



15th  
European Union  
Contest for  
Young Scientists  
Budapest, Hungary  
20-26 September 2003



## Practical Guide to Budapest 2003





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## WELCOME

Soon, every participants of the 15<sup>th</sup> EU Contest for Young Scientists could meet each other in the historical capital of Hungary, in Budapest. I hope, you will get **inspiration** from the scientific and innovative atmosphere of the Millenary Park, the tradition of Budapest, the birthplace of many scientific greats and the dynamism of our country, Hungary.



The Contest gives a great chance to make friends and meet future colleges from not only all around Europe, but from all around the world. The EU Contest plays a scientific and even a cultural role as well. I believe, scientific and cultural diversity can be one of the greatest strengths of the European Union if it is not already. "**Varietas delectat**" - it was a belief even in the Roman times.

The EU Contest for Young Scientists are highlights of the scientific life of Europe, very important milestones of intercultural co-operation for teen-agers. I think this kind of co-operation, changing ideas, habits of thinking will lead to significant scientific achievements, later on. You know, science needs not only hard work, but **impulses** as well.

The Hungarian team together with the colleagues in Brussels has been working for more than one and a half year in order to feel yourself **magically** during the 15<sup>th</sup> EU Contest, namely the first magic number is precisely 15.

Welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> European Union Contest for Young Scientists in Budapest !

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'László Antos'.

dr. László Antos  
Host Organiser

The International Airport of Hungary is called Ferihegyi Airport.

**Contestant teams will be met by the organisers and guided to the contest hotel.**

Visitors who arrive on their own can choose three different ways to reach the Hotel Budapest, the hotel of the 15th EU Contest.

1. The **Airport Minibus** carries passengers by 8-11 persons Ford Transit mini buses to all destinations. The multi-language speaking drivers know very well Budapest and the simplest and fastest ways to take you to your final destination. Buses can be ordered in the arrival hall on desk or before departure 12 hours in advance by phone.

Minibus Order

Phone: 296 8555

Fax: 296 8993

Calls by phone will be served every day between 06.00-22.00.

Tariffs

The following tariffs are valid within Budapest:

- Full fare ticket one-way: HUF 2100
- Discounted roundtrip ticket: HUF 3600

2. You can call a **taxi** to the Ferihegyi Airport. Tele5 Co. is suggested, in this case the airport transfer costs HUF 3500 to the Budapest Hotel. You should say in advance, that airport transfer is requested.

Phone: 3-555-555 (Tele5 Taxi)

3. You can choose **public transport**, as well. Take the bus No. 93 to the end station (Kobánya-Kispest) of the underground (M3). You have to change the line at the Deák tér to another underground (M2) to the direction Déli pu. You have to get out at Moszkva square. Finally, you can reach the contest hotel by tram No. 56 (2 stops). It takes more than one and a half hour from the airport to the Hotel Budapest.

## YOUR HOTEL

### **Hotel Budapest** / Danubius Hotels Group /

The Hotel Budapest, a 4-star hotel, will be the accommodation centre of the 15th EU Contest. The hotel, with its unique cylindrical-shaped tower is located at the foot of the Castle Hill, within a few minutes reach of the centre of Buda. The hotel which offers a beautiful panorama of the city is waiting for the participants with a good deal of services. You can find private bath, direct-dial telephone, minibar, radio, colour TV with satellite programmes, electric current: 220 V, in each rooms of the hotel.



Category: \*\*\*\*

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Internet: [www.danubiusgroup.com/budapest](http://www.danubiusgroup.com/budapest)

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

## SATURDAY 20.09.2003

- Arrival of the participants (contestants, national organisers and escorts)
- Lunch
- Set-up of the stands
- Departure to castle district, guided tour in the castle district
- Walk to the building of Hungarian Academy of Sciences with guided tour
- Reception at Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Return to the hotel

## SUNDAY 21.09.2003

- Set-up of the stands
- Lunch
- Departure to Paks
- Lecture about the Nuclear Power Plant of Paks
- Departure to the plant, guided tour in the plant
- Trip to the city of Paks, visit the Holy Ghost church
- Dinner at "Topáz" restaurant, folklore programme
- Return to Budapest

## MONDAY 22.09.2003

- Jury interviews
- **Opening Ceremony and reception**
- Jury interviews
- Scientific lecture (prof. Vonderviszt)
- Departure to Pálvölgyi cave
- Tour in the Pálvölgyi cave, concert (Cotton Club Singers)
- Reception

- Return to the hotel

## TUESDAY 23.09.2003

- Jury interviews
- Sightseeing tour on a ship with lunch
- Jury interviews
- Departure to Visegrád
- Knights' tournament
- Dinner at "Nagy Villám" restaurant
- Return to Budapest

## WEDNESDAY 24.09.2003

- Jury interviews – group I.
- Free programme – group II.
- National Organisers' Meeting
- Lunch
- Jury interviews – group II.
- Free programme – group I.
- European Patent Office lecture
- Departure to the Parliament
- Guided tour in the Parliament
- Rehearsal for the Awards Ceremony
- Ship tour on the Danube with dinner
- Return to the hotel

## THURSDAY 25.09.2003

- Nobel Minds Meeting
- **Prize Giving Ceremony**
- Dismantling of the stands
- Farewell-dinner at "Ladik Csárda"

## FRIDAY 26.09.2003

- Transfer to the airport and departure

## The EXHIBITION HALL

### **Millenáris Exhibition and Event Centre**

39<sup>th</sup> Lövőház street, Budapest H-1024

Phone: (36-1) 458- 5300, Fax: (36-1) 438-5320

E-mail: millenaris@millenaris.hu

The Millenáris Exhibition and Event Centre was created on the site of the former Ganz factory in Budapest, built between 1844 and 1912.

The foundry produced railway wheels on the basis of the patented chilled casting method of Ganz, appraised and acknowledged all over the world, and later, under the supervision of András Mechwart, mills, developed on the basis of the same technology. Mechwart also played a decisive role in the foundation of the electric factory bordered by Lövőház street- Margaret ring- Kis Rókus street- Marcibányi square, where such renowned scientists were working, as Károly Zipernowsky, Titus Ottó Bláthy, Miksa Déri or György Jendrassik.

The basic principle of the concept of construction was to create an adequate environment for the exhibition highlighting the intellectual achievements of Hungarians and for the event programs. The architects approached the protected parts and forceful shapes of the buildings with outstanding civil engineering solutions, thus making it possible to preserve their individual character, with are harmonically, however characteristically joined by the newly added parts.

The „B” building, a national monument was preserved, also the „D” building, which due to environmental pollution only a partly could be preserved, the new „C” building, which link the two, and the park a lake between them and a garage underneath create the settings for the one of the Hungary’s biggest exhibition hall, the Millenáris Exhibition Hall.

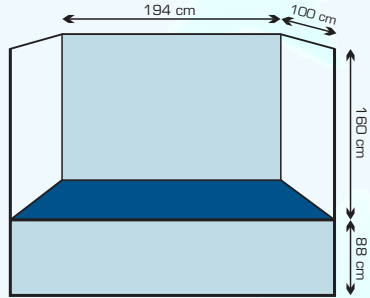
The converted mantling hall named „E” is now the Millenáris Theatre housing musical, theatrical and dance programs.

The „G” building, the Inn to the Millennium, houses professional meetings and other events that are associated with the exhibition and event programs. The main entrance is emphasized by the Tower, symbolizing the Heller-Forgó type cooling tower that is used in areas of the world where cooling problems must be solved economically through minimal use of water as a coolant.



### The Stand

The sidewalls are 160 cm high and 100 cm wide. The shelf is 88 cm above the floor. Please take into account that there will be a sign on the top front of the stand indicating the name, project and country of the participant.



*Display stand showing maximum dimensions*

### The Millenary Park



# CURRENCY, EXCHANGE, BANKS

## Currency

The official means of payment in Hungary is the Forint (Ft, HUF).

Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 HUF.

Bank notes: 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000, 20000 HUF.

1 EURO = 260 HUF (varying)

We will provide all meals and drinks, but if you want to buy something, the average costs are as follows:

Chocolate: 50 - 260 HUF

Cola (0,5 l): 160 HUF

Hot Dog, Hamburger: 260 HUF

Ice Cream: 80 - 100 HUF/scoop

## Exchange

In Hungary there are 28 banks (800 branches), 84 Savings banks (260 branches) and 599 businesses (2230 offices) involved in exchange.

There is no mandatory minimum amount for currency exchange.

## Banks

In Hungary banks are usually open between 8.00 - 16.00 on weekdays. Some banks are open on Saturday, but all are closed on Sunday. ATM machines and currency exchange machines are available throughout the country.

The credit cards – e.g. AMEX, Diners Club, EnRoute, Euro/Mastercard, JCB, VISA - can be used to withdraw cash from banks and ATM machines and to pay bills in hotels, restaurants and shops. Emblems at the entrance mark the shops where credit cards are accepted. Most banks have their own automated networks.

You can use your bank or credit card to get cash at post offices throughout Hungary. More than 3200 post offices nation-wide provide this service.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The public transportation network in Budapest is extended. Your hotel is located 10 minutes walking distance from the exhibition hall in the Millenary Park.

If you want to see the city, you can use a bus, tram or an underground (M1, M2, M3). Tickets must be bought in advance at ticket offices, tobacconists (Trafik), news agents or automatic machines. Tickets must be validated on vehicles or at the entrance to metro stations. A separate ticket must be validated for each metro line. Daily, 3-day-long, weekly and monthly season tickets are available or you can use the Budapest Card as a ticket.

Ticket for public transportation: 125 HUF/route

## CLIMATE

Hungary is situated in the temperate zone, on the borderline of, and affected by, three large climatic zones: oceanic, continental and Mediterranean. It is prone to rhapsodic weather changes and, due to the relative isolation of the Carpathian Basin, the climate has a tendency for droughts, especially on the Great Plain.

The annual average mean temperature is 9.7 °C in the whole of the country and 11.2 °C in Budapest. The mean temperature in the hottest month, July, is 23 °C, in the coldest month, January, -2.1 °C. On a hot summer day temperatures may reach 33-38 °C, while in cold winters temperature may drop to -25.0, -30.0 °C.

In **Budapest**, the temperature varies between 12 °C and 25 °C in September, humidity amounts 44%. The climate is mild and sunny at the beginning of autumn, but rain is not unusual.

# CLOTHING

When considering what to pack for your trip to Budapest you should be prepared for three different kinds of clothing:

## Casual

The every day attire when you are exhibiting your project is casual. Jeans, trousers or skirts will do.

## Outdoors

We will have several outdoor visits. Among these there is a trip to the Nuclear Power Plant of Paks, a tour in the Pálvölgyi cave and a Knights' tournament in Visegrád. You should bring warm jackets or a raincoat and trousers. It can be cool in evenings.

## Opening and award ceremony, "Meeting with the Nobel Minds"

You will participate in some very important events (e.g. the award ceremony in the Parliament). Many invited guest will be there, it is our special honour to welcome the President of the Hungarian Republic and Hungarian Ministers at the opening ceremony.

We would very pleased if you dress in your traditional national costume for the opening and award ceremonies, but if this is difficult for you it is possible to wear a nice dress or a dark suit.

## EMERGENCIES

If there is an emergency of any kind, please contact one of the student helpers or the Host Organiser: **Dr. László Antos: +36/30-515-9036**

In the hotel you can call medical service by the help of the reception or directly: 2000-100, Fónix Co., 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year.

- Ambulance: 104
- Fire Brigade: 105
- Police: 107

**We expect that every participants have organised adequate health, accident, and travel insurance.**

## TELEPHONE

Country Code for Hungary: 36

City Code for Budapest: 1

International calls: 00 + country code + phone number

Domestic long distance calls: 06 + area code + local phone number

Telephone numbers in Budapest consist of 7 numbers; phone numbers elsewhere in Hungary consist of 8 numbers, two-digit area code first.

The public phones work with 10, 20, 50 and 100 HUF coins or with phone-cards available at hotels, post offices, petrol stations, newsagents, kiosks and street vendors. The minimum charge for a call is 20 HUF.

- Telephone wakening service: 193
- Directory inquiries: 198
- International directory inquiries: 199
- Special inquiry: 267-6767

## MEALS

The Hungarian kitchen is famous all around the world. The traditional Hungarian kitchen are characterized by spicy dishes rich in calories and carbohydrates. Most dishes are made with lard and aren't lacking in the rightly famous Hungarian onions and paprika.

**The Millenary Park is open to the public. To avoid problems with other people we will give a name-badge for you. Please don't loose this badge!**

### Breakfast

Every morning you can have breakfast with a buffet-style at the Hotel Budapest. Tea, milk, cocoa and coffee will be offered for the active awakening.

### Lunch

We will prepare a self-service lunch on Sunday and Wednesday at the Millenary Park. We will give a reception at the opening and award ceremony. On Tuesday the warm lunch will be served under way.

### Snack

A mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack will be available for the participants in the Millenary Park.

### Dinner

Dinners are served according to the events, e.g. the reception at Hungarian Academy of Sciences, at the "Nagy Villám" Restaurant in Visegrád etc. The farewell-dinner will be held at the "Ladik Csárda".

### Drinks

We prepare fruit juices, soft drinks and mineral water for the participants. Alcoholic drinks are not allowed during the EU Contest, except the farewell-dinner.

## HARD FACTS about HUNGARY

### Geographical location:

Hungary is located in Central Europe, in the Carpathian basin, among seven neighbouring countries (Slovakia, the Ukraine, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria).

**Area:** 93,030 sq kilometres

### Total length of the state

**borders:** 2,216.8 km

**Population:** 10.19 million persons, Capital city: Budapest (pop. 2 million)

**People:** 89.9% Hungarian, 4% Gypsy, 2.6% German, 0.8% Slovak, 0.7% Romanian

**Religion:** 68% Roman Catholic, 21% Reformed (Calvinist), 6% Evangelical (Lutheran), 5% Other

**Official language:** Hungarian

**Official currency:** Forint

**Government:** Parliamentary democracy

**President:** dr. Ferenc Mád1

**Highest peak:** Kékes (1014 m)

**Lowest point:** Gyálarét (78 m)

**Main rivers:** Duna (Danube) (length in Hungary: 417 km), Tisza (length in Hungary: 596 km), Lajta, Rábca, Rába, Zala, Dráva, Ipoly, Zagyva, Sajó, Hernád, Bodrog, Szamos, Hármaskörös and Maros

**Largest lakes:** Balaton (596 square kilometres), Velencei-tó (26 square kilometres), Fertő-tó (southern part, 75 square kilometres)

**Geographic regions:** Alföld (Great Plain), Kisalföld (Small Plain), Nyugat-Magyarországi peremvidék or Alpokalja (Western Hungary or Lower Alps), Dunántúli-dombság (Transdanubia hills), Dunántúli-középhegység (Transdanubia mountain range) and Északi-középhegység (Northern mountain range)



**Official holidays:** **1 January** (New Year's Day), **15 March** (start of the 1848/49 revolution and war of independence, national holiday), **1 May** (Labour Day), **20 August** (foundation of state, celebration of King Saint Stephen, national and state holiday), **23 October** (start of the 1956 revolution and war of independence, date of the declaration of the Republic of Hungary in 1989, national holiday), **1 November** (All Saints' Day), **25-26 December** (Christmas)

**Events:** Hungary's major celebration is the **Budapest Spring Festival** (March), a two-week cultural extravaganza of local and international performances, conferences and exhibitions. Other important events include: the **Budapest Film Festival** (February), which premieres new Hungarian films; **Busójárás** (Mohács; February also), the nation's top Mardi Gras; Sopron **Festival Weeks** (Sopron; June/July), showcasing ancient music and dance performances; the **Folk Arts Festival** (Nagykálló; August), one of the biggest and best events of the year; and **Jazz Days** (Debrecen; September), which is Hungary's top jazz festival.

**Parts of the World Heritage:** Hungarian treasures included in the World Heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):

- **In Budapest**, the panorama of the two banks of the River Danube in Budapest and the Buda Castle District (on the Buda side, the section from the Buda bridgehead of Petőfi bridge to Viziváros (Water Town) and the Castle Hill including the Gellért Hill and the Tabán, and on the Pest side the area between the Pest bridgehead of Margaret bridge and Petőfi bridge including the Parliament (1987),
- **Hollókő**, the 55 authentic houses in the old village among the Cserhát hills (1987),
- **Aggtelek stalactite cave system**, stretching into Slovakia (1995),
- the Benedictine Abbey and church in Pannonhalma, the Millenary Monument, the Stations of the Cross and the Blessed Virgin's chapel (1996),
- **Hortobágy National Park**, one of the largest and protected short-grass plains in Europe, including the Nine-hole bridge in Hortobágy, the Hortobágy Inn and the Shepherd Museum (1999),
- the complex of early **Christian monuments in Pécs**: the burial hall and its painted chambers (2000).



Hungary's capital straddles a gentle curve in the Danube. It's the administrative as well as the business and cultural centre of Hungary, and virtually everything that happens in the country starts, finishes or is taking place here. But the beauty of Budapest is what really makes it stand apart. Its broad avenues, leafy parks and harmonious blend of architectural styles has earned it the nickname the 'Pearl of the Danube'. Budapest also has a turn-of-the-century feel to it, for it was then - during the industrial boom and the capital's heyday - that most of the city was built. The city is well laid-out, rarely confusing, and ideal for walking.



The walled **Castle District** is the premier destination for visitors, and contains some of Budapest's most important monuments and museums. It consists of two distinct parts: the **Old Town**, where commoners lived during medieval times; and the **Royal Palace**, the original site of a castle built in the 13th century. The Old Town is filled with attractively painted streets, decorative churches and the famous **Fishermen's Bastion**. The latter was built as a viewing platform in 1905, and named after the guild of fishermen responsible for defending this stretch of wall in the Middle Ages. It has commanding views over the city, and is dominated by seven gleaming turrets (representing the seven

Magyar tribes who entered the Carpathian Basin in the 9th century), and a statue of St Stephen on horseback. Immediately south of the Old Town is the Royal Palace. Razed, rebuilt and redesigned over the past seven centuries, the palace houses a number of museums, including the **National Gallery**, which has an enormous collection devoted exclusively to Hungarian art.

The oldest and one of the most interesting parts of the city is **Óbuda**. The area is remarkable for its Roman ruins, and its small, quiet neighbourhoods which seem unchanged since the turn of the century. It also has its fair share of museums, including the **Kiscelli Museum**, which features an impressive art collection and rooms furnished with Empire, Biedermeier and Art-Nouveau furniture. North of Óbuda is the Roman civilian town of **Aquincum**, the most complete in Hungary. Established at the end of the 1st century, it was among the most developed towns on the continent with sumptuous single-storey houses, fountains and courtyards. Not much remains of that today, but you can still see their outlines as well as those of the big public baths, market and a temple devoted to the sun god Mithras. The **Aquincum Museum** tries to put it all in perspective, you can check out the 3rd-century water organ, pottery moulds and floor mosaics, and the sculptures and stone sarcophagi outside.

Except stressing the two districts above, Budapest's other highlights include a cruise along the Danube, strolling along the riverfront or across romantic bridges, browsing through antique bookshops and jewellery stores in the city center, or 'taking the waters' at one of the city's many **spas**. The City park, the Hero's square, the Parliament, the Váci St. etc. can be found on the left side of the Danube, in **Pest**.

The Ecseri flea market (in the 19<sup>th</sup> district, south of the city) is one of the best and biggest in Eastern Europe, and sells everything from Soviet army watches to Fred Astaire top hats.

Budapest has an ample choice of things to do after dark - from opera, theater, ballet and dance to rock, pop, jazz, and meat-market discos, what you want.

## The HUNGARIAN ORGANISERS



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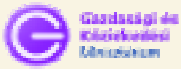
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European Commission  
Research Directorate-General



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