

Junos Budapest Study-Trip 2023

On Friday, October 27, 2023, the Junos embarked on a joint journey to Budapest. In addition to the Junos, 3 other organizations, namely SRS (romania, <https://www.instagram.com/usrtineret/>), Nowoczesna Youth (poland, <https://www.mlodzinowoczesni.org/>) and TizenX (hungary, <https://tizenx.momentum.hu/>). also participated in this trip. In Budapest, a total of 30 individuals from 4 different countries came together and participated in 5 exciting events, providing a deeper insight into Hungarian politics and an opportunity for international networking.

Day 1 began after a six-hour train journey with a visit to the Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy in Budapest. Here, the participants were introduced to the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in areas such as economics, culture, and communication with the Hungarian government and other embassies. They discussed the importance of these collaborations but also the challenges posed by Hungary's LGBTQ-hostile government, economic problems due to the lack of EU funding, and Hungary's questionable inflation policies. Participants had the opportunity to engage in bilateral discussions to further expand their knowledge of the embassy's work and specific subject matters.



Furthermore, in collaboration with the Union of European Federalists (UEF), a panel discussion on the topic "How to escape illiberal control?" was held at Andrassy University. Speakers from various political backgrounds, including Eszter Nagy, the President of UEF,



Andras Lederer, the Head of Advocacy at the Helsinki Committee, Balasz Sean Brandt, the President of JEF hungary and Jozsef Peter Martin, the executive Director of Transparency International in Hungary, painted a clear picture of a corrupt and fully controlling government that allocates tax funds and state contracts among friends and disregards consequences at the EU level. The discussion also addressed the

Hungarian government's hostility toward migrants and its significant contribution to illegal migration in neighboring countries. Following the discussion, participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and further discuss with each other and the experts in a casual setting.

The second day of this 3-day trip began with participation in an event by the Renew Europe Group, featuring impressive speeches on the topic of liberal democracy and the current situation in Hungary. A representative of the Polish Civic Coalition (KO) was also present, providing insight into the political situation in Poland and concluding with the words "never stop advocating and fighting for democracy," appealing to all present to advocate for democracy in their respective countries and protect it at all costs.



Subsequently, a collective youth workshop titled "Prototyping for action: Together against anti-democratic backlash" took place, allowing Hungarian youth organizations to showcase their work and collaborate with participants on various topics.



On the final day of this journey, the last independent Hungarian radio station, Klub Radio, was visited. During this visit, Chief Editor Andras Arato shared his extensive professional experience, including how the Hungarian government unjustly revoked the station's frequency and its ability to broadcast on conventional radio. He also discussed legal disputes and how the station educated its audience on utilizing the internet to remain present even without a frequency. Today, the station is funded solely through private donations and continues to fight as the only opposition station against the monopoly of government media.



Finally, there was an opportunity to participate in a sightseeing tour and enjoy the remaining afternoon in Hungary freely.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those who made this trip possible and organized it, as well as to all the participants who made it an unforgettable experience.



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