

Authors of the volume

Boglárka Bólya is the Ministerial Commissioner responsible for preparing and training the staff involved in the preparation for, and implementation of the 2024 Hungarian EU Presidency, as well as involving civil society and coordinating HR issues. She graduated *summa cum laude* from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of Pázmány Péter Catholic University. She then studied European Studies and obtained an MA degree in European Law in Brussels with distinction. She started her career as a trainee lawyer, later moving on to the State Secretariat for European Union Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2003 to 2019, she worked in the European Parliament, initially as a political adviser to the EPP in the Committee on Petitions and then in the Committee on Legal Affairs, then as a legal adviser to the EPP and finally as Head of Department in the EPP's Working Group on Legal and Home Affairs. She continued her career as an adviser to the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, between 2017 and 2019. During the 2011 Hungarian EU Presidency, she chaired the Council working group that drafted the Treaty on Croatia's Accession to the EU. In 2019 she was appointed Deputy State Secretary for EU Relations at the Ministry of Justice and then Chief Political Adviser to the State Secretary for EU Affairs and Sherpa János Bóka. She speaks English, Spanish, French and German, and understands Italian. She is honorary lecturer at the University of Public Service, Ministerial Delegate for the development and operation of the Europe of Nations Career Programme. She is married and the mother of three children.

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Zsuzsanna Farkasné Cseh is a lawyer, Head of Department for EU Sectoral Policy Coordination (Coreper I) in the Ministry of European Union Affairs. Already during her studies at Eötvös Loránd University, she was particularly interested in European Union affairs. She has now spent 7 years of her professional career at the ministry, initially working on issues of digitalisation in the European Union, continuously expanding her expertise. Today she is involved in the coordination of all Coreper I sectoral policies.

Tünde Fűrész is the President of the Mária Kopp Institute for Demography and Families. She is an economist with a specialisation in law, married and the mother of three daughters. Since

2010, she has played an active part in developing Hungarian family policy, first as the Head of Department responsible for the field and then as the Deputy State Secretary responsible for Family Policy and Demography between 2014–2016. As a Ministerial Commissioner between 2016–2017 she was responsible for the transformation of the Hungarian nursery system. Since 2018 she is the President of the Mária Kopp Institute for Demography and Families. In 2018, she was awarded the Teréz Brunszvik Prize, receiving the Knight's Cross Order of Merit of Hungary in 2021.

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Enikő Győri is an economist, diplomat and politician. She holds a PhD in international relations, specialising in European affairs from the Budapest University of Economics. Since 2019, she has been a member of the European Parliament and the coordinator of the work of the Fidesz EP delegation. She is a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a substitute member of the Committee on International Trade. At the beginning of her career, she was Adviser, then Chief Adviser to the newly formed Committee on European Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly (Hungarian Parliament) and later Co-Secretary of the EU–Hungary Joint Parliamentary Committee preparing Hungary's accession to the EU. She later became Chief of Staff to the EU Working Group of Fidesz in the European Parliament's Office, and in parallel, she was Managing Director of the Free

Europe Centre. In 2009, she was elected as a Fidesz MEP, but one year later, she returned to Hungary at the request of János Martonyi to become Minister of State for EU Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2010 and 2014. She led Hungary's first EU Presidency in the first half of 2011. She was the Ambassador of Hungary in Italy between 1999 and 2003 and in Spain between 2014 and 2019.

Vivien Kalas is Research Fellow at the Europe Strategy Research Institute. She graduated from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary and gained an MSc in Political Science in 2021. Since September 2021 she has been a PhD student at the Doctoral School of Political Science of ELTE. Starting with 2022 she is lecturer at the Institute of International Studies and Political Science of the Budapest Metropolitan University. She started working at the Europe Strategy Research Institute in January 2020. Her fields of research include decision-making in the European Council, democracy in the European Union, rule of law standards, the EU's education policy and European identity.

Boglárka Koller, PhD is Full Professor, Jean Monnet Chair and Head of Department of European Studies at the Ludovika University of Public Service. She graduated from Corvinus University, Budapest as an economist in 1998; she also holds an MA in Nationalism Studies from the Central European University and an MSc in European Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a PhD in International Relations from Corvinus University. She habilitated in 2016 and was appointed full professor in 2020. She has published extensively on European integration. Her latest volume on the political economy of the Eurozone was published by Routledge UK in 2021 (Krisztina Arató – Boglárka Koller – Anita Pelle eds.: *The Political Economy of the Eurozone in Central and Eastern Europe. Why In, Why Out?*). She has more than 25 years of teaching experience in the area of European Studies at each level of higher education (BA, MA, PhD) in Hungary and worldwide. Besides her academic work, she holds several leadership positions. She is a member of the Board of the Hungarian United Nations Association, member of the Social Sciences Committee of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee and head of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal *Európai Tükör/European Mirror*. She is member of the Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Committee of Political Sciences. She is the elected Vice-President of the Central European Political Science Association (CEPSA) since 2018.

Zoltán Kovács, PhD is State Secretary for Government Communications and International Relations at the Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister, and is also the Government Commissioner responsible for the preparation and implementation of the operational tasks of the Hungarian EU Presidency in the second half of 2024. He graduated in History from Kossuth Lajos University in Debrecen and Central European University in Budapest, later obtaining a doctorate from each. After his university years, he carried out research both in Hungary and abroad in the following fields: the history of public opinion and publicity; communication theory; and the history of diplomacy in the early modern and Cold War periods. He has also taught at the University of Miskolc, the University of Debrecen and McDaniel College Budapest. He has more than twenty years of experience in public communication. In the early 2000s he was involved in the development of the City of Debrecen's online presence and the management of its institutions' websites. Between 2006 and 2010 he served as an elected representative in the Debrecen City Council, and as the City's communications adviser. Since 2010 he has worked in central government, having been State Secretary for Government Communication

and Public Relations, State Secretary for Social Inclusion, and also Government Spokesperson. As Government Commissioner he oversaw the preparation and implementation of the 2021 “One with Nature” World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition. He is currently State Secretary for Government Communications and International Relations at the Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Commissioner for the preparation and implementation of the operational tasks related to this year’s Hungarian EU Presidency.

Gábor Kutasi, PhD is Head of the Economy and Competitiveness Research Institute at LUPS and Head of Department of Economics and International Economics at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Public Administration. Previously he was Associate Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. His main fields of research are fiscal policy, external balance, policy incentives and the banking system. Previously, he was a researcher at the Hungarian National Bank, member of the ICEG European Centre’s and Századvég’s Economic Research team. He was visiting lecturer at the Prague University of Economics and Business and guest lecturer and researcher at Zeppelin University.

László G. Lovász, PhD received his law degree in 2000 and earned a PhD in law in 2008 from the University of Szeged. He was a representative of the Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with disabilities (CD-P-RR) at the Council of Europe while working for the government between 2001 and 2009 in labour, social and EU funds-related affairs. He was the first disabled adviser with a PhD to a member of the European Parliament (EP) between 2009 and 2018. In 2012 Lovász became the first expert with a hearing disability at the United Nations’ Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), re-elected in 2016 (his mandate lasted until 2021), and acted as country rapporteur eight times. Lovász was also rapporteur on technology and disability at UNCRPD between 2019–2021. Between 2018 and 2022 he was ministerial commissioner for strategic governmental research at the Prime Minister’s Office. Since 2022 he is chief adviser to the Minister heading the Prime Minister’s Office. Alongside his daily work, since 2019 Lovász has been teaching at Ludovika University of Public Service in his position of Senior Research Fellow. He is the author of several academic volumes and chapters and has published numerous studies and articles on the relationship between technology and social policy. He is a member of the Board of the Hungarian United Nations’ Association and the Editorial Board of *Európai Jog – Az Európai Jogakadémia folyóirata* (European Law – The Academy of European Law Journal). His most recent (2023) publication as editor and co-author, as well as individual author of chapters, is *Japan. Society 5.0*, (Pallas Athéné Publishing House).

Viktor Marsai, PhD is Executive Director of the Migration Research Institute and Associate Professor at Ludovika University of Public Service. He received his first degree from Eötvös Loránd University in history and aesthetics. He earned his second degree in security and defence policy from the Zrínyi Miklós University of National Defence in 2010. He wrote his PhD on Somali state building in the spring of 2014. In 2010–2011 he worked for the Hungarian Ministry of Defence. Since 2012 Marsai has been working for the Ludovika University of Public Service, first as junior lecturer, later as assistant and associate professor. In the spring of 2017 he won the Bolyai János Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From his part-time employment at the Migration Research Institute in 2017, he became the Institute’s executive director in 2022. His main research areas focus on the migration trends of the African continent and the security aspects of migration.

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Árpád József Mészáros is the Strategic Vice-President of the Mária Kopp Institute for Demography and Families. He is a lawyer, married, father of one child. Between 2019 and 2023 he was Deputy Director and later Director of the Legal and International Directorate of the Chancellery of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Between 2017 and 2019 he acted as Deputy State Secretary for International and European Union Affairs in the Ministry of Human Resources, and went on to become Head of the Department for EU and International Organisations of the Ministry between 2016 and 2017. In the years 2014–2016 as Deputy Head he was involved in organising the Ministry’s tasks in EU affairs, with particular emphasis on family policy. In the years between 2000 to 2014 he was Head of Department

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Áron James Miszlivetz holds an MA degree in EU International Relations and Diplomacy from the College of Europe. In 2021, he spent six months as a seconded national expert at the European Commission, where he worked on the EU's neighbourhood and enlargement policy. Since March 2020, he is Visiting Researcher at the Europe Strategy Research Institute of Ludovika University of Public Service where he has published extensively on the EU's security and defence policy, as well as the EU's enlargement policy and the Western Balkans. From 2022 to 2023, he was policy director of Blue Door Consulting. Currently he is working on multilateral diplomacy and human rights as Head of Department for International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary.

Bálázs Péter Molnár is a lawyer and diplomat. In 2022 he graduated from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest. He is author of several articles, a guest lecturer at Eötvös Loránd University and the University of Debrecen. He is married and the father of three children. Since 2023 he holds the position of Deputy State Secretary responsible for European Policies (European Director) at the Ministry of European Union Affairs. From April 2023 he worked as Deputy State Secretary Responsible for the Preparation of the Operational Tasks of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2024 at the Ministry of Justice/Ministry of European Union Affairs. Between 2018 and 2023 he worked as the Vice-President for Strategy and Coordination at the Mária Kopp Institute for Demography and Families. From 2016 to 2018, he served as Deputy State Secretary for European Union Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office. In the period between 2012 and 2016 he was Family and Social Affairs Attaché at the Hungarian Permanent Representations to the European Union in Brussels. From 2010 to 2011 he worked as a presidency diplomat at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the United Nations in Vienna. Between 2001 and 2010 he worked as a public servant responsible for drug prevention.

Tibor Navracsics is the Minister for Regional Development of the Government of Hungary, and Senior Research Fellow at the Europe Strategy Research Institute of the Ludovika University of Public Service. He graduated in 1990 from Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Law. In 1999, he received his doctorate in political science from the same institution. Between 2006 and 2014, he was Member of the Hungarian Parliament. From 2010 to 2014, he held the position of Minister of Public Administration and Justice and Deputy Prime Minister. In 2014, he was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and between 2014 and 2019 he worked as the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. He was Head of the Europe Strategy Research Institute at Ludovika University of Public Service until June 2022 and the Government Commissioner of the Veszprém–Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture program. He is also Honorary Professor at Ludovika University of Public Service and Associate Professor at the Institute of Political Science of Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Law.

Bálint Ódor, PhD is Head of Hungary's Permanent Representation to the EU, representing Hungary in the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper II). He studied at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland from 1994 to 1999, where he obtained a degree in economics. In 2013, he earned his PhD degree from the Department of International Relations at Corvinus University of Budapest. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the impacts of the introduction of the

double majority in the Council. He started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000. Between 2010 and 2014, he was Deputy State Secretary for European Union Affairs, Director for Europe and Secretary of the Interministerial Committee for European Coordination at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He played an active role in the 2011 Hungarian EU Presidency. Bálint Ódor was Ambassador of Hungary to Canada from 2014 to 2020. Between 2020 and 2022, he represented Hungary in the EU Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and acted as PSC Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU in Brussels.

Viktor György Oroszi, PhD graduated as a geographer and environmental researcher (specialist in nature conservation). He obtained his PhD degree in earth sciences at the University of Szeged in 2010, as a result of his research about the floodplain development of the River Maros. In 2007, he started his professional career as project coordinator with the green NGO network Danube Environmental Forum. Between 2012 and 2016, he was lecturer at the University of Pécs and guest lecturer at foreign universities, later, he was lecturer at the Budapest Business School. In 2016, he became a senior expert of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of environmental risks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Since 2019, he is the Hungarian national coordinator of the EUSDR. He is the secretary of the Danube Valley Territorial Committee of the Hungarian Geographical Society, which recognised his activities with a Pro Geographia certificate in 2019. In 2022, upon recommendation of the Faculty of Water Sciences, the Ludovika University of Public Service awarded him the title of Honorary Associate Professor.

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Tamás Pálvölgyi, PhD is Vice Dean at the Ludovika University of Public Service, Faculty of Water Sciences. He started his career as a climate researcher, then worked in various positions in the Ministry of Environment in the 1990s. From 2000, he was lecturer at the Department of Environmental Economics at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, and between 2016 and 2020, he was Head of the Department. Between 2013 and 2017, he was Senior Research Fellow and then Deputy Director of the Hungarian Geological and Geophysical Institute. Pálvölgyi was one of the founders and later, Director of the National Climate Adaptation Centre. Since 2017 he volunteers at the Climate Friendly Communities Association to strengthen its scientific profile and provide professional, methodological and climate policy support. From 2022 he worked as Associate Professor at Ludovika University of Public Service. In 2023 he was appointed Vice Dean for International and Strategic Affairs at the Faculty of Water Sciences, and is Head of the Department of Water and Environmental Policies.

Bernadett Petri is researcher at the Europe Strategy Research Institute, from February 2023 she is also the Executive Director of the Hungarian Development Promotion Office (MFOI), which operates as a background institution of the Prime Minister's Office, and as of March 2023 she

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Gyula Reich is a certified civil engineer, graduating from Budapest University of Technology in 1969. He started his career as a designer, then worked in various positions at the Office of National Water Affairs. His areas of expertise include the institutional system of water management, its macro aspects, regional water management systems, structural issues of integrated water management. His activities mainly covered the capital of Budapest and the Tisza valley. He participated in the development of the National Water Strategy (Kvassay Jenő Plan 2017) as editor-in-chief. Since 1970 he has been involved in almost every major flood defence response in a managerial position. He is the author of 70 comprehensive studies, and has authored and co-authored 30 scientific articles and books. He is founder of the Hungarian national chapter of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) network. He has received numerous professional awards, including the Vásárhelyi Pál award. He is Vice-President of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers, and Secretary of the Water Science Council since 2014.

Katalin Reinitz is an expert of institutional affairs at the Ministry of European Affairs. During her international relations MA studies at the Corvinus University of Budapest she received the Hungarian Public Administration Scholarship within the framework of which she started her career at the Deputy State Secretariat for EU Coordination in the Prime Minister's Office. In this period she was involved in the national coordination of Brexit, then, during a three-month posting in Brussels she followed the negotiations on Brexit in the Council of the European Union. Since 2020 she has been working at the Department for EU Coordination in the Ministry of Justice, later, the Ministry of European Affairs. Since 2021 she is the Head of the Institutional Affairs Unit.

Mária Réti, PhD has been teaching at Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Law for several decades and is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Agrarian Law, in charge of the BA of Judicial Administration. Her research focuses on agrarian law, food law, law of cooperatives, company law, real estate law and environmental law, including mainly the law of agri-environmental protection. Her research activities in the mentioned areas of law are also international in scope, covering the relevant legislation of some European and non-European countries and the relevant international trends, as well as the law of the European Union, in particular, the regulatory regime of the Common Agricultural Policy. She is the author and co-author of numerous teaching materials and publications in Hungarian and foreign languages, editor of scientific volumes, and chairman of the editorial board and reviewer of scientific journals. In the doctoral programs of several universities, she is chairman and member of the Evaluation and Comprehensive Examination Committee for doctoral procedures, and she is also a supervisor at ELTE at the Faculty of Law. She is a member of

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Ferenc Robák was Government Commissioner during the first Hungarian EU Presidency. He is an economist, Ambassador and Honorary Associate Professor. He has 40 years of experience in diplomacy, including 22 years in the foreign service: in Algeria, France, Tunisia, Belgium and Strasbourg as Consul, Economic Counsellor, Ambassador and Head of Mission to the Council of Europe. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working through the civil service hierarchy, he became Head of Department, then Head of State and Foreign Protocol. He acted as Delegation Secretary for the Vatican negotiations, was responsible for the establishment of OECD contacts, and for the preparation of the content and format of several visits by presidents and prime ministers. Drawing on his Mediterranean experience, he is the first Hungarian Euro-Mediterranean Chief Officer. As Government Commissioner, he led the organisation of the Hungarian EU Presidency, and for his activities he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary. After finishing his career in foreign affairs, he lectured on diplomacy-related topics at several universities, he is Honorary Associate Professor at the Ludovika University of Public Service, and lecturer at diplomatic academies. He is co-author of the Diplomatic Encyclopaedia, textbooks in Administrative Protocol and Economic Diplomacy. He participated in two volumes on Hungarian-French relations at Ludovika. He is the recipient of numerous high level foreign awards.

László Sinka is Head of the EU General Affairs, Economic Policy and Migration Department at the Ministry of European Affairs. After graduating from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, he started his career in the Parliament, where he was a clerk in the European Union department of the Foreign Office, then head of unit. After Hungary joined the EU, between 2004–2009, he led the Brussels office of the Parliament. In 2011, as the Head of the Department of Internal Affairs, Justice and Enlargement in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he actively participated in the work of the Hungarian EU Presidency, one of the outstanding results of which was the conclusion of the Croatian accession negotiations. From 2013, he was the Head of the European Director's Secretariat, and in 2014 he became the Head of the Foreign Affairs Secretariat of the Minister of Justice. Between 2015–2019 he was the Deputy Head of the Embassy of Hungary in Ottawa. From 2019 to 2022 he headed the EU Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Balázs Tárnok, PhD is Managing Director of the Europe Strategy Research Institute of the Ludovika University of Public Service. He is also Deputy Director of the Training Program on National Minorities at the Károli Interdisciplinary Academy at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church of Hungary, and Adviser on Minority Rights at the Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights, Budapest. He received his law degree (JD), LL.M. and PhD at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest. In 2021, he was the Hungary Foundation's Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Notre Dame, USA. Since 2018, he is the Vice-Chairman of the Rákóczi Association (Rákóczi Szövetség), one of the biggest Hungarian cultural civil society organisations. In 2022, he received the Lőrincz Csaba Award presented by the *Kisebbségékért – Pro Minoritate Foundation* to acknowledge his activities in the field of foreign and national minority policy. His research focuses on the law and policies of the EU, human rights and minority rights, the EU's participatory democracy and regional cooperation in Central Europe and the V4 Group.

Bettina Tóth graduated from the Ludovika University of Public Service in 2020 with a degree of BSc in International Security and Defence Policy, later, in 2022, she earned an MA degree in International Public Service. At the Europe Strategy Research Institute, she initially worked as an intern and is currently a researcher on the green policy of the European Union. In addition, she is a junior climate policy expert at the Institute for Energy Strategy, National Adaptation Unit.

Csaba Zalai is Deputy State Secretary, an economist and a diplomat. He is married and a father of four. Between 2022–2023 he served as Deputy State Secretary for EU policy (European Director) first in the Ministry of Justice and later in the Ministry of European Union Affairs responsible for chairing the Intergovernmental Committee for EU Coordination in line with the Ministry's overall governmental responsibility for the coordination of EU affairs. In addition, he was responsible for the preparation of the Hungarian EU Presidency in the second half of 2024, in particular for the overall governmental coordination of its preparation and implementation, including the substantive tasks related to the Presidency and the selection of the Presidency Staff. Between 2018–2022 he was the deputy of the Chief EU adviser (sherpa) of the Prime Minister in the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office. Between 2015–2018 he served as Ambassador and EU Senior Expert seconded to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in Skopje. Between 2013–2015 he was Deputy Chief of Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Between 2007–2012 he served as *Antici* diplomat at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU in Brussels, also during the first Hungarian EU Presidency in the first half of 2011. Between 2005–2007 he was Head of Department first in the Office for EU Affairs and later in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1999 and 2004 he held various offices (desk officer, later Head of Unit and then Deputy Head of Department) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He graduated in 1998 from the Corvinus University in Budapest. In 2011 he was awarded with the Golden Cross of Merit of Hungary.