



PTE

Hungarians of the World Network Program





PTE

**Hungarians of the World
Network Program**

Get to know our team!



Dr. Ákos Jarjabka
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and Cultural Program





Dr. Katalin Szili

member of the UP's Board of Trustees,
Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary,
former president of the Hungarian Parliament,
titular associate professor

Lectori Salutem!

Almost 10 years ago, Ákos Jarjabka, associate professor at the University of Pécs (UP), launched the Diaspora Network Project within the university, with the aim of connecting Hungarians living in the world to the university's bloodstream. This provided an excellent basis during the change of the university model for the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis, the university's managing foundation, for the creation of the Hungarians of the World Network Programme, envisaged in the long-term strategy. The vision was formulated to meet the training, research and talent management needs of Hungarians in the diaspora and the Carpathian Basin, and to meet the task of preserving their identity. In recent years, there has been a renaissance in the search for roots, and thus the choice of a Hungarian university, by second- and third-generation young people of Hungarian ancestry living in the diaspora. Both the university and its funding body consider it an important mission to support talented young people by providing scholarships, especially in the fields of arts and sports. The Programme Office and the Csomópont Newsletter will ensure the implementation of the objectives and shared knowledge for the progress. I invite you to join the network and play an active role in providing the scientific, educational and research background for national cooperation.

Thank you for your attention!



University of Pécs (UP) Hungarians of the World Network Programme Office (HWNPO)

The University of Pécs (UP), founded more than 650 years ago, established the Diaspora Project Network (DPN) on April 1, 2017. The network's mission is to preserve the identity of Hungarians living in minority communities, scattered settlements, and the diaspora; to foster and strengthen ties among them; and to launch joint initiatives with the active participation of partner organisations. In alignment with the strategic objectives of UP, the Hungarians of the World Network Programme Office (HWNPO) was founded on July 1, 2023, as a unit within the Rector's Office. Its purpose is to serve as a central hub bringing together Hungarians across the globe. At present, the Hungarians of the World Network Programme counts 156 registered members from 32 countries and a partner community of nearly 2,000 individuals from 95 countries. One of its flagship initiatives is the Hungarian Diaspora Everyday (HDE) online programme, which has already produced more than 34 episodes, annually showcasing 4–6 Hungarian organisations abroad. In 2022, the HWNPO launched the CsomóPont newsletter, providing diaspora-related news and information on funding opportunities. Through the Pannonian Music and Culture Programme, Hungarian as a Foreign Language is taught online to children within the framework of the World School of Hungarians. The programme's global outreach is further strengthened by the Hungarians of the World – Portraits podcast, available on Spotify, as well as by diverse content shared across social media platforms (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube). Our strategic partners include the Rákóczi Association, the Research Institute for National Strategy, and the TEMPUS Public Foundation. Interested parties are welcome to apply for membership in the HWNPO via vilagmagyarsag.pte.hu.

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Pannonian Music and Culture Programme

The programme was designed to meet the needs of our compatriots living in the diaspora and across the borders. Through our activities, we have successfully launched several subprogrammes. The project is dedicated to promoting Zoltán Kodály's concept of music education, as well as preserving, nurturing, and revitalising Hungarian cultural values.

Our first initiatives involved organising music and cultural workshops across South America, which were met with great interest and popularity.

- The first pillar of our programme, the Talking, Storytelling Club, was established several years ago. Today, the circle has 69 members participating in monthly sessions, representing nine South American countries, as well as Guatemala, Mexico, and even Australia.
- The second project of our programme is the World School of Hungarians, which aims to teach Hungarian as a foreign language, culminating in the internationally recognised ECL language examination offered at our university. In the first round, 11 of the 13 participants successfully passed the exam. In the second group, five candidates in Australia have already begun their preparation, while applications continue to arrive from Canada, the United States, and Spanish-speaking countries for the March 2026 exam session. Students at the University of Pécs also contribute as online instructors, flexibly adapting to different time zones. We warmly welcome applications from prospective language learners, as well as from teachers and researchers interested in joining the programme.
- Our third flagship initiative is the Hungarians of the World Media Network. Its founding members operate radio and television stations, produce digital media content, and publish articles in both print and online outlets, serving Hungarians living in the diaspora.
- Our fourth initiative, currently under development, is the Mental Well-Being Programme.

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Hungarians of the World Media Network (HWNP)

The Hungarians of the World Network Programme (HWNP), operating as an organisational unit of the Rector's Office of the University of Pécs (UP), was established with the aim of becoming by 2030 the scientific and cultural hub of Hungarians worldwide, thereby contributing to the preservation of Hungarian identity. To achieve this noble objective, UP issued a call to Hungarian media professionals, institutions, organisations, and communities both abroad and in the diaspora, inviting them to join the Hungarians of the World Media Network. The mission of the HWMN is to foster sustainable cooperation, based on mutual benefits, that serves the goals of Hungarian higher education and national policy. For the Hungarian communities abroad and in the diaspora, the network has set the following key objectives:

Creating media content and programmes that support the development and deepening of Hungarian identity; Developing and sharing best practices; Promoting cooperation among members; Advancing practice-based methodological development for members; Establishing a concept for content production across different media platforms with shared objectives; Coordinating the broadcasting of media content worldwide; Preserving, promoting, and teaching the Hungarian language and culture; Showcasing new Hungarian works in music, literature, and the visual arts, as well as technical innovations and creative productions, regardless of style or genre; Organising fundraising activities necessary for achieving common goals; Hosting regular consultation sessions and thematic forums in online, hybrid, and in-person formats.

Organisations, communities, and individuals wishing to support the mission of the network may express their intent to join by completing and signing a membership declaration. Applications are evaluated by the twelve founding members representing five countries across four continents.



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Talking, Storytelling Club

The Talking, Storytelling Club gradually developed in 2021 from music and cultural sessions originally organised for children. The original organiser of these sessions was the Hungarian Circle of Colombia. Initially, children from three South American countries (Colombia, Paraguay, and Panama) participated in the activities together with their parents and grandparents. While the children engaged in cultural programmes, the adults naturally became involved in discussions surrounding the sessions. Over time, these gatherings evolved into regular conversations. At the same time, the organisation of children's activities encountered practical difficulties (such as adapting to different school schedules and timetables).

Nevertheless, families and organisers continued to express a strong need for shared discussions and gatherings. Responding to this demand, the format of the meetings was restructured to better serve the needs of Hungarians living in the diaspora. Organised with the support of the University of Pécs, the programmes now include in-depth presentations about Hungary, historical and geographical insights, language games, riddles, and communal singing. For several years, the sessions have been held regularly on the first Thursday of each month.

Participation is by personal recommendation from existing members. Today, the club has grown to include 69 members, with participants not only from South America but also from Guatemala, Mexico, and even Australia.

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World School of Hungarians

Inspired by the success of the Talking, Storytelling Club, it soon became clear that there was a growing demand among our compatriots for education and training – particularly for learning Hungarian as a foreign language. At the initiative of our founding member, teacher Ágnes Szabó in Australia, a joint project was launched with the goal of teaching Hungarian to young people living in her region. The University of Pécs (UP) joined this initiative, which led to the creation of the World School of Hungarians – an educational program designed not only for Hungarian language instruction but also to provide high-quality training in other fields. Building on her own methodology and working in close collaboration with teacher students of UP, Ágnes Szabó has successfully taught participants of the program. The programme is supported by the UP Foreign Language Centre and the ECL Language Examination Centre, ensuring that students can take the ECL exam online at the end of their studies. Uniquely, the examinations are held once a year online through Ágnes Szabó's accredited ECL Examination Centre in Torrensville, Australia. The programme's primary goal is to help students achieve at least a B2 level of language proficiency, providing a significant advantage for young people in their future academic and professional careers worldwide. What makes the programme truly special, however, is that both the preparation and the examination are conducted entirely online – allowing participants to obtain an official language certificate independently, from the comfort of their own homes, anywhere in the world. This opportunity is available exclusively through the World School of Hungarians. The school is expanding rapidly, both in terms of its teaching staff and the number of students enrolled.



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Management of the cultural and spiritual heritage of Zoltán Pál Dienes

The Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development at the University of Pécs is entrusted with safeguarding the intellectual legacy of Professor Zoltán Pál Dienes, the world-renowned Hungarian scholar of mathematics education and Honorary Doctor of the University of Pécs. Born in Budapest in 1916, Professor Dienes spent his long life travelling the globe, promoting his educational games designed to develop thinking skills and providing effective tools for learning mathematics. In recent years, significant efforts have been made to revive and redesign his games, as well as to promote them nationally and internationally. As part of this initiative, in November 2025, members of the Hungarian diaspora communities in Peru and Paraguay will be introduced to his life's work and to his revived educational games. These games serve as a bridge between the classroom and the digital world, while also being suitable for children, youth, and even adults of the second, third, and fourth diaspora generations, regardless of their level of Hungarian language proficiency. Beyond learning, they also foster community building. In the 2025/2026 academic year, the Dienes Virtual Museum will be renewed. In addition to Hungarian, its contents will also become available in English, allowing a wider international audience to discover Professor Dienes's adventurous life, scholarly achievements, and games. The renewed virtual platform will also provide opportunities to support the release of previously unpublished Dienes games through community funding.



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A Hungarian initiated 24-hour global filmmaking marathon for environment conscious thinking

The Shoot for Earth filmmaking competition harnesses the transformative power of film to raise awareness about the urgent need to change consumer habits in everyday life. The filmmaking marathon is essentially a race against time: participants have only 24 hours – one single day – to complete their films. Over the past years, this unique filmmaking challenge has fostered a new form of global community building through collaborative film creation. In Hungary and among international participants, an increasing number of family-based teams, school classes, and even local community groups have joined the competition. Since 2022, the event has also expanded its community role to include Hungarian diaspora communities worldwide. This is marked by the introduction of the Hungarian Diaspora Grand Prize, awarded exclusively to films submitted by diaspora participants. The competition is jointly organised by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs and the Shoot a Film for the Earth Foundation.

Highlighting its global scope, the 2025 event was hosted from Los Angeles, while in 2026 it will take place in New York, at the invitation of Professor Károly Bárdosof NYU Tisch School of the Arts. The competition is scheduled for 21 March 2026, and all interested participants are warmly invited to join!

Shoot a film for the Earth!



info@shoot4earth.org



Kapocs - The World Game for Hungarian Youth

Kapocs – The World Game for Hungarian Youth is a unique, cross-border initiative that invites young Hungarians worldwide to play, learn, and build community together. Its mission is to strengthen Hungarian identity and foster living connections between young people in Hungary and abroad. The three-stage competition began on 20 August 2025, Hungary's national holiday commemorating the founding of the state, and concludes on 22 January 2026, the Day of Hungarian Culture. In the first round, a virtual quiz will test participants (aged 14–25 with Hungarian roots) on their knowledge of Hungarian history, culture, and geography. In the second round, contestants will create a short creative video showing what being Hungarian means to them. Finalists will travel to Hungary, where they will spend a week in host communities preparing for the grand finale. The grand prize is a two-week holiday in Hungary and the honorary title of Kapocs Ambassador, representing Hungarian youth worldwide. The programme was launched by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs (UP FCSEDR) in partnership with the Shoot a Film for the Earth Foundation. Its professional partner is the Hungarians of the World Network Program. Kapocs is not merely a competition but a cultural bridge – connecting generations and communities under the motto: One world, one nation, one game.



DIASPORA 2025 – Revitalisation International and Interdisciplinary Conference

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Pécs (Institute of English Studies, Institute of Hungarian Literature and Linguistics), together with the Pécs Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, organised its second biennial conference under the title Revitalisation on 3–4 April 2025, held at the headquarters of the Pécs Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Partner institutions included the Hungarians of the World Network Programme Office (HWNPO) of the Rector's Office at the University of Pécs, as well as the Diaspora Project Network (DPN). The conference's chief patron in 2025 was Mr. Lőrinc Nacsa, State Secretary for National Policy. On the opening day, the University of Pécs and the Institute for Strategic Studies signed a cooperation agreement. The event featured dozens of parallel section lectures and several roundtable discussions. Among the plenary speakers were Barna Bodó, Zsombor Csata, Noémi Fazekas, and George Szirtes, the Hungarian-born, English-writing British poet. The thematic sessions covered a wide range of topics, including the specificities and cultural revitalisation of the Hungarian diasporas in New Zealand, North America, Argentina, and Australia; the presence of Hungarians and Hungarian studies in Estonia and South Korea; Hungarian-language education in Sweden; and the potential role of artificial intelligence in supporting language learning among members of the diaspora. The conference aimed to examine revitalisation phenomena and experiments through an interdisciplinary lens, applying the methodologies of various academic fields to the preservation and renewal of languages, cultures, and broader social practices. The programme addressed revitalisation comprehensively, not only regarding Hungarian communities, but also by exploring successful models and best practices from other linguistic and cultural groups worldwide. An additional objective was to foster cooperation across borders, strengthen Hungarian to Hungarian dialogue, and encourage networking between Carpathian Basin and diaspora communities in the spirit of "borderlessness."



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Cross-border training for health professionals

The Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs is committed to training highly qualified, up-to-date health science professionals. Our institution is the first faculty of health sciences in Hungary with university status, several master's degree programmes and an independent doctoral school, offering training in four cities in Hungary: Pécs, Kaposvár, Szombathely and Zalaegerszeg. We started our Hungarian cross-border trainings in Sombor, Serbia, in 2016, and from 2022 we continued them in Szeklerland, in the city of Odorheiu Secuiesc. In Sombor, we started our training in the nursing specialisation of the Bachelor of Nursing and Patient Care, and in 2023 we added the specialisation of physiotherapist. In Odorheiu Secuiesc, a master's degree in health care management has been added to the nursing specialisation in the bachelor's degree in nursing and patient care. Our trainings abroad are a contribution to strengthening the Hungarian intelligentsia in Hungarian-speaking settlements and to ensuring access to healthcare in Hungarian language by providing a supply of health professionals.



MagyarOK Preparatory Programme

The preparatory course is offered to all those who wish to become competent language users, to acquire proficiency in Hungarian and even to pursue university studies in Hungarian language. The course runs from September to June and consists of 30 lessons per week of Hungarian. In the first semester, students will learn the material of language levels A1-A2 in 400 lessons, and in the second semester, they will work on language levels B1-B2 in another 400 lessons. The second semester ends with the ECL B2 exam. In the second semester, it is possible to acquire the basics of a specialised language in the following fields: medicine, humanities, STEM sciences. As learn material the MagyarOK textbooks are used that were awarded European Language Prize for Innovation.



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Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University

In a variety of locations, in an international learning environment, building on experience from everyday life situations, we provide useful Hungarian language skills for the participants. Our classes are organised in small groups of 4-12 students, at 5 language levels, in 40 classroom and extra-curricular lessons per week. Our experienced, qualified trainers have been working together for years. One group learns with three language teachers, which ensures a varied learning environment and methodological tools. In addition, participants will meet professional speakers at cultural seminars, such as a film club, a phonetics club, thematic walks, wine tasting, folk dance, crafts, museum lessons.

The curriculum used in language lessons and the experiential lessons outside the classroom provide a solid language foundation and knowledge and focus on natural language use. The MagyarOK textbooks, which won the European Language Prize for Innovation, are used as teaching material.

Learning is fun with us!

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European Studies Summer School

The European Studies programme is a two-week, interdisciplinary, English-language summer school, which has been part of the Pécs Summer School Programme since 2023, and takes place every July. The programme introduces Hungarian culture alongside European culture, making it particularly useful for diaspora members who do not speak Hungarian but would like to deepen their knowledge of Hungarian culture and history. The participants of the summer school are foreign students from all over the world. The Hungarian cultural heritage is presented in the programme from a very broad perspective (history, political science, economy, religion, culture, music, gastronomy, wine culture). Participants gain insight into contemporary Hungarian social and cultural life and experience Hungarian traditions. In addition to the classes, students have many opportunities to learn about the cultural heritage and characteristics of the city and region of Pécs. An important goal of the summer school is to strengthen the Hungarian diaspora members' ties with the motherland. Participants receive credits and a micro certificate for completing the summer school.



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Diaspora Higher Education Scholarship Programme Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship (DHES / HDS)

The Diaspora Higher Education Scholarship Programme was established three years ago by the Government of Hungary for those who live in the Hungarian diaspora outside the European Union and wish to study at a Hungarian higher education institution. The aim of the Scholarship Programme is to support the professional development of scholarship holders and to deepen their Hungarian language skills and identity by providing high quality Hungarian higher education. The University of Pécs has been committed to the programme from the very beginning and currently has 35 scholarship holders. More than 100 training programmes are available in English and Hungarian languages for the students, in addition to the acquisition of the Hungarian language. The English-language medical training is currently the most popular among scholarship holders. All our scholarship students are provided with student hostel accommodation on request.



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Library and press clippings collection of the Institute for Minorities

In the Department of Historical Collections there is a special collection that preserves the press clippings compilation and library of the Institute for Minorities of the Erzsébet University, predecessor of the University of Pécs. The Institute for Minorities of the University of Pécs started its work in 1936, with the aim of demonstrating the situation of Hungarians living in the successor states. Three departments of the institute focused on aspects of the minority question in Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia, while the fourth department studied the Hungarian minority in Austria and the ethnic minorities living in Hungary. The Institute subscribed to approximately 150 Hungarian and foreign newspapers and collected articles on the subject. One group collected articles of a general, international character. The other group contains articles on the specific countries. The articles are accompanied by an index, which is an important aid to research. The research room of the Department of Historical Collections is available according to the opening hours on the website.



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Klimo Library and Collection of History of the University of Pécs

Hungary's first public library, founded by bishop György Klimo in Pécs, opened its doors in 1774. The collection was moved to its present building in 1832 by György Szepeszy. Since 1923 the institute has operated as part of the Library or Erzsébet University. The collection includes some real manuscript rarities, two hundred and fifty antiquities, medieval documents, bibles and collections of maps. The Collection of History of the University of Pécs collects materials related to the history of the University of Pécs and its predecessor institutions. The permanent exhibition of the collection presents the history of the university faculties by disciplines, together with the work of the professors who taught there, student life and academic work. Exhibitions are open to the public according to the opening hours on the website. On request, museum education classes for primary and secondary school classes and thematic guided tours for student groups are also available.

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Talent management without borders

The aim of the cooperation between the University of Pécs and Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania is to operate a university-level art institution with a Transylvanian Hungarian identity and autonomous spirit, with two classical fine arts programmes: sculpture and painting; discover and enrol young Hungarian artists from Moldavia in university courses in painting and sculpture; contribute to the talent development of young Szekler and Moldavian Hungarians; joint organisation of professional programmes, art workshops, exhibitions; mutual knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage and intellectual values of the training locations in Pécs and Transylvania, and the utilisation and appreciation of all this in the training and in the works of future artists.



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Supporting Hungarian-language medical training outside Hungary and promoting cooperation between ethnic minorities in the Hungarian diaspora

Active participation in the Hungarian-language medical education in Târgu Mureş, Romania for several years by giving lectures, seminars and workshops mainly in the field of cultural competence and geographical epidemiology in health care. The development of a programme to promote cooperation between ethnic minorities, and its adaptation the WHO Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 to the diaspora level is under preparation, jointly with the Hungarian Diaspora in Cleveland.



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Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles

University of Pécs

Vice-rector for Education

The University of Pécs has long been a committed supporter of Hungarian communities beyond the borders of Hungary. One of the strategic goals of our university is to become the cultural and scientific centre for the Hungarians in the world. In order to achieve this goal, we established the Hungarians of the World Network Programme last year, which, strengthening and expanding the activities of the Diaspora Project Network founded in 2015, seeks to strengthen the identity of Hungarian communities living beyond the borders of Hungary through culture and, above all, through the cultivation of the Hungarian language. In addition to the preservation of traditions, we also consider it important to involve members of these communities in academic work, and we welcome interested young people to our training courses, summer university programmes and thematic conferences on the topic of Hungarians of the World. The Csomópont (Hub) Newsletter and the recently launched Hungarians of the World Podcast are a great help in keeping people up-to-date and for sharing information.

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Spotify: vilagmagyarsag podcast

Podcast: pte.hu/hu/podcast/vilagmagyarsag

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