pécs and Andor Sebestyén President of the UP Clinic Center. The new machine was unveiled to the press by Péter Bogner Clinical Director of the Department of Medical Imaging and Endre Ascsillán vice-president of GE Hungary. The cutting-edge machine supports the operation of partner clinics in multiple ways during the diagnosis and treatment of both in- and out-patients; thanks to the increased capacity, oncology and cardiology tests will become more frequently available in the future as well, thus shortening waiting times. The cutting-edge CT machine will play an important role in the tests of the Hunchest 2 national public health lung screening project.







## H-UNCOVER

*The nationwide coronavirus screening programme (H-UNCOVER) was conducted with the cooperation of the Hungarian Statistical Office between 1-16 May 2020. The aim of the survey was to get an accurate picture of the extent and dynamics of the epidemic and the number of people who are or have been infected by the novel coronavirus.*


*Most of the samples were taken by employees of the four universities, which have medical training. The University of Pécs carried out examinations in Baranya, Somogy, Tolna, Zala and Vas counties, for which only two weeks were available.*

*Based on a random selection provided by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 17787 persons aged 14 years and over living in private households all over Hungary were invited to participate in the survey. The invited persons represented the population of the country of the appropriate age. This means that each person in the sample represented a predetermined part of the population. According to the results of H-UNCOVER, the number of people who have undergone coronavirus infection in Hungary was estimated at 56,000 in May 2020. For further details, please read the interview with Dr. Andor Sebestyén, President of the Clinical Centre of the University of Pécs at: [international.ptte.hu](http://international.ptte.hu)*



## INSIDE THE RED ZONE

*They drafted the operations manual of the coronavirus treatment centre in a weekend, including its precise parameters, prerequisites and guidelines. An out-of-use building of the Baranya County Hospital has been chosen as the location, which has been last used as an ICU 5 years ago. This is how the fourth floor of building "C" became the Intensive Care Unit of the Coronavirus Care Centre (KEK), which has been set up within days with the support of the UP Operative Crew. We interviewed **Dr. Tamás Kiss**, the head of the Covid-ICU and his deputy, **Dr. Krisztián Jáksó**. The marks left by the protective masks have been still visible on their faces.*

Éva Harka |  Szabolcs Csontos

### **Who are treated at the Covid-ICU?**

We treat patients with a confirmed or suspected infection suffering from respiratory/ cardiovascular distress need intensive therapy. The majority of our patients have not been confirmed COVID-19 positive, although they showed similar symptoms and needed intensive care. After two negative results, the patients have been transferred to other units of the Clinical Centre. This ICU had to be set up in order to treat confirmed as well as suspected positive patients.

### **How many people have recovered so far?**

Thankfully, we had relatively few patients to begin with, who all have been treated, and we have seen some recoveries too.

### **If somebody has to be put on a mechanical ventilator, what can you do for them?**

*Dr. Tamás Kiss:* These steps of intensive therapy are categorized as organ support therapies. Ventilation is a form of treatment, which relieves the body and





assists the respiratory system in order to enable it to heal. Further treatment is carried out according to a set procedure. It is true unfortunately, that we cannot help everyone, although we desperately want to.

*Dr. Krisztián Jáksó:* We do not have a special drug against COVID-19, but we do have about 200 substances, which are being tested currently. These substances were not created to treat this disease, however, they might be effective or they might slow down the spreading of the virus within the body. This means, that our patients receive all the drugs that are given to patients all over the world. We apply those drugs, which might possibly work against the virus. If one among three substances works or can slow down the spreading of the virus that is good, because it can give the patient some time. Vaccination, which will be the solution, can take a longer time to be developed according to the virologists.

**This unit had to be set up within only a couple of days. Was it difficult to find experts, colleagues for a challenge like this?**

*Dr. Tamás Kiss:* The Operative Crew of the university has done everything in their power to meet the conditions necessary for the establishment and successful operation of a department like this. Everything went very smoothly from licences to purchasing instruments and building walls.

*Dr. Krisztián Jáksó:* 22 doctors from the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy volunteered to work in the Coronavirus Care Centre. We both are proud of this; they are all working in shifts for the positive patients.

**How can you prepare in advance for the flood of patients that might arrive any minute?**

*Dr. Tamás Kiss:* Our colleagues from abroad, with whom we keep in touch, from the UK primarily, say that until you are living in it, it is impossible to imagine, what the situation is like. Just to mention an example: our British colleagues used to have one nurse for one patient on average, now one nurse might be required to care for up to six patients. This is simply unprecedented there. In Hungary, we do not know either, how the situation might escalate. We try to be prepared.

So far, I have to say, although there are relatively few patients, our unit has done well. Proof of that is, that none of our staff has been infected, although we are treating confirmed COVID-19 patients at the intensive care unit.



**Everything is disinfected, and everyone knows how important it is to behave responsibly. From the point of view of getting infected, is the COVID-ICU (KEK ITO) one of the safest places in Pécs?**

*Dr. Tamás Kiss:* Yes, we think so. If we use the protective gear appropriately and follow the rules, there is a lower chance to catch the virus here, than in a shopping mall or at the market. We have to take the epidemiological regulations seriously! It is for sure that one of the reasons for a flatter epidemic curve in Hungary are these precautions.

*Dr. Krisztián Jáksó:* All of us go home from this place to our families, children, parents with a deeper feeling of security, than from a shopping centre, or just the streets.

**What kind of effect does the pandemic have on your lives now and later?**

*Dr. Tamás Kiss:* My family supports me in everything, without them, I could not do my job well. I have three kids, one in secondary education, two in elementary school; they are all taking part in digital education at the moment. I have to confess, the management of this falls to my better half. This situation bonds the family together, although it is difficult to convince a teenage girl that she cannot meet her boyfriend, and we keep in touch with the grandparents online only. It is hard to tell, what kind of changes the pandemic might bring in the future. Of course the outcome will be different, if we have to realize an almost unmanageable situation, or if it will not get worse than now. However, we can feel a sense of professional pride, for being able to set up this unit successfully.

*Dr. Krisztián Jáksó:* In the last couple of weeks, we found ourselves in effective work relationships with some people, with whom we would not ever have expected to work together, and several colleagues proved that they could outshine themselves. I do not want to be sentimental, but I have a 14 years old amazing and exceptionally intelligent daughter, who is taken care of by her mother at the moment, and I live together with a beautiful woman, who is taking care of me. I have never participated in this many video conferences with my extended family before. Without a family background like this, it would be impossible to work like this. I think we are learning to appreciate more, what we rarely noticed before.

Concerning the Centre: I think the people come here to work, knowing that they are safe, that we care about them, that they can work in calm surroundings along appropriate guidelines. It gives me a great sense of accomplishment, that we have successfully overcome every obstacle we had to face so far, including the protection of the health of our staff.





# EXPERIENCES OF THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos



***"Education without personal presence"** – is the official name of what all Hungarian educational institutions have been forced to do because of the epidemiological situation. The University of Pécs completed the digitalisation in record time: only one week – the early spring break – was available to the institution to overcome this obstacle at each faculty. The system was launched on 23 March, but how well did we do on the test in a month? The Education Directorate and the Student Council of UP monitored the situation within the Committee on Education Development with the participation of the vice deans for education. Let us see some data, experience, and problems to solve.*



**UP** was not explicitly committed to any platform, we accommodated a variety of platforms for education. The Chancellor's Information Technology Directorate has provided support for Microsoft Teams in particular. It is a telling fact that on 15 March there were 1531 active users of the system from UP, and on 24 March there were more than 16 000 active users.

According to the feedback, the professors and lecturers were very motivated and the student feedback was also encouraging. We still might need more experience, but generally speaking, student participation and preparation for class was easier to follow and assess for teachers. This is a more concentrated way of knowledge transfer and, although it is not possible to meet in person, it can be said that interactions on online platforms are not lost. The consultation materials can be reviewed, they are organized by uploads, available to everyone. Many people follow/are able to follow online presentations. – it says in the summary of the Directorate of Education. The academic staff used a variety of electronic applications and platforms (Skype, Zoom, Edmodo, Team Viewer, Google Classroom, FB Messenger, etc.) alongside traditional email contact. Written exams were provided with UniPoll and oral exams were performed on MS Teams, Skype, Zoom, etc. software.

The minor technical problems that occurred at almost every faculty were quickly remedied. The University Library of UP has developed a detailed plan to support digital absentee education. There is also a regulatory background for all this: the Education Directorate and the Student Council had to keep the regulatory background context of education without a personal presence up to date, including changes to the Code of Studies and Examinations. At the same time, clarification and regulation of copyright issues of the digital study materials also seems necessary in the future.

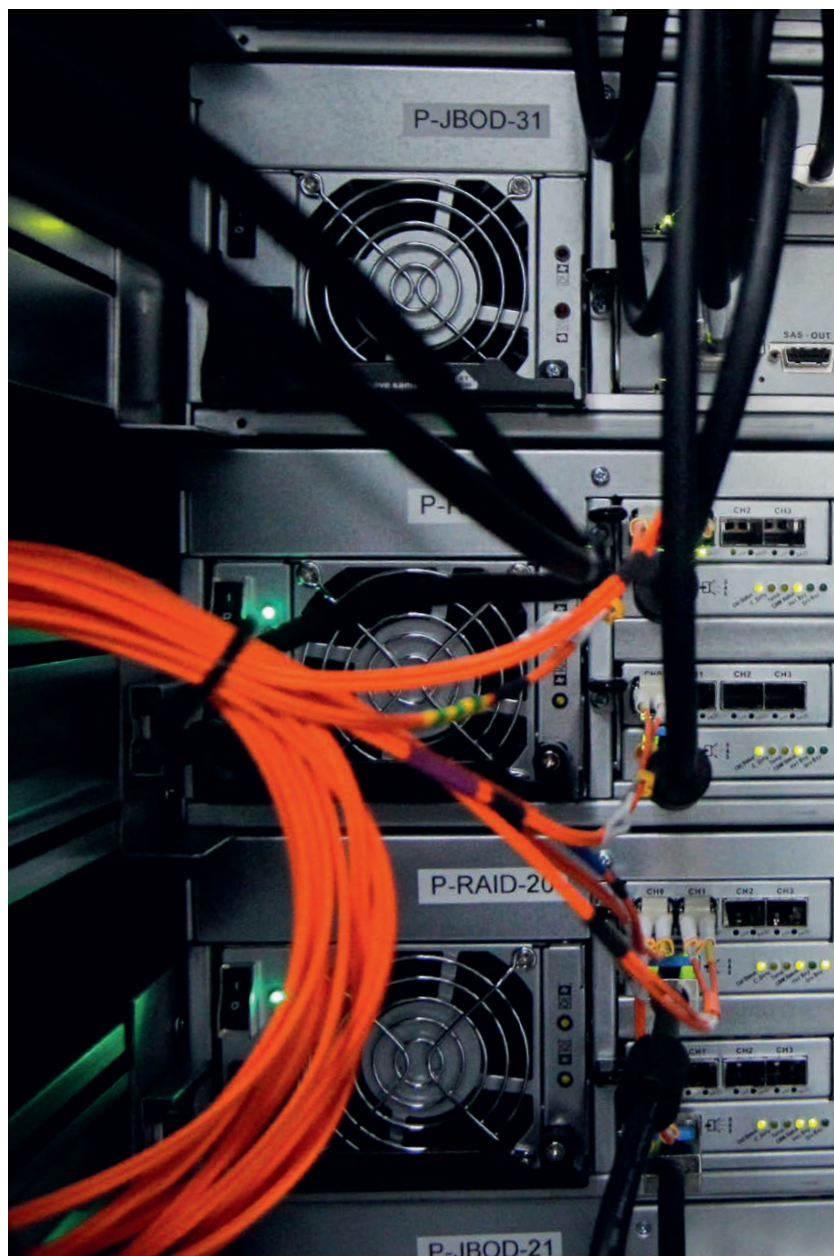
It is certainly beneficial that several faculties have introduced a special circumstances exemption clause for their students due to the emergency (e.g. extending the thesis deadline).

Of course, there are problems that are still to be resolved. It has been one of the challenges from the start to organise and conduct practical training, courses and internships. In many cases, the physical presence of the students is so essential that it is not possible to solve by simply connecting online. Unfortunately, as a result of the digital space, at some of the faculties this meant increased student burdens: more papers, different requirements.

Some of the student feedback is that digital education "works" and lessons are more varied and you can-

not be late for them, some say it is "weird, but convenient." Others were more critical, complaining that the trainings and internships are impossible to complete this way, that it was more tiring than going to university, and that teachers were still learning how to use the system. What will surely remain unsolvable on online platforms: "I miss Pécs!"

The state of emergency not only affected our students, but also presented significant challenges for applicants. The system and documents of recruitment procedures in recent years have had to be reviewed and reconsidered, from announcing exams to absolving them, to providing information on exam results.





# The **Student Council** during the **Coronavirus Pandemic**

*During the coronavirus outbreak, the Student Council took the students under its wing and through various initiatives provided benefits, financial support and non-financial help for them.*

**T**he Student Council and the Central Dormitory Committee worked together regarding the dormitories: "We had to vacate 2500 students at the University of Pécs and they had to leave many of their possessions at the dormitories. After this, we were allowed to let 10-20 students at a time into the dormitories, in order to let them take their valuables home. This process was coordinated by the Student Council, and our volunteers helped with the moving as well" – told us Arnold Koltai, president of the UP Student Council. He added: "In the middle of March, the employees of the Dormitory Committee volunteered for a cumulated 900 hours. The Student Council paid for the dormitory fees of those who volunteered during the state of emergency."

The Student Council provided recommendations for those well-meaning students, who volunteered, on how to help the employees of the university and the citizens of Pécs during the state of emergency: by looking after small children, picking up prescription medicine for the elderly and delivering groceries. The UP Student Council was the first in the country to create a scholarship at its own expense for students doing volunteer work in the healthcare sector. By May, they also offered a scholarship for volunteers outside of the healthcare system.

Before the end of July, 84 volunteer scholarship applications have been sent to the Student Council; students received more than 9 million Forints worth of grants. Furthermore, the Student Council has published a call for tenders for a scholarship for healthcare volunteer-work outside the UP in June 2020. 67 students applied for this scholarship, who have helped in various healthcare facilities during the state of emergency. 7.3 million Forints have been distributed among them.

Digital education has also brought multiple challenges: The Student Council has been working together with the Education Directorate to monitor the feedback coming from students, which helped to fine-tune the transition. Many students said that in the case of some courses they would be happy to continue with this method.

Adrienn Gáspár |  UnivTV



# REVIDPÉCS: THE LOCAL ECONOMY ESCAPING FORWARD

*The restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic hibernated the economy of Pécs in just the same way, as in any other part of the world; the economic pursuits of companies and small businesses have become impossible to continue in their current form. In this situation, the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs decided to utilize its collective professional knowledge, resources and connections in order to slow down this downward spiral or in the best-case scenario to stop it completely. To achieve this goal, with the cooperation of multiple local organizations such as the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce and Industry have started the REVIDPécs campaign, the aim of which is to create a community, where members can share any news about opportunities for recovery and help businesses in trouble. We interviewed **Zsolt Bedő**, the Director for Innovation at the UP FBE.*

Péter Aknai | Szabolcs Csontos





**The idea of the campaign first has been hatched in the middle of March, and by April, it has already been launched. Could you summarize the accumulated experiences of the campaign since then?**

A crisis puts the economic community into motion, this much is clear. Just as the campaign launched on 3 April has set many members of our community in motion. Our goal – just as every REVIDPécs member's goal – is to help the local businesses through our collective knowledge. We know that to motivate the employees, and to sustain high-performing teams in the current situation has become challenging for corporations, since the changing circumstances and the home office solutions bring difficulties and challenges

which have never been seen before, for employees and employers alike. In this transformed business climate, maintaining a team's efficiency while keeping the workflow uninterrupted is of the utmost importance for a company's life and survival.

#### **Which companies gave the most feedback?**

The sectors that the crisis damaged the most were tourism, gastronomy and the hospitality industry. As the crisis continued, it affected other sectors as well. We asked our outside collaborators to give us some feedback as well. This was positive, there were helpful co-operations, and we gained other constructive feedback too. For example, they suggested platforms that would enable interactions.

#### **What form did the campaign take?**

We opened certain courses with lectures focusing on topics that could prove useful for the companies. We held online lectures and webinars inviting both university and outside experts about sales, online marketing, data management, business informatics and many other topics. We realized that as the crisis eases up, corporations would have less time to use these platforms, so we created blogs and podcasts along our Facebook page.

#### **The virus seems to be loosening its grip on our country, however, it left a prominent footprint on our economy. What does the future hold for the project?**

We will be suffering from the effects of the past couple of weeks for a while. Together with those joining us, we are working on turning the negative effects of this crisis into advantages. I often say that every problem is a business opportunity; this is what we have to focus on now. It is time to evolve and to prepare for another possible difficult period in the future.

#### **How do you view the city's active community?**

Our days are 24 hours long, however, the work ahead of us requires much more. We must fit the training into it. Our task is to help make the everyday practices of businesses more sophisticated. We have to create and circulate a collective knowledge base within the community. We need rules for this to work and we need our community to understand that they also need to give something back in order to take. For this, we need education and that is what we are going to focus on in the future. We are planning to launch our REVID – Open up to Education campaign in September. And yes, there are economic figures that are able to and also willing to help.





## OUR CYBER SECURITY AND THE COVID-19

Two students of **UP Earth Sciences PhD Programme** have won the first and second place at the Cyber Security Policies Conference on 25 May, which at the same time has been the final for the national research competition. In the finals, Nedim Márton El-Meouch and Henrietta Hegyi summarized their essays in the form of online presentations, which was broadcast live. We interviewed the winner, Henrietta Hegyi about her especially relevant research paper with the title “Modernization and Industrial Security after the COVID-19 Pandemic in Hungary”, about her views on the importance of cyber security policies and about individual responsibilities.

Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

### **Your research covers an especially relevant topic, what was the reasoning behind your choice?**

The aim was to create a pilot study, which I hope will prove useful from a practical point of view for the tender committee, but this was only the starting point. I wanted to find out whether a modernization wave in the Hungarian industrial sector would follow the coronavirus. It was also important for me not to solely rely on news and other secondary sources, but to ask the opinions of industry actors – since we are talking about current events.

In my opinion, industrial security has always been an important topic; however, it has become even more relevant to research because of the pandemic. The companies, which do not cut back on their modernization and innovation budgets may benefit more long-term; although not laying enough emphasis on security aspects during the process has its risks.

Thanks to cloud-based technology and 5G technology, the network of industrial devices has entered the cyberspace, which makes them vulnerable to various cyber attacks. In addition, the current transformation is happening rapidly on a large scale, which makes the job of security experts much more difficult.

### **Has the COVID-19 situation taught us any lessons in cyber security policies that are already apparent?**

Professionals in the field cannot emphasize enough how important a factor the human variable plays during an attack.

Nowadays, large corporations use very complex hardware and software security systems that is simply not worth the effort for hackers to even try to crack. It is much easier for them to find an unsuspecting victim, through whom they can infiltrate the system and exploit its weaknesses from the inside.

The increased online presence of the workers, the lowered supervision, bringing home the devices and using them there all factors that might help criminals achieve their goals. We do not have to think about anything grand, even seemingly utterly insignificant factors can cause problems. If someone receives a suspicious email and they cannot immediately ask their co-workers about it, they are more likely to open it. Or for example if an employee utilizes their work pc for personal use or the other way around; that could cause problems as well.

It is a common misconception that only important people be targeted, however, assistants often are well worth targeting. This is exactly why the number of cyber-attacks has increased during the pandemic in Hungary as well. In the early stages of the epidemic, the number of attacks on meeting services rose as well. These cases may highlight for example, what we should pay more attention to when working from home becomes more and more common.



# WHAT CAN WE DO BEFORE THE SECOND WAVE?

## PROTECTION

Take extra care to continue to comply with hygiene regulations. For example, you can see a guide on how to wash your hands, on the YouTube channel of the University of Pécs (@PTE1367).

## INFORMATION

It is important to have information from a credible source!

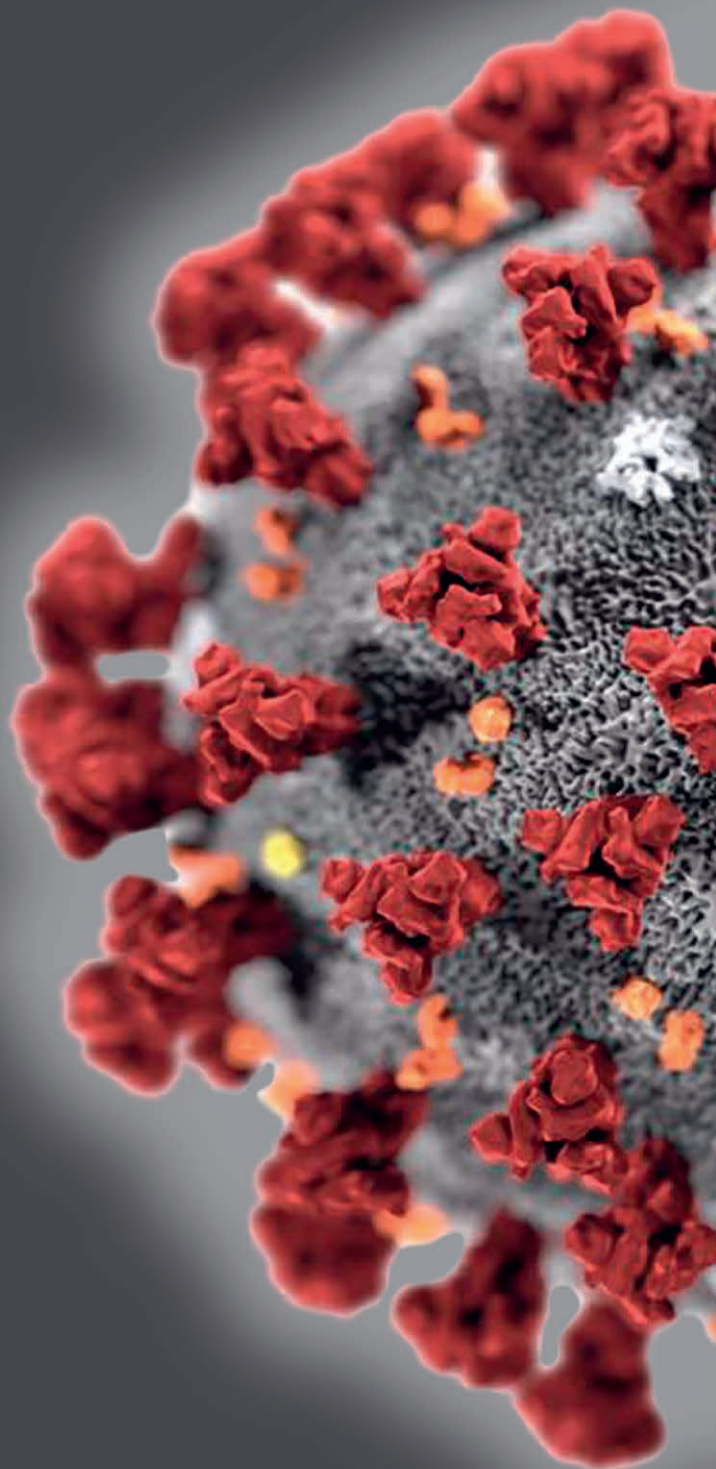
At the national level, the <http://abouthungary.hu/> website is the most relevant.

At university level, the central English language website ([international.pte.hu](http://international.pte.hu)) devoted a separate menu to inform you about the COVID-19 virus: <https://pte.hu/en/covid/news>

There you can also read the article about the answers to the Frequently Asked Questions, which is continuously updated and summarizes the current regulations in a practical form:

<https://pte.hu/en/covid/news/frequently-asked-questions-after-state-emergency>

To ask about the coronavirus specifically, you can contact the [covid19@pte.hu](mailto:covid19@pte.hu) e-mail address.





## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

**Amir Reza Ashraf** is a graduating pharmacy student from Shiraz, Iran, who takes his studies seriously, and still finds time to be the president of EGSC for three consecutive years. With his team, he brought back the motivational speech. He is involved with Faculty of Pharmacy's Students Council as well, he participated in the Undergraduate Research Society (TDK), the 50 Delicacies on Earth international recipe book project and he speaks Hungarian with a wonderful pronunciation. I asked him about his life at the University of Pécs.



Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

### **Tell us about the start of your studies in Hungary!**

Finding the right path for my education was a little bit difficult. I come from a family that has many generations of doctors, my eldest uncle was among the very first medical doctors graduated from Shiraz Medical University and my sister is a doctor, so I was thinking

to follow along this path. When I came to Hungary, I enrolled in a pre-med course and later started studies at the Medical School. Afterwards, even though it was a hard decision to make, I realized general medicine is not the best fit for me. I had many reasons for this, one of which was that many young people, including me,





see the positive side of things and forget the negative and many times the reality is different. I realized, a lot of patients may not be able to recover and I did not want to be the one to tell somebody that they are dying and there was nothing to do to save them. I could not stop caring for them. I know you can always specialize in fields that do not require life or death decision making, but still, having realized this reality pushed me to change my career path, even though it meant somehow starting all over again in a new field. I was always interested in the basic sciences, and the medicinal compounds themselves, so I went on to study pharmacy, the science of medicine and manufacturing of medications. Now, I have one semester of theoretical and practice left, so I will be graduating soon.

**You also participated in the Undergraduate Research Society (TDK), what was your research topic?**

I am very much involved with TDK, and I was very glad to represent the University of Pécs at an international conference abroad in France, where I had a poster presentation as part of the team from the Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy. In our study, we compared how different essential oils affect airway inflammation. We have promising results with different plant species, and we recently published a paper in "Molecules" scientific journal about our findings. I am continuing this research on a plant that is endemic to the city where I am from, Shiraz with samples received in cooperation with Shiraz University. This topic is actually going to be my thesis.

**What were the highlights of your presidency in the English German Student Council (EGSC)?**

I was elected as the president in 2016, and I was re-elected two times. It was a huge responsibility and I am very happy that I did it. We did a lot of things for charity, which I am very proud of. Lucas Wildenhayn was the president on the German side, and we had a very good team! We tried to make International Evening (IE) very big and successful. It took a lot of effort and perseverance. Through this event,

*we always wanted to tell the city that the international community brings a positive influence and progress.*

The international students are not just here to study and go home, they want to do good while they are here in Pécs. Since IE is a charity event, I hope it highlights

a little bit of that. We supported different departments, clinics, homeless shelters, orphanages. The care we got from the university and from the city, we try to give back to the community in other ways or even multiply it.

**You also brought back the Motivational Speech, which is a great event as well!**

When I became president of EGSC, it was my personal goal to bring back the motivational speech to life. The first motivational speech in Pécs in 2014 was held by Dr. Patch Adams, a very famous American physician, comedian, social activist. In 2016 and in the following years, we had consecutive speeches. It was my responsibility, and I am happy that it worked out.

We invited Dr. Benet Omalu, who was portrayed in the film "Concussion" by Will Smith, he discovered that American football players receive so many head injuries that it affects the cellular structure of their brain, causing severe impairments, disability and premature death. Although they tried to silence him, he managed to convince people of the truth. Then in 2017, Sir Robert Winston

came to Pécs. He is a British professor, medical doctor and scientist, and one of the pioneers of IVF research. He is also a famous presenter for the BBC. I was very happy that we could support his charity through this event. The third motivational speaker during my presidency was a famous actor from the "Breaking Bad" American TV series, RJ Mitte in 2018. He gave an amazing speech about overcoming adversity, and I was very happy that we could invite him. There was





also an inside joke between us, since I am a pharmacy student, I had to involve some chemistry...

EGSC was not only involved in charity, but the education as well. There is a system called Amboss, which is a German online medical education tool. With EGSC's initiation and the help of the Medical School, all students gained access to Amboss which helps improve their knowledge. This proved extremely helpful in the Corona virus distance learning situation.



I am glad that my work in EGSC did not go unnoticed, the university decided to give me the Pro Universitate Juventutis Award in September 2018. I am thankful to Gabriella Földényi and specially Anikó Berta for supporting me and the EGSC board over the years.

**What was it like to participate in the 50 Delicacies on Earth international recipe book project?**

When Anikó told me about the recipe book idea, I was

happy to send a recipe and share a bit of my childhood memories. We had a great time with chef Lokodi, the whole team was very nice. The project was a very good idea and I was glad to be involved. I hope that people actually use the book, because the recipes are great!

**How did you learn Hungarian?**

I always say that I learned Hungarian from György Korda (Hungarian singer, celebrity). This surprises people and they laugh, but it is kind of true! There is a TV show on a Hungarian channel about poker, where György Korda and his wife, Klára are the commentators. It was funny to watch and was one of the things that helped me to get familiar with the language and everyday speech. Of course, university language courses were essential as well.

*My father always says that language is like a toolbox, you can never have enough tools.*

The more tools you have, the more problems you can fix. So, I thought I am studying here, why not learn Hungarian?

**I heard that you have an unusual hobby, how did that start?**

It all started with a watch I bought online, which had red hands, instead of the blue I wanted. Then I started to research, whether I can change the hands myself. I found some forums to learn, and I basically ended up destroying the first watch, but I was hooked. I read some books and I slowly started collecting the necessary tools and work on watches, soon it became a hobby. What I do is not exactly watchmaking, that needs years of training and a workshop. I make my original dial designs, modify parts with limited tools and assemble different parts. I tinker with the movements if needed. I do not do it constantly, it is a slow hobby. My current favourite watch involved some chemistry in the making, to get the blue oxidation on the watch dial, which goes well with the blue colour scheme of the watch.

**How do you like living in Pécs?**

I like Pécs because it is a student town. The city is memorable for many students, they make friends here, they become adults. It is something that they will never forget. And hopefully for most of them, it will be a good memory to keep.

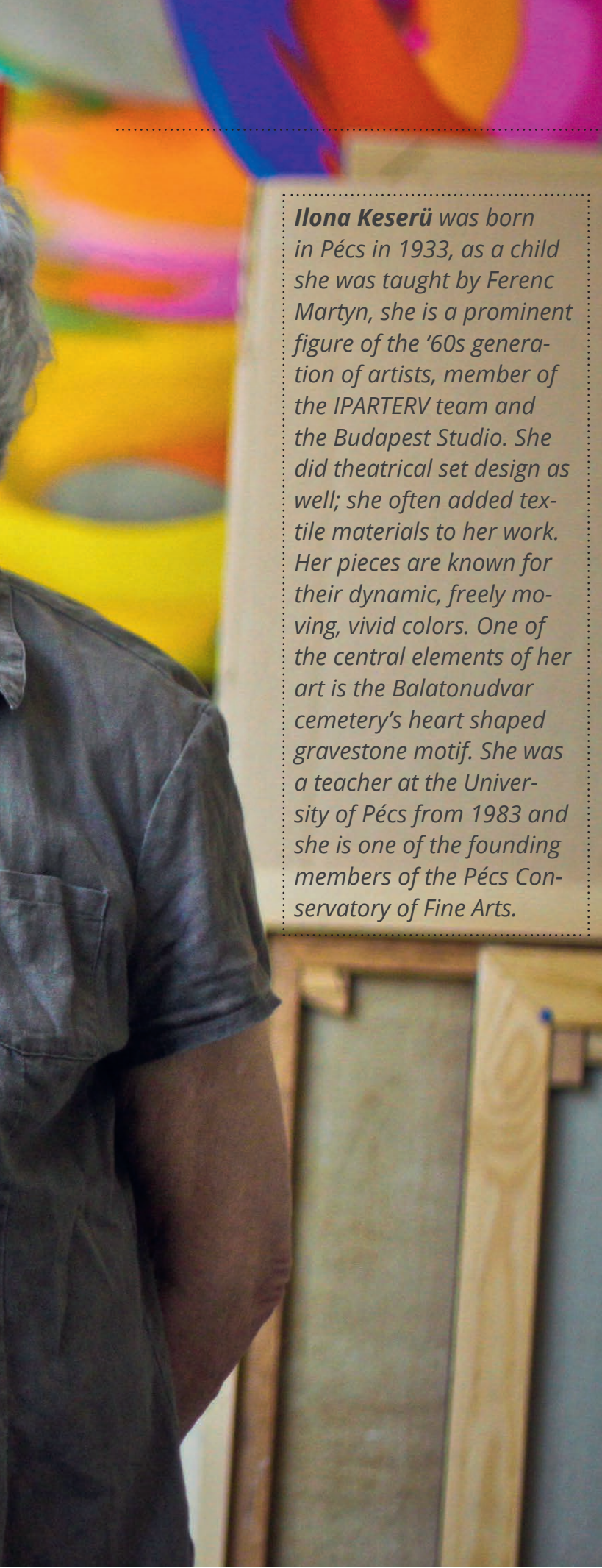


# LIKE THE SEA

*A conversation with Ilona Keserü*

*She could not travel to New York at the end of 2018 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), where they showcased her work Tapestry with Gravestone Pattern as part of the Epic Abstraction: Pollock to Herrera exhibition, but in 2021 she hopes to be able to visit the Pompidou Center in Paris, where two of her pictures will be exhibited as part of a collective exhibition.*





*Ilona Keserü was born in Pécs in 1933, as a child she was taught by Ferenc Martyn, she is a prominent figure of the '60s generation of artists, member of the IPARTERV team and the Budapest Studio. She did theatrical set design as well; she often added textile materials to her work. Her pieces are known for their dynamic, freely moving, vivid colors. One of the central elements of her art is the Balatonudvar cemetery's heart shaped gravestone motif. She was a teacher at the University of Pécs from 1983 and she is one of the founding members of the Pécs Conservatory of Fine Arts.*

**How did you feel about the MET exhibition, where your works were shown alongside Jackson Pollock's, Louise Nevelson's and Mark Rothko's art?**

Art is the greatest thing ever to exist. Back in 1970, in my apartment on Belgrád rakpart, on the bank of the Danube, I pinned one of Kenneth Noland's pictures onto the side of my radio. I often say that artworks know about each other. At the Metropolitan, I got a chance to be a part of an exhibition together with colleagues whose career I have been following for a long time. Louise Nevelson's giant black construct stood in the middle of the exhibit and one of Kenneth Noland's pictures got placed next to my tapestry. The artwork he brought to the exhibit was made in a completely different period but its presence was rather friendly. Artworks know about each other. His picture was part of my room for at least 20 years.

The monetary value of the art pieces does not matter in this dimension. What I care about, is being part of the world context. Making this happen was a piece of cake. Only they did not know that on the other side of the iron curtain. It is funny, how the art created on other continents in different economies forced the circumstances to change in a way that would allow them to step into the light. Paintings exist in a different force field. It does not matter, whether they are in a museum, a storehouse or on the wall of a house, there are certain powers connecting them.

During the creation process, their artist's brain functions are expanded. This is practically speaking a divine act. It happens above the world. That painting, if the artist is good and the painting is good, will contain references to the existence of other divine acts or the just the notion that they are there... Now we know a bit more about how many kinds of intelligences there could be and we also know that we can store incredible amounts of information within our technological devices. We can only guess how large the storage capacity of our brain is. And we also suspect that we are not using all of our brain capacity. And paintings are not only made with the brain. Art is the total expression. It is up to the people how much they can acquire from the readily available opportunities. And how well they can tend to them, keeping them intact and making them their own. In a way that allows it to be able to refer to everything.

**Rome has always played an important role in your life. In the past couple of years, London seems to have become important as well.**

I am in contact with a gallery in London: the Steven Friedman Gallery. I have visited multiple times. The most important events in my life happened in Rome, besides





Hungary. I spent a year there in the early '60s. I derive several things from there. In 1962-63, you could already visit the exhibits of famous British and American artists or the celebrated Italian artist of the time there. I first got to go to London in the winter of 1971 and I spent a month there. I went to Paris for a month after that. Later on, I returned to London many times. Every time an important exhibition opened, I flew there as soon as I could settle things at home. I spent two or three days at a time there and I took notes. This concludes my curriculum vitae.

**Which exhibitions have influenced your career the most?**

In the winter of 1970, I got invited to the Künstler International exhibition in Cologne. Those works, which are now unable to take their well-deserved place on the international stage – the first large scale canvas embossed paintings – were there at the exhibition in Cologne.

People thought they were too expensive and they did not want to buy them at that time. Now one of the paintings, which remained in my possession, is showcased at the gallery in London alongside other pieces of the '70s. The moment has finally arrived, when great European museums – and even those overseas – decided that they want to complete their collections of art history with what they previously did not know about, or could not deal with then.

**What did you bring to London in 1970?**

I carried a couple of kilos worth of catalogues and photos in my hand about my artworks and those of my friends - or should I call them brothers in arms? I had some time between visiting museums and exhibitions, so I had the idea to pay a visit to many galleries, hoping that they would care about someone waltzing in from the street; maybe they would find it interesting to know that I came from the other side of the world. This caused various scenes, sometime with yelling. They took the time to speak with me at some places, and at others, they did not.

Jasa Reinhardt told me that the pictures were intriguing, however, there are German artists, who if needed, can bring her 25 pictures by next week. While if we were to ask you, we would have no idea when or if we would get the paintings at all. I started yelling at her – I was wrong

to do so – because I told her there is no way that she could get anything like this in Germany! I knew, because I just arrived from Cologne. I could see what we could provide was missing there. They frowned at me because raising your voice was against their norms. I remember this memory fondly. They believed it falsely that people would accept being second class citizens of the art world. We did not accept it. A lot of people emigrated. I always came back and created my paintings here. Those pictures – the ones I was talking about – are now in possession of museums and they are not commercially available. They cannot take the same route that some less important or half-forgotten and now resurfaced pieces have.

**What does forgotten painting mean?**

I worked a lot during the past 60 years. There were some pieces that got buried. They either got wrapped up or



were put deeper back in storage. They did not stay in sight. We did not know, which works would become more important. I find it interesting, how the evaluation of different paintings happens. Assessing how concentrated or largescale they are. This is how it could happen that the aforementioned tapestry could get into a New York exhibition thanks to the collaboration of three Hungarian art galleries; which is natural today, but fifty years ago it would have been unimaginable. Today, many things work differently, than generations ago.

**How important is an atelier? I have seen artists work in dark chambers just the same as they would in open, sunny places.**

These are sentimental things. There are unbearable sights. I cannot work with that. There is self-torture enough within me, there is no need for it to come from my surroundings as well.

**What is the ideal atelier like?**

I like the one in Pécs, because it is above the city; however, the house being built on a slope is questionable. The chi rolls down the hill.

**Sorry about grinning, but what would have become of your pictures if that chi would not have rolled down the hill. I liked going to your art studio, in clear weather the cat walked in...**

The chi did not roll down for everyone (smiling). There was a gray cat. The Gray. Now that we spend less time there, the rolling cat-hordes have disappeared. I last saw the Gray last summer, later on, when we visited, we still saw some members of the gang. It is not a bad thing that some things come to pass.

**We are talking in your atelier in Budapest, which is almost right on Ferenciek square.**

When I look out the window, I can see the carved tower of the Franciscan temple. And a small spandrel. It reminds me of Rome. It feels like I am in Rome and not in Budapest. In 1950, I painted in the Török Pál street school behind Kálvin square. Back then, the Károlyi Castle served as the Modern Hungarian Art Gallery; it housed the 20th century Hungarian collection. In this neighborhood something happened at every other house, I remember who came out the door thirty years ago, for example Dezső Korniss or someone else. This neighborhood feels like an extension of my apartment up until Belgrád rakpart. Meanwhile, I am longing for a garden. A house and a garden where it is quiet.

Read the full interview: [international.pte.hu](http://international.pte.hu)





## PROGRAMMES OF THE UP SPORTS OFFICE

### **Autumn of 2020**

#### **September**

12 September – Charity Run For Cancer Treatment

19 September – International Day of University Sports /Dragonboat Regatta

20 September – UP Korfball Cup

#### **October**

Beginning of October Championship between Faculties, UP Futsal League

7 October – UP Floorball Cup

11 October – Tour de Pécs UP Bicycle Race

14–15 October – UP Sports Night

17 October – UP Fox Chasers Relay Race

24 October – UP Memorial Tour in Mecsek

#### **November**

7 November – Aerobics Workshop

11 November – UP Bowling Afternoon

14 November – UP Tour in Mecsek

#### **December**

2 December – Icy Day

12 December – UP Tour in Mecsek

More info: @ptesportiroda

## GREEN PATCH COMMUNITY GARDEN IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

### ***“My garden, my horticultural concept” – Gergő Hajba***

Kata Tamási |  Szabolcs Csontos

Gergő Hajba, the leader of Green Patch led us to 7 Király str., through the office of OFFI (Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation Ltd.). Going through this zigzag path, we were looking at a small plot filled to the brim with various plants. The decorations on the neighboring houses wall amazed us with its happy, vivid colors.

Within Europe, community gardens have a long tradition in Slovakia, Romania, Austria and Germany. The formation of these gardens can often be linked to a crisis. In England for example, this tradition started during the Second World War, when men had to go to the frontlines and women and children had to acquire food somehow. It is interesting that in Japan, community roof-gardens are more common. The garden on the roof of the Osaka train station is amazing. In Hungary, these gardens became necessary during the 2006 depression. Alongside Pécs, these gardens can be found in other larger cities like Szeged, Debrecen, Budapest, Szentendre (in the village museum) and Szentgotthárd as well.

What is the secret behind the Green patch name? The first agricultural model farm in Pécs. The second one to be exact. The one in Pécsbánya was the first to be established, however, it closed down unfortunately. The aim of the organization is to grow plants and build a community. According to Gergő Hajba

*the people working here feel accomplished about the crops they grow themselves. This garden provides a recreational opportunity especially for those families, couples and students who live in flats or because of other circumstances they do not have a garden to tend to.*



Their main goal is to create a model farm in the heart of the city that could in time become commonplace.

The patch is an undivided public real estate shared by three owners: the local government, the Pécs Property Management, and OFFI. We have to renew the contract with each owner every year, and we have to present a report about the previous year and we have to provide proof that nobody stepped outside the boundaries of the law (nobody grew marihuana for example). The ones in charge approve the contract and renew it for another year. The Green Patch celebrates its third birthday this year.

There are flowers, herbs and spices in the Community Garden. Everyone grows what they want. The garden is a fully functional democratic group of hobby-gardeners. If someone has a question, we have horticulturists, who can help. The plots are marked with colorful pebbles that make the whole garden even more cheerful. There is a community lavender patch as well, which they take care of together. In order to keep the soil healthy, we use cow manure and coffee grounds, which restaurants and cafés of Pécs donate to us. It is a very important detail that the ground is composted as well.

The agricultural work starts in early March and they keep on working and tending to the plants busily until late October. Gergő Hajba mentioned that one of their main goals is to reinvest trust within community. How should we picture this? The people talk to each other while they are gardening, they ask for advice and tips from their fellow gardener working in the neighboring parcel. They laugh at each other's jokes and they plan programmes for the community.

On 8 August they will hold the Silent Cultivation VI. Vegetable and Bass Picking event. There is music, and people get to know each other with a beer or other beverage in their hand. Events like this are usually held in the dark, by candlelight making the hot summer nights even more cosy. Gergő Hajba plays music himself as well, his favorite genre is dubstep.

As of now, the Green Patch team has 40 members. One can join them through facebook or via email. If you would like to get closer to nature, sow some seeds and plant some flowers, or if you just want to become part of a fun community sign up. They answer each application within a day. "We like if someone stays for a season, foreign students usually only visit the events and workshops" – said Gergő Hajba. Of course, you have to follow the community's guidelines, which are quite flexible. It mainly consists of rules such as respecting other members' parcels or not intentionally over-watering each other's plants.

<https://www.facebook.com/zoldfolt/>  
@zoldfolt





## INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN EDUCATION – **SUCCESSFUL ONLINE SUMMER UNIVERSITIES** AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

*The Pécs Summer School programme was launched by the Centre for Internationalization and Connection in 2016 with the aim of organizing a growing number of summer universities at the University of Pécs (UP). With the increasing number of summer university programmes, UP has become a market leader among the Hungarian higher education institutions in this area. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the summer programmes have been postponed and other courses were successfully held online.*

Dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai | Pécs Summer School Programme Manager

**I**n June, a three-day long online Personal Development Training was organized for UP students, with the involvement of a renowned foreign trainer. In July, we organized a two-week-long virtual summer course on 'The Cultural Heritage of Hungary'. The participants, representing 3 continents, joined in the online programme from the USA, Mexico, Korea, Germany, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Czech Republic, India and Ukraine. During the course, students got acquainted with the history, culture, folk music, gastronomy of Hungary and participated in virtual sightseeing and museum visits as well. The engaging and interactive programme included an Intercultural Evening, a Hungarian Film Evening, a Music Night and an online cooking course where students were taught how to cook goulash soup.

**This is what one of the participants had to say about the summer school:**

**TIKKA RIINA MARIA, FINLAND:**

"Being totally honest, I was a bit sceptical at first if the course held online can be as fun and entertaining as an on-site course would be, but the Pécs Summer School exceeded my expectations in every level. The content of the course was really well-made and even though held online, I got the feeling as I was actually in Pécs learning about the local food and exploring the museums and sites nearby. The enthusiasm and passion of the professors was evident and made me want to look for exchange opportunities in the University of Pécs! I cannot wait to be able to actually travel to Hungary and Pécs and see it in my own eyes after this rewarding Summer School experience!"

*Are you looking to have a meaningful winter with engaging classes, enjoyable social activities and an international community? Join the Pécs Winter School courses in January 2021 and earn credits, too!*  
(Photo: Tikka Riina Maria)

**More info:** [https://summerschool.pt.hu/content/winter\\_programs](https://summerschool.pt.hu/content/winter_programs)





# DIGITAL HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER UNIVERSITY

*The MagyarOK-Digital Summer University, aiming at teaching Hungarian language, also took place online this year. The programme was organized by the International Studies Centre of the Medical School and had over 75 participants from 30 countries of the world. The very interactive programme used the model-based language teaching method and included engaging discussions, cooking and sports programmes as well. We asked Dr. Katalin Pelcz, the head of the Hungarian Programme about the summer course.*

Mariann Tóth |  Ana Paula Unheizer

## How was the transition to a digital platform?

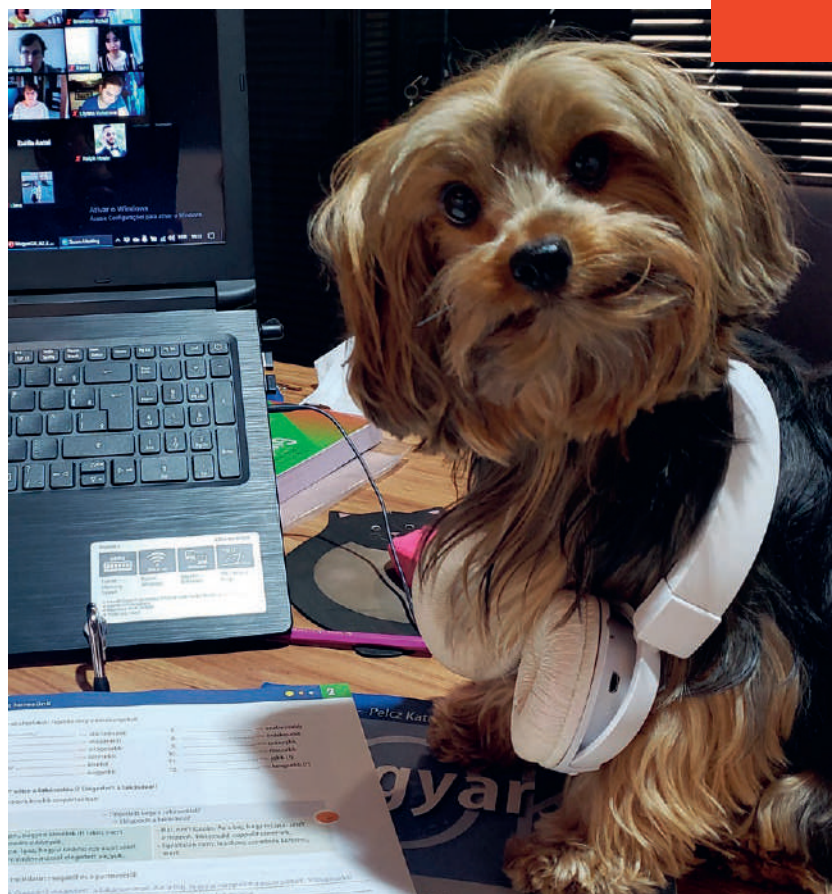
The Digital MagyarOK Summer University was organized in 2020 for the first time, although it incorporated the experiences gained from the past 20 years of Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University. We offered a completely different and new study programme, with a different approach. We launched the intensive course online, because on the one hand, we have gained useful experiences during the spring semester, on the other hand, we think that this platform and this teaching method might be ideal for a different target group. It exceeded all our expectations that 75 students participated the programme.

## What do you think is the reason behind the high number of participants?

We are continuously working on the relationship with the students and teachers using our books and study materials, this way, we are able to reach individual learners of Hungarian language from all over the world. It gave us an extra sense of security that the Tempus Foundation has offered a scholarship for 30 students to participate.

## What is model-based language teaching?

The course material and the teaching method called model-based teaching have been developed by the two authors of the MagyarOK language book series, Szilvia Szita and me. It provides students with a structure that draws on the language patterns of native speakers at each stage of learning. It helps students to reach high-



level language competence through effective learning. This method emphasizes that language knowledge can only come from language use. Based on this principle, we have created the textbook series MagyarOK, teacher's manuals as well as teacher training modules. Students are introduced to the language step by step, which is used in everyday life, what they can hear, read and use actively, when they meet native speakers. In each phase of learning, models are used in education that come from real, natural language use from grammar to lexis.

We designed a programme that can be used online and offline as well, which activates various channels, and students help each other in the learning process, they are taking part as partners in the language learning process. Within the flipped classroom method, the students receive the reading material in advance that they can digest with multimedia materials, this way, the lesson becomes a place for practice, and the preparation is mainly done at home before each lesson.



# THE MAN, WHO COLLECTS LANGUAGE EXAM CERTIFICATES – *Christoffel Keuken from the Netherlands*



## **You purchased a house in Magyaregregy, Hungary in 2011. Why did you choose that location?**

In 2011, I traveled around in Central Europe and I have been to Hungary as well. I have fallen in love with the country, although I have not yet been to Baranya, only

to the northern part, visiting Miskolc and Budapest. I often thought about living abroad after retiring. My wife found this house almost immediately, and we both fell in love with it right away. Then we bought it. At first, we only used it as a weekend getaway, but after retiring in 2016, we moved here permanently.

## **Your mother tongue is Dutch. What other languages do you speak?**

I passed a C1 level ECL language exam in English last year. I am attempting my German C1 in February. I speak French, Italian and Hungarian as well.

## **Did you need to learn English, German, French and Italian for your job?**

The first three, English, German and French were compulsory in high school in the Netherlands. I was ten, when I started learning French. That was my first foreign language, because French was famous for being difficult. I started learning English, when I was 12 and German at 13.

I am currently studying at the University of Pécs. Last year, I joined the Hungarian Literature and Linguistics BA program, but I transferred to Philosophy since then. The lessons are in Hungarian, and we only discuss texts translated into Hungarian. We do not read English, German or French texts, because the students do not speak those languages. I find this weird, because when I started learning history in the Netherlands, we had to read texts in all three of those languages.

## **What was or what is the hardest part of learning Hungarian for you?**

The word order is the hardest. The problem is that there is no

rule for it, but it is important for understanding context. There is no such thing in Dutch. The word order does not depend on context. With Dutch as my mother tongue, French was difficult, but English and German were much easier.

English is relatively easy for us, because there are no dubbed movies in the Netherlands - all of them use subtitles; always. There are many similarities between Dutch and German language. However, this is what makes it difficult at the same time, because there are only small differences, which are easy to miss.

## **What was your motivation to learn Hungarian?**

Socializing with the neighbors. This was the first reason, which led me towards learning Hungarian. I wanted to at least be able to talk with my neighbors. On average, there are only three topics to talk about: illnesses, the weather, and how "everything has become so much more expensive". That is all. Simple. After a while, I started jumping into different kinds of conversations.

## **Have you also read some Hungarian literature?**

Yes. When I wanted to understand the language a bit better, I found a book series with the title Classics Casually. This is right around the level of a Hungarian high-schooler. This was great for me, because it gave me a chance to catch up, then I started to read Hungarian literature, for example György Spiró's Captivity and some works from Imre Kertész.

## **How are the holidays we celebrate in Hungary, like Easter or Christmas, represented in the village?**

The Easter Monday sprinkling was completely new to us! I have never heard of it before. One of my neighbors came over with a water bottle and started sprinkling us.

## **With a soda siphon?**

Yes. I did not know what was going on! I had to look it up. Later on, I found out about János Lackfi and his book Homo Hungaricus, which is about Hungarian cultural peculiarities. I translated it to Dutch. I have not found any publishers yet, but at least the translation is ready.

(Johanna Felcser)





## SINGING AS A WAY OF LIFE

*Meeting talented and charismatic students is always a pleasure, such as Samuel Akinola, a young microbiologist from Oyan, a city in the Southwest of Nigeria. He is currently in his third year of studying nursing and patient care at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs. After graduation, he hopes to save lives and help people. He is an International Student Ambassador for Nigeria, helping prospective students with the admission process and offering advice on university education. I had the chance to talk to him about his passion: singing.*

Fatima Majid Malik |  Szabolcs Csontos

### **When did you start singing?**

I have been singing since I was six years old. When I was nine, I joined the children (juvenile) choir of my church and I have been a lead vocalist since then. I come from a “musical” family – my Dad was the organist and musical director of the church choir. I noticed that whenever I sang hymns in church, people paid much attention and often they would tell me to keep singing, because

*they felt something deep down in their souls, which was good and unexplainable. This is what drives me to sing.*

People are surprised however, when I tell them that I never had a music teacher or studied music.

### **Are you planning to pursue a career in music?**

I am doing music more like a profession now, as a way of life. I am currently working on my album, which will be released sometime during summer.

### **Do you have a role model?**

I listened to the works of many artists when I was much younger: Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Sam Cooke, Donny Hathaway, Kirk Franklin,







Darwin Hobbs and Marvin Sapp. Their songs shaped and inspired me. While growing up, I have learned to build my own style and have my own voice while still learning from my inspirations. My favorite kind/genr of music is R&B/Soul. It is simple,

*a good soulful R&B song speaks to the soul and it speaks nothing but LOVE,*

which is what people need right now, at this time, where the world is filled with hatred and negativity. When I sing, I feel free and happy which is what I try to pass on to the audience.

**When and where did you first perform in Pécs? How was the response?**

My first performance in Pécs was at the Open Mic organized by Pécs Music Society in September 2017. Interestingly, that was also my first night in Pécs. It was a jam session, where one just jumps on the stage and sings spontaneously, no prior preparation or rehearsals; it is more like creating new music.

*I remember Ian O'Sullivan and Andrea, an Erasmus student from Germany, were on the guitar. The response was amazing!*

Since then, I have performed in several places in Budapest and almost all big pubs and events in Pécs. Last summer, I performed at the University of Quebec, Canada.

**Do you have an artistic name that you go by?**

I am known as Shammak, coined from my middle name and last name, Samuel Akinola – "Sam" from Samuel and "Ak" from Akinola. I had to put the "h" and double the "m" to ease the pronunciation (SHAMMAK).

**Your singing career earned you some recognition already. What kind of awards have you won?**

I have won several awards and recognitions in the past three years. I got the Rector's Diploma of Merit, a special recognition by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, just to name a few. The University of Pécs was instrumental in showcasing and sharing my talent and passion with the public. I have also received words of encouragements from the top officers of the institution, which has kept me going.

**You now sing with a group of people. Are you a band officially?**

Yes, we are The Jam Tribe! We are a group of seven talented young people, composed of students of the University of Pécs from four countries – Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Hungary. The members are: Bálint Tanai, Tamás Hegyes, Tshephisho Selatole, Botond Bíró, Sándor Clegane, Dickson Samuel Abo-ayge Danquah and myself. We create music spontaneously, performing all genres ranging from Soul, R&B, Pop, reggae, Funk, Jazz etc. We have had many concerts in Pécs and Budapest.

**Do you have any advice for students?**

Believe in yourself! Do not doubt your capabilities, you are capable of more than you can imagine. Also, master your craft! Challenge yourself and be the best at what you do.

*My Dad once said to me "Sam, whatever you do, make sure you are so good that it would be hard to find a replacement..."*

Lastly, create opportunities if there are none. Your triggers are your responsibility; it is not the world's obligation to tiptoe around you.



## RED-HOT UNIQUENESS

### **Master Course of the World-Famous Japanese Ceramic Artist Ohi Toshio Chozaemon XI. at UP in the Spirit of the Way of Tea.**

*Ohi Toshio Chozaemon XI. is a Japanese ceramic and tea artist, Advisory Member to the Board of Secretaries of State of the Japanese Ministry of Culture, visiting professor of several American, Chinese and Japanese universities. At the invitation of the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts of the University of Pécs, he held a special masterclass for students in the field of art and ceramic design in Pécs from 17-22 February. During the week-long Hungarian and international students had the opportunity to get acquainted with the special techniques used by the master from Kanazawa and gain inspiration from the more than 350 years of history of the ceramic artist Ohi family, which has been connected to the Japanese Way of Tea from the beginning.*



*program, opportunity to 11th generation*

Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

**I** was born in Kanazawa, a town of ancient samurai traditions. My family is a ceramic artist family, who have been making the so-called Ohi-ceramics used for the Japanese tea ceremony for generations" – we learned at the introductory lecture of the week. Since the first generation, the Ohi family has not used a potter's wheel, Ohi ware has always been hand-shaped, and then carved with the help of a spatula, followed by small kiln firing of raku technique. This method was seen and experienced in practice by students during the week-long master class, where each participant had the opportunity make a tea bowl based on the master's instructions– from kneading clay to firing.

**I**t has been a unique experience to get a glimpse into master Ohi's process: to see how wet clay becomes an artistic creation that cools down between our hands and gains its final colour and shape. It has been an unparalleled opportunity to observe how he works, how he teaches, and he was happy to give advice on the

works that were about to be made. The participants as well as Ohi often worked late into the night. Representatives of many nations learned about this tradition of pottery making at the Faculty of Music and Visual Art in Pécs: Japanese, Chinese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Colombian, Taiwanese, Mongolian and Jordanian students worked together under the direction of the Japanese master.

**O**hi Tosio Chozaemon XI. has also brought an impressive exhibition of his works to Pécs, so that the general public could see his art pieces, in which he aims to combine past and present. The unique works of the very talented lacquer artist Momose Reia have also been a treat for the eyes of the visitors. Among the objects shown in the Nick Gallery there were rustic and sophisticated, traditional as well as modern pieces displayed. Despite their contrasting characteristics, the whole exhibition has been harmonious, with extraordinary works of art that many visitors have been interested in. Not only ceramic objects



have been displayed, but also some of the paintings by Ohi: these clean, modern works have also been powerful parts of the exhibition.

**T**he Kanazawa artist Momose Reia gave a fascinating presentation during the week at the Urushi lacquer technique, perhaps less well known in Hungary. Unfortunately, this traditional art form has fewer and fewer representatives; however, Kanazawa has always been famous for its lacquer artists. Urushi lacquer has a history of more than 6,000 years. The very rare and expensive varnish is applied to objects in many thin layers with extremely meticulous work. Often, it takes several months to complete a piece. Interestingly, lacquer makes the works of art particularly resistant and durable, so that even ancient pieces can survive. At the same time, the works of Momose Reia include many beautiful modern works of art as well, in this regard, we can certainly discover a link with the beliefs of master Ohi: "Tradition does not mean that it is enough to preserve the past. I believe that development and progress are important parts of it" - said the 11th generation representative of the Ohi family.


**D**uring his stay in Pécs, Ohi Tosio Chozaemon XI. has also met with rector Attila Miseta and Péter Lengyel, dean of the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts. He highlighted how beautiful and inspiring the environment is, where art students can study and create. Since the world-famous ceramic artist teaches at several Japanese universities, he has proposed to develop a cooperation and exchange program with several Japanese universities. Furthermore, the possibility of a twin-city relationship has been raised due to similar characteristics, and an interest in culture and arts both in Kanazawa and Pécs.

**A**t the closing ceremony of the masterclass, with the cooperation of the Urasenke Japanese Tea Association of Hungary, the participants had the opportunity to take part in a lecture on Japanese tea ceremony and to see a traditional tea presentation in the impressive Liszt Ferenc concert hall of the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter. At the tea workshop following the ceremony, the guests could test the bowls they have made during the master class, since the pieces have been finished on the last day with the guidance of master Ohi. Each bowl is evoking the characteristics of traditional Ohi-ceramics in a unique way, to which both the maker and the master have contributed. In the works of art, which are also objects of use, Japanese matcha tea was prepared by all ceramicists with the guidance of the members of the Urasenke Japanese Tea Association of Hungary, so that the freshly burned pieces could truly fulfil their purpose.





*The second largest viticulture gene bank in Europe is guarded by the Research Institute of Viticulture and Enology of the University of Pécs (SZBKI), which also has a 300-year-old cellar. The “by-product” of their scientific work, research and education, is wine that has achieved national and international success in the recent years. The **wines of SZBKI** are available under the name of Pécs University Wine Estate!*

Éva Harka |  Szabolcs Csontos

## GOLDEN, GLITTERING BUBBLY!

### THE LATEST GOLD MEDAL

A record number of 775 items from 15 countries were evaluated at the 21th VinAgora International Wine Competition in Szekszárd this year. The wines awarded with a gold medal include the Pécsi Summa Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 by the Research Institute of Viticulture and Enology, University of Pécs. <https://vinagora.hu/en/wines/2212>

“Summa” means sum, peak, and completeness in Latin. Cabernet sauvignon is grown at the highest areas of the estate, at 250 meters above sea level. It was processed with open fermentation, followed by 9 months of maturation in Hungarian, French and American oak barrels.

### CHAMPAGNE: NADIR 63

As a result of three years of work, a special champagne was made this year! The grape used as its material was the Zenit (zenith means the top of the sky above the observer and it is a type of grape as well), which grows on the Szentmiklós Hill estate of the research institute. The slow process of champagne production took place in the cellar of the institute. The grapes transformed into wine, then into champagne, like zenith becomes nadir (nadir is the opposite the zenith on the celestial sphere). The difference in altitude between the plantation and the cellar is 63 meters, which is the reason why the champagne received the name Nadir 63.

This champagne was fermented in the traditional way, in bottles. 100% Zenit variety. It has a sugar content of 8 g/l, so it is brut. Greenish yellow in

colour, plentiful bubbles, continuous and persistent sparkling. Ripe pears, peaches and exotic fruits (e.g. mango, pineapple) on the nose. Buttery notes of traditional champagnes. Light, playful acids on the palate, with hints of lime and citrus flavours to complement the scent. The finish is long, creamy, buttery. It will be officially released at the end of August.

### FOOD AND WINE

Selected wines from the University Wine Estate Pécs - including Nadir 63 - can be tasted with the dishes created especially for these items. The special dishes will be available at Főter, Kikelet, Tenkes and Zsolnay restaurants. The Blue Frankish Rose Novum 2019, the scent bomb Zenit 2019, the spicy Kadarka 2019 with red berries flavours, the Cirfandli 2017 showing a semi-dry character with hints of dried-fruit and the top wine Summa Merlot inspired creative recipes. In addition to tasting wines and food in restaurants, lovers of gastronomy can also cook their own dishes, as the recipes will be available on the website of the University.

Facebook: @pteszbki

Instagram: @pecsiegyetemiborbirtok

Webshop:

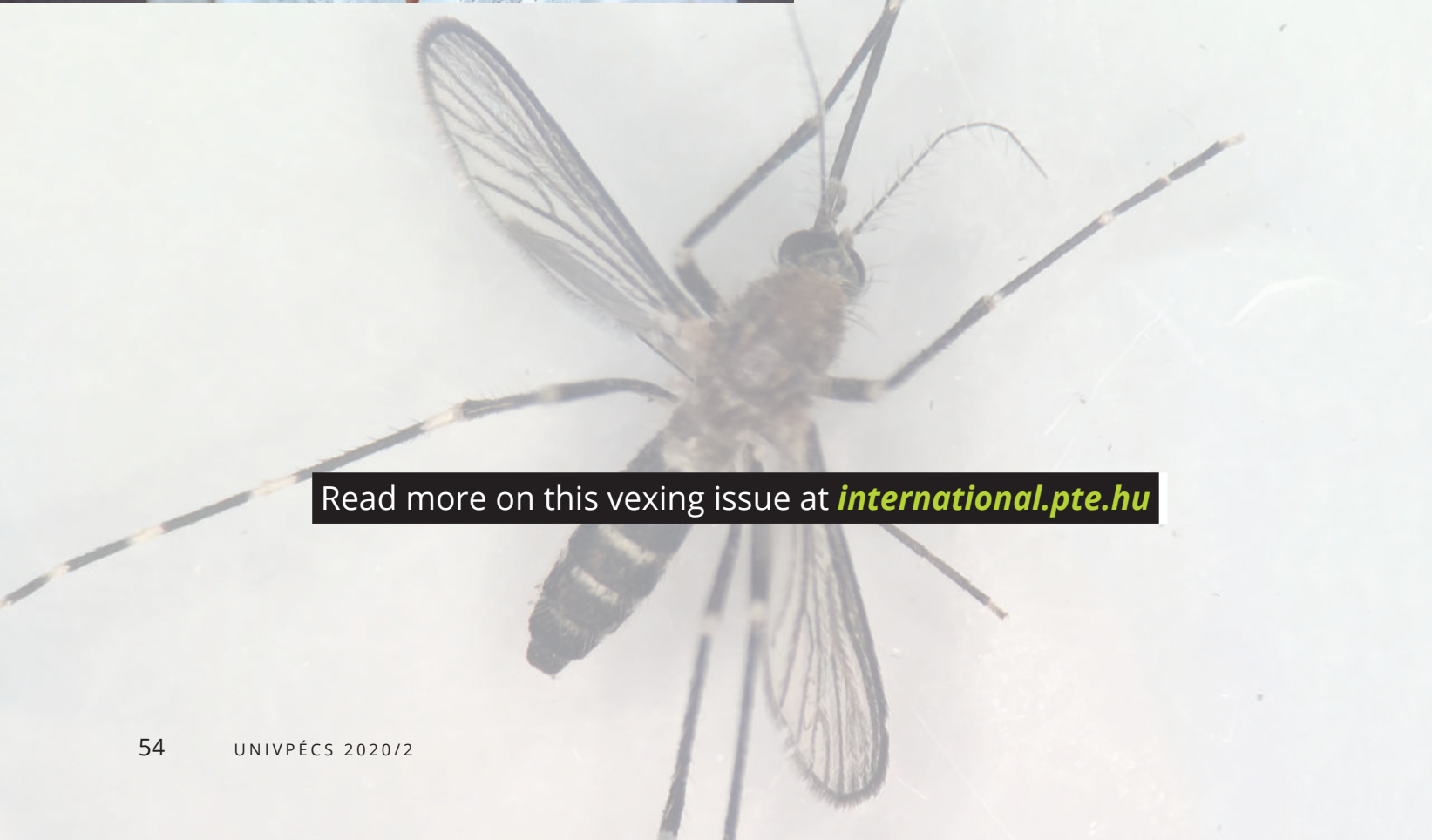
Recipes: [international.pte.hu](https://international.pte.hu)



# DEAD MOSQUITOES = GOOD MOSQUITOES?



*Kornélia Kurucz, a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Pécs is also a member of the Virology Research Laboratory at Szentágothai Research Centre. Her topic of research focuses on mosquitoes. In the last couple of decades, new non-native species have been introduced that can spread tropical diseases as well. It seems however, that the appearance of these new, invasive mosquito species are the result of human activities, such as international trade or tourism, rather than climate change.*

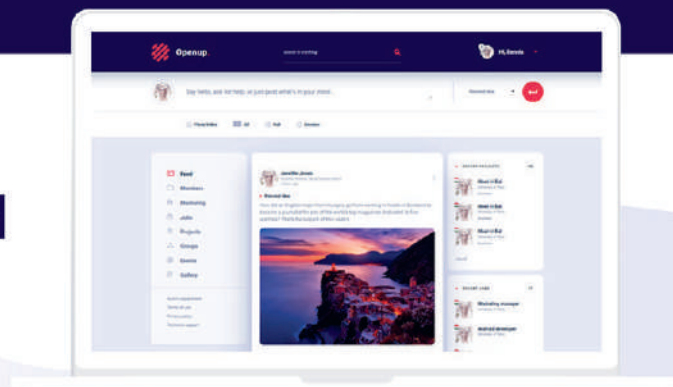


Read more on this vexing issue at [international.pte.hu](https://international.pte.hu)





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