Introducing the Hungarian Young Academy

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Visegrad Group Academies Forum 2022
The aim of Young Academies is to give a voice to early-career researchers.
Timeline for HYA

- **2016-2017**: Gergely Toldi GYA member approaches László Lovász HAS president with the idea of a Young Academy in Hungary
- **2017**: the First Forum of Young Researchers announces the plan to the public
- **2018**: the Presidential Ad Hoc Committee for Young Researchers is set up; the first large-scale survey of ECRs in Hungary includes questions about what focus areas of HYA should have
- **2019**: official launch of the Hungarian Young Academy with 24 members
- **2021**: an official cooperation agreement is signed between HAS and HYA; the Charter of HAS is modified to include HYA
- **2022**: HYA gets a budget from HAS for operational costs
1. Advocacy for ECRs in Hungary, representation of ECRs in science policy

2. Fostering excellence in science, mentoring young researchers

3. Public outreach, science popularization
Membership

- <40 yrs of age, <12 yrs after PhD
- Excellence, motivation
- 60 members
- 12 new members every year, with the 12 longest-serving members becoming alumni
- Elected for 5 years
- All disciplines are represented
- Unpaid volunteer work

Leadership

- 2 co-chairs (elected for 2 yrs)
- Steering committee: 5 members + 2 co-chairs
Cooperation with HAS

- official cooperation agreement signed in 2021
- 3 HYA members of the HAS Presidential Committee for Science Evaluation
- 1 HYA member on the HAS Presidential Committee for Women in Science
- 1 HYA member on the HAS Ad Hoc Committee for the Celebration of the Bicentennial Jubilee of HAS and its Library
- The thematic missions of the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub are co-chaired by a member of HAS and a member of HYA
  
  Urban stability, Methodology of Science Education, The Danube region, Widening European participation
WG for Career Management in Science

WG for Issues Regarding Women in Science and Researchers with Children

WG for Youth Mentoring

WG for International Affairs

WG for Communication

WG for Legal and Financial matters
Our regularly organized events

- **Forum of Young Researchers**
  
  *previous topics*: Hungarian grants for ECRs, road to the Doctor of the Academy title, scientometry, results of our survey on the state of ECRs

- **Workshop at the Hungarian Science Festival**
  
  *topic*: each year determined by the theme of the Festival

- **Science Communication Workshop series**
  
  *previous topics*: COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, homeopathy, climate change, genome editing, how to get your paper accepted in a journal, challenges of science communication

Photos: mta.hu / Tamás Szigeti
Work on the status of ECRs in Hungary

- **survey** on the status of young researchers in 2018 (published in Hungarian)

- repeated **survey** in 2021 (publications of results underway)

- the results can be used by policy-makers in the design of a sustainable career path in science

- own statement and joint **statement** with YAE on the **Difficulties of young researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic**, participation in YAE’s survey on the topic
Work on science policy, advocacy and equality

- **Extension of age-limit due to parental leave** in the application process of research grants
  - Immediate approval in 2019: Hungarian National Eötvös Grant
  - Initial rejection in 2021: Bolyai Postdoctoral Fellowship of HAS (age-limit later raised for all applicants as per the decision of HAS)

- **White paper on** how current and future research grants can meet the needs of ECRs in an optimal way

- **Invited opinion papers** on the HAS-initiated debate on the state of higher education in Hungary

- Discussions with the National Research Development and Innovation Office on grant calls and the evaluation of applicants, with special reference to the use of scientometry
Initiation of a **new re-integration grant after career-break** for researchers after parental leave

Official request towards 3 funding bodies – all **rejected** so far

Lobbying on the government level to **accept foreign PhD degrees** from the EU or OECD countries in Hungary without an accreditation process

Official request **rejected** so far
Fostering excellence in science and youth mentoring

- **Mentor Program** for Bolyai Grant applicants (since 2021)

- **ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event** webinar (joint event with YAE and the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub, 2021)

- **Mentoring women in science** workshop (2021)

- **Mentoring event for ECRs in aquatic sciences** (2021)

- **Rising stars**: Introducing young ecologists at the University of Debrecen (2019)
Fostering excellence in science and youth mentoring

- Recurring **joint webinars** with the National Research Development and Innovation Office **on grant applications**; separate events for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions applicants
- One-stop-shop list of and information on **Hungarian grants available for ECRs**
- Yearly webinar on the **Global Young Academy** and the **Young Academy of Europe** and how to submit a successful membership application
- Workshop with the Researcher Mental Health Observatory on the **mental health of researchers**
Work on science communication and outreach

- Science communication: how can scientists reach the public? workshop (2019)
- Workshop on Climate change, gene modification, homeopathy and COVID-19 (2020)
- Facts about vaccines: COVID-19 vaccines as a new challenge for scientific communication workshop (2021)
- Sustainability and climate protection workshop (2021)
- How to fight fake news, misinformation and disinformation as a scientist workshop (2022)
- Participation in the Alumni Program of the HAS to promote science among high school students
- Participation in the European Researchers’ Night
International visibility made possible by an official National Young Academy

- Participation in the yearly **European Network of Young Academies Meeting** and its joint sessions with **ALLEA**

- Participation in the yearly **Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies**

- Representation in the **Young Academies Science Advice Structure**, a pillar of Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

- Possibility to join **ALLEA**

- Participation of 10 Hungarian ECRs in a **Science Leadership Training** workshop at the 2019 World Science Forum
We summarized our experiences as a Young Academy and outlined the reasons for establishing one in your country in a Nature Careers article:

Six reasons to launch a Young Academy

As the first national network of early-career researchers marks its 21st birthday, the founders of Hungary’s describe how and why they set up theirs in 2019.

Erika Bálint, Dorottya Csuka, Viktória Venglovecz, Gitta Schlosser, Zsófia Lázár, Eszter Gselmann, Donát Alpár & Katalin Solymosi
Thank you for the attention!

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