



**HUNGARIAN  
YOUNG ACADEMY**

# **Introducing the Hungarian Young Academy**

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**Visegrad Group Academies Forum 2022**

# Young academies – global horizon

- **2000:** Die Junge Akademie in Germany, the first national academy
- **2010:** Global Young Academy is founded
- **2012:** Young Academy of Europe is founded

**50+ national young academies worldwide**



Bálint E et al. **Six reasons to launch a young academy.** *Nature* **594**, 599-601 (2021)

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

# **Focus areas of HYA**

- 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 and leadership

## 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

# Working groups

- 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





# 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

# Work on science policy, advocacy and equality

- 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

# International visibility made possible by an official National Young Academy

We summarized our experiences as a Young Academy and outlined the reasons for establishing one in your country in a **Nature Careers** article:

**nature**

CAREER COLUMN | 21 June 2021

## 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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