



“A Day of Indigenous Grape Varieties”

Conference on Viticulture and Oenology in the Western Balkans

The role and prospects of Balkan and Pannonian autochthonous and new-generation (Piwi) varieties in future European wine markets

Workshop on Viticulture and Oenology in the Western Balkans and Pannonia

Thursday, October 8

10:00–12:30 Opening and Plenary Session – together with the Main conference

12:30–14:00 Lunch

Kodály Centre, University of Pécs, Hungary

14:00–17:30 The role and prospects of Balkan and Pannonian autochthonous and new-generation (piwi) varieties in future European wine markets workshop – session 1

Chair: **Dr. Péter Teszlák**, Research Director, University of Pécs Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology

*University Library and Knowledge Centre
7622 Pécs, Universitas u. 2/a • Lecture hall floor “-1”*

19:00–22:00 Gala Dinner & Cultural Evening

Kodály Centre, University of Pécs, Hungary

Friday, October 9

10:00–11:00 Visit to the University of Pécs Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology

RIVO Pázmány Péter street site, University of Pécs, Hungary

11:00–13:00 The role and prospects of Balkan and Pannonian autochthonous and new-generation (piwi) varieties in future European wine markets workshop – session 2

Chair: **Dr. Péter Teszlák**, Research Director, University of Pécs Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology

University of Pécs Wine Estate, Szentmiklós Hill

13:00–14:00 Lunch

University of Pécs Wine Estate, Szentmiklós Hill

14:00–18:00 Pannonia meets Western Balkans – Public Wine Tasting

University of Pécs Wine Estate, Szentmiklós Hill

Gala Dinner Cultural Programme ♦ Kodály Centre

Harmónia Quartet

The ensemble was formed in 2000 by founding members of the Mozart Orchestra of the Pécs Basilica. In the early days of their existence, they primarily provided liturgical services for the bishop’s Masses. They regularly give concerts at prominent venues, such as the Basilica of Pécs, Szeged Cathedral, St Michael’s Cathedral in Veszprém, Pannonhalma, Tihany, Debrecen, and Budapest.

The year 2014 marked a significant milestone in the ensemble’s artistic life. It was then that they were invited to perform at the celebrations organised to mark the 70th birthday of the renowned Hungarian composer László Vidovszky, where they gave a concert consisting entirely of the composer’s works. Since then, they have premiered several contemporary works (Bartók Festival, Szombathely), most recently the string quartet and 12 microludiums of György Kurtég as part of the Kurtág 100 programme.

Every member of the ensemble is a musician with the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra, the internationally renowned resident orchestra of the Kodály Centre.

- **Orsolya Büttner** – *violin* (acting section leader of the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra)
- **Noémi Bartha** – *violin* (member of the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra)
- **Jaroslav Murin** – *viola* (principal violist of the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra, a teacher at the Pécs Secondary School of the Arts and a lecturer at the University of Pécs)
- **Viktória Szakács** – *cello* (member of the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra, teacher at the Pécs Secondary School of the Arts)

Berislav Jerković is the director and a professor at the Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek, as well as an opera singer. He first worked with the quartet in 2023, when they performed Schubert’s song cycle *Winterreise*. Since then, they have also performed together in Slavonski Brod, Djakovo, Kotor, Pécs, and Belgrade.

Programme:

Béla Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances

James Scott: Balkan Songs and Dances

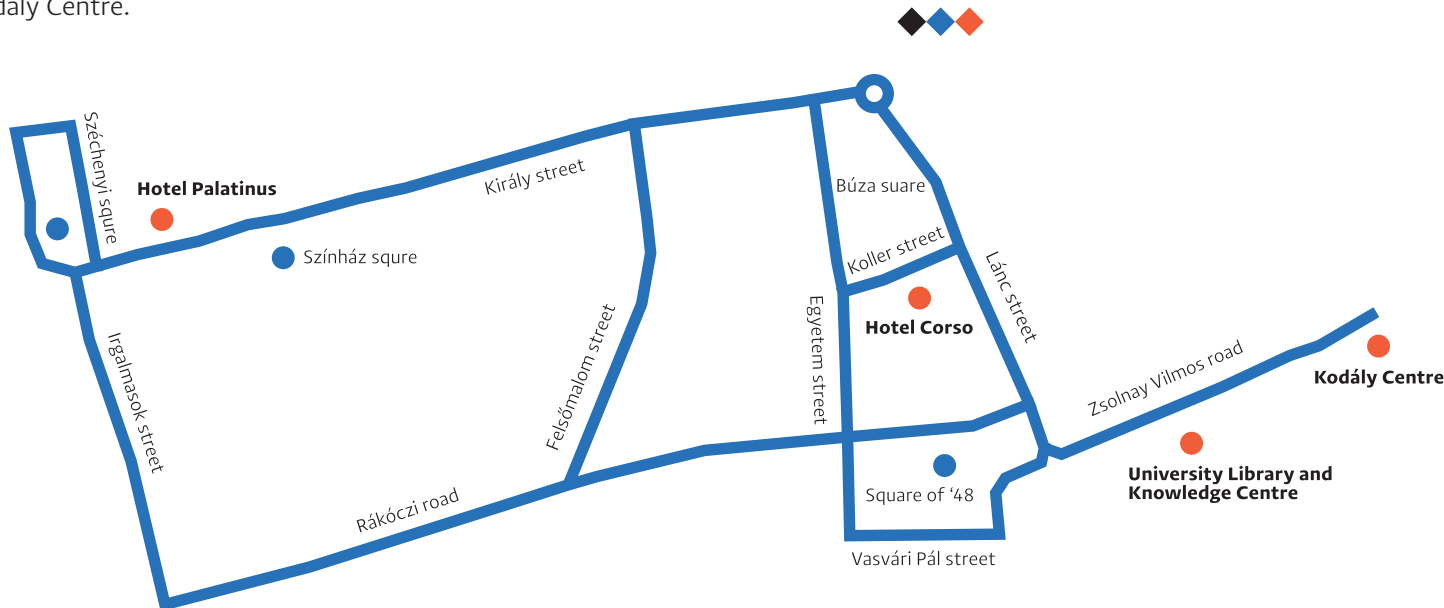
Jerry Bock: If I Were a Rich Man

Surprise Performance of the rightly renowned Béla Bartók Male Choir

The all-male choir was founded in 1945 in Pécs, and it has been led by **Liszt Prize-winning conductor Prof. Dr. Tamás Lakner** since 1980. **The choir is famous for its impressive collection of 42 prizes and awards from various international choir competitions.**

The years 2006 and 2008 were particularly successful for the group, as the 4th Choir Olympics in China and the 5th Choir Olympics in Austria brought Pécs **the All-Male Choir Olympic Championship twice.** In 2014, the Pécs men once again fascinated the jury and audience, resulting in an absolute first prize at the Beijing International Competition for Choirs. As a result of the high artistic reputation, the chorus has been invited to make tours in Europe as well as in the US, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and China. “Bartók Béla” Male Choir has been the host ensemble of the Convivial Wine Song Festivals since its very beginning in 1993.

Conductor Tamás Lakner was recently awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of Pécs in September 2026.



Google map



WESTERN BALKANS FORUM on Higher Education and Innovation

October 8–9, 2026 | University of Pécs, Hungary



University of Pécs
1367





Day 1: Strategic Vision & Regional Cooperation

The Future of Higher Education in the Western Balkans:
Integration, Innovation, and Internationalisation

8:00–9:00 **Arrival & Registration**
Welcome coffee & informal networking

9:00–9:15 **Opening Ceremony** • *Concert hall*

Prof. Adrián Fábíán, Rector, University of Pécs

9:15–10:00 **Opening Keynote**
Bridging Regions, Building Futures: The Role of Higher Education in Regional Integration

Prof. Jo Ritzen [previously Dutch Minister for Education and Science, then President of Maastricht University, and is now the driving force behind ‘Empower European Universities’ (EEU)]

10:00–11:00 **Panel 1 – Regional Leadership Dialogue** • *Concert hall*

From Aspiration to Accession: What Role Does Higher Education Play in EU Integration?

- **Katalin Kurucz**, Deputy State Secretary, European Union and International Affairs, Ministry of Education and Children, Hungary
- **Prof. Jasna Durakovic**, Minister of Education and Science, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Hajrulla Çeku**, Minister of Education and Science, Republic of Kosovo
- **Prof. Jo Ritzen** former Minister of Education, the Netherlands, former vice-president of the World Bank
Moderator: **Ferenc Németh**, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute for Foreign Affairs

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30–12:30 **Panel 2 – Global Trends & Regional Impact** • *Concert hall*

The Changing Landscape of International Higher Education: Challenges & Opportunities for the Western Balkans

- **Bíborka Molnár-Gábor**, Deputy Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund
- **Rob van Schaijk**, Business Unit Manager UKI & EMEA at Studyportals
- **Prof. Dr. Christos Michalakelis**, President, Study in Greece
Moderator: **Prof. István Tarrósy**, University of Pécs

12:30–14:00 **Networking Lunch** • *Reception hall*



14:00–15:15 **Parallel Workshops – Session I**

Track A: Strategy & Policy • *F08/1*
How Can Universities Strategically Prepare for EU Membership?

- **Prof. Vesna Bratovčić**, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, University of Tuzla
- **Marija Filipović-Ožegović**, Director of Foundation Tempus, Serbia
- **Danilo Popovich**, project manager at Montenegro EU Project Consulting
- **Prof. Valentyna Yakubiv**, Rector of the EDUC Alliance associated member from Ukraine, Vasil Stefanyk Carpathian National University
Moderator: **Péter Tordai**, director-general, Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary

Track B: Curriculum development • *F119*
How to create locally relevant and globally competitive curriculum in the Western Balkans?

- **Cara Skikne**, Head of Sector Research and External Communications, Studyportals
- **Dr. Péter Merza**, senior lecturer, University of Pécs Faculty of Business and Economics
- **Dr. Albina Balidemaj**, President, RIT Kosovo
- **Bálint Koós**, vice-president of the European Student Union

Track C: Research & Innovation • *F08/2*
Accessing Horizon Europe and Other EU Research Frameworks

- **Ms Réka Jankovics**, Head of International Grants’ Department, University of Pécs
- **Prof. Afrim Hoti**, University of Prishtina, Kosovo
- **Prof. Ferenc Miszlivetz**, founder and general director, iASK
- **Ghislaine Glasson Deschaumes**, director, House SSH (MSH Mondes), University Paris Nanterre
Moderator: **Prof. Elisabeth Sándor Szalay**, University of Pécs, director; Council of Europe, ACFC member

15:15–15:45 **Coffee Break**

14:00–17:00 **Parallel event** • *Day 1, 8 October*

Hungarian Rectors’ Conference General Assembly
University Library and Knowledge Centre
7622 Pécs, Universitas u. 2/a • Conference room floor “0”

15:30–15:45 **Coffee Break** • *Floor “-1”*



15:45–17:00 **Parallel Workshops – Session II – Innovation and Partnerships**

Track A: Excellence from the Edge • *F08/1*
What Makes a Regional University Globally Competitive?

- **Carina Eriksson**, Director of International Relations, Karlstad University, Sweden
- **Dr. Theodoros Papaioannou**, Director-General, Study in Greece
- **Marko Delic**, Head of Marketing, DreamApply
Moderator: **Prof. Eszter Lukács**, Vice President for Global Strategy, Széchenyi István University

Track B: The Role of Corporate Partnerships in 21st Century Higher Education • *F08/2*

- **Gecse Mariann**, Director of Public Affairs and Communication, Huawei Technologies Hungary and the Western Balkans
- **Ivan Paić**, Member of the Board, Koncar Group
- **Ervin Szél**, Regional Sales Representative for Western Balkans, MVM Group
- **Robert Spajić**, Member of the Board, Podravka Agri
- **Orsolya Kottászné Dr. Vass**, head of the Technology Transfer Department, University of Pécs
Moderator: **Dávid Siptár**, director of Innovation Management and Economic Relations, University of Pécs

19:00 **Gala Dinner & Cultural Evening** • *Kodály Centre Reception hall*

Day 2: Collaboration & Practical Solutions

Turning Dialogue into Action: Tools, Networks, and Partnerships

9:00–10:00 **Panel 3 – Fireside Chat** • *F08*

The Future University in Central and Eastern Europe: Building and Dismantling the Ivory Pyramid

- **Dr. Jody Jensen**, senior research fellow at the Institute of Political Sciences at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- **Prof. Maurits Van Rooijen**, Chief Executive (Academic), Global University Systems
- **Dr. Ivana Stepanovic**, research fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg, Hungary
- **Prof. Marko Hölbl**, Vice-rector for Research and Arts, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Moderator: **Dr. István Vilmos Kovács**, director for Learning and Teaching, Budapest Metropolitan University, Hungary



Track A: Institutional Development & Governance • *F08/1*
From Bologna to Beyond: Quality Assurance & Governance Models

- **Kathy Charles**, Executive Director of Education, Quality, and Partnerships, Nottingham Trent University
Moderator: **Dr. Balázs Németh**, Vice-president and Steering Committee member, European LifeLong Learning Platform and eucen Ambassador

Track B: University–Industry Collaboration • *F119*
Skills & Innovation: How to Build Meaningful Public–Private Partnerships

- **Prof. Florian Schweigert**, former VP at University of Potsdam, CEO of BioAnalyst GmbH
Moderator: **Prof. József Betlehem**, University of Pécs

Track C: Student Experience & Employability • *F08/2*
International Student Support & Career Services: Making Regional Universities Competitive

- **Ágnes Tóth**, Member of the Board of Trustees, Maecenas Universitatis Corvini Foundation | CEO
- **Edwin van Rest**, Founder and CEO, Studyportals
Moderator: **Dr. Norbert Sipos**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30–13:00 **Panel 4 – Partnerships in Practice** • *F08/1*

What Makes Regional and Cross-Border Partnerships Work?

- **Ana Nikolov**, Head of AEBR Balkans Office
- **Prof. Asst. Dr. Rozafa Basha**, Vice rector for Internationalisation and Academic Exchange, University of Prishtina
- **Slavomir Rudenko**, Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU), Director for International Affairs, Pan-European University (Slovakia)
- **Prof. István Tarrósy**, University of Pécs – Pécs’ partnerships with the region

Closing Session

Light Farewell Lunch & Departures • *Reception hall*

13:00