



The event gathered over 80 participants from 53 countries, spanning the Global South and Global North

Bridging the Paradigm Shift: Governance, Technology, Socioecosystems

February 24–28, 2025 / Kőszeg

iASK
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES KŐSZEG

iSES
Institute for Social and European Studies
Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence

7th UNESCO MOST Winter School



Ondřej Kučera (Charles University, Prague) and other iASK fellows at the Opening Ceremony



Éva Stefánich (iASK) presenting the Library (Sgraffito House)



Meerimai Muratbekova (ELTE University, Budapest) at the Panel on Paradigm Shifts in an Era of Escalation: Transformative Technologies, Conflict Dynamics, and Science Diplomacy (Bibó Room)

7th UNESCO MOST (Management of Social Transformations Programme) Winter School

Bridging the Paradigm Shift: Governance, Technology, Socioecosystems
February 24-28, 2025 | Kőszeg, Hungary & Online

80+ participants from 53 countries worldwide

Organised by the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK) in collaboration with UNESCO Chair for Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability | Bibó István College for Advanced Studies of ELTE University | Institute for Social and European Studies Foundation (ISES)

Reaffirming the importance of bridging disciplines and geographies in search of global solutions for sustainable and inclusive futures

Under the theme of *Bridging the Paradigm Shift: Governance, Technology, Socioecosystems*, the program explored the intersections of art, science, governance, technology, and society to address contemporary challenges and promote interdisciplinary dialogue through academic discussions, cultural engagement, and policy-oriented debates, fostering an exchange among scholars, artists, policymakers, and civil society representatives.

Sessions

- transformative technologies
- conflict dynamics
- science diplomacy



János Bogárdi (iASK, University of Bonn and Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary) chairing the Panel



Stefano Bianchini (University of Bologna) and Jody Jensen (iASK) at the EU-Balkan Observatory Panel

- AI and robotics
- environmental humanities, cultural heritage, regional governance
- security, and sustainability

Panels

- memory as a political tool
- ecological design
- new legal frameworks for peace

The Winter School's transdisciplinary approach integrated arts, social and natural sciences, gastronomy, and cultural programs such as workshops, exhibitions, music performances, and local heritage explorations, enriching their understanding of contemporary global issues through creative and experiential learning.



Anikó Magasházi (iASK) chairing the Global Intersections: Evolving and Preserving Cultural Heritage Across Borders Panel



Paradigm Shifts in an Era of Escalation: Transformative Technologies, Conflict Dynamics, and Science Diplomacy (Bibó Room)



Shaping the Future: Political and Legal Culture in East-Central Europe
 Áron Fábián (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies) and
 Márton Matyasovszky-Németh (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies)

iASK
 INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES K Ö S Z E G



EU-Balkan Observatory
 Elira Luli (iASK, Ludrasi University, Albania)



iASK

Left to right: Nikita Shishov (Vyatka State University, Kirov, Russia), Kariuki Weru (UNU-EHS), Amila Ahmethodzic (International University of Sarajevo) at the Magdolna Mihály Exhibition opening



Éva Stefánich (iASK fellow)

Klaus Wälder (Former ambassador, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs) and Stephanie Fenkart (Director of the International Institute for Peace, Austria)

iASK 
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES KÖSZÉG



Ivana Stepanović (iASK fellow)

Gábor Soós (Secretary-General, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO) at the kick-off ceremony



Bernmet Derbishova (ELTE University, Budapest) at the Opening Ceremony

Day 1: Opening Ceremony and Science Diplomacy in a Changing World

Interdisciplinary exploration of governance, technology, and socio-ecosystems with a focus on bridging disciplinary and geographical divides

The role of science in resolving global crises, exploring the tensions between disruption and stability in the face of climate change, armed conflicts, resource crises, and the rapid rise of AI. Engaging discussions highlighted how interdisciplinary research and innovation can drive solutions in an era of uncertainty.

Welcome speeches

Gábor Soós (Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO) | Béla Básthy (Mayor of Kőszeg)
Ferenc Miszlivetz (Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg - iASK) | Gustavo Merino (UNESCO, Director for Social Policies), via video address

László Bódis (Deputy State Secretary, Hungary) and Dr. Júlia Sztáray (Ministry of Culture and Innovation, Hungary) joined the opening session, reinforcing the policy relevance of the discussions ahead.

Panels

Paradigm Shifts in an Era of Escalation: Transformative Technologies, Conflict Dynamics, and Science Diplomacy
On the intersection of scientific progress and international relations, how technological advances are reshaping diplomacy and global security frameworks.



Ferenc Miszlivetz (director, iASK)



Maureen Alinda, participant

Chaired by János Bogárdi (iASK, University of Bonn, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)

Keynote Speeches

Norbert Kroó (iASK, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) and Tibor Tóth (Executive Secretary Emeritus, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization) offered insight into emerging technologies influencing global governance.

The role of science diplomacy in fostering peaceful cooperation and mitigating geopolitical tensions

Panelists

Emil Brix (Diplomatic Academy, Austria – online) | Daniel Brooks (iASK, University of Toronto, Canada)
Dezso Boda (University of Pannonia, Hungary) | Péter Dombi (Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungary)
András Gelencsér (University of Pannonia, Hungary) | Jody Jensen (iASK, Hungary)
Szabolcs Márka (Columbia University, USA)

Forging Global Peace and Security: Governance, Justice, and Equality in a Turbulent World

On international collaboration and governance, perspectives on security, justice, and equitable governance, emphasizing the importance of inclusive and participatory policy frameworks.

Panelists

Sean Cleary (Strategic Concepts, South Africa – online) | Jekatyerna Dunajeva (Budapest Corvinus University, Hungary) | Stephanie Fenkart (International Institute for Peace, Austria) | Miklós Király (ELTE, Hungary)
Nenad Markovikj (Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia) | Luka Martin Tomažič (Alma Mater Europaea University, Slovenia) | Kivanç Ulusoy (Istanbul University, Turkey) emphasized the importance of inclusive and participatory policy frameworks. | Chaired by Ferenc Mészlivetz (iASK, Hungary)

The day concluded with a musical performance by Zoltán Mizsei (iASK, Hungary), celebrating the interplay between culture and intellectual exchange followed by a reception.



Wine tasting (Europe House)



From the centre to right: Nikita Shishov, Kariuki Weru, Amila Ahmethodzic at the Magdolna Mihály Exhibition opening

Day 2: Cultural Heritage, Memory, and the EU-Balkan Observatory

Cultural heritage, memory, and regional dynamics, with a special focus on the EU-Balkan Observatory

Global Intersections: Evolving and Preserving Cultural Heritage Across Borders

Exploring the ways heritage is transformed by cross-border interactions, sharing digitally, authenticity, inclusivity, and the evolving meaning of cultural heritage, and shifts in identities.

Panelists

Tamás Fejérdy (iASK, UNESCO ICOMOS, Hungary)

Cornelius Holtorf (UNESCO Chair of Heritage Futures, Linnaeus University, Sweden)

Mónika Mátya (iASK, ELTE, Hungary)

Gábor Soós (UNESCO, Hungary)

Klaus Wölfer (Former Ambassador, Austria)

Anna Zeichner (ICCROM, Italy)

Chaired by Anikó Magasházi (iASK, Hungary)

EU-Balkan Observatory

Regional governance, historical legacies, and contemporary policy dilemmas providing insight into the evolving political and economic landscapes of Central and South-Eastern Europe. Introductory discussion on direct democracy and student protests in Serbia, EU integration, historical memory, and identity formation in the Balkans.



Abdishukuruly Dinmukhamed (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)



Dabo Suleiman Ibrahim (Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria)

Keynote Speeches

Stefano Bianchini (University of Bologna, Italy) | Ahmet Evin (Sabanci University, Turkey)

Panelists

Elira Luli (iASK, Luarasi University, Albania) | Delfin Pllana (Ambassador of Kosovo to Hungary – video address) | Ruben Zemon (Institute of Advanced Research, North Macedonia) | Dzenita Šiljak (iASK, Hungary) Caleb Waugh and Igor Markovic (Aktiv, Kosovo – online) | Students (Faculty of Drama Arts, Belgrade, Serbia – online) | Chaired by Jody Jensen (iASK, Hungary) and Zala Pavšič (iASK, Hungary)

Art, Creativity, and the Future: Exploring New Horizons

The final session of the day underscored the transformative potential of artistic expression.

Keynote Speech

David Maggs (Metcalf Foundation, Canada)

Panelists

Reflecting on how creative practices inspire social change and innovation

Zoltán Mizsei (iASK, Hungary)

András Nagy (University of Pannonia, Hungary)

The day ended with a wine and cheese tasting event where participants were introduced to the gastronomic heritage of Kőszeg.



*Sanae Okamoto (UNU-MERIT)
presenting at the Environmental Humanities Panel*



Satheemohan Santhiramoohanathas (ELTE University, Budapest)

Day 3: Technology, AI, and Environmental Humanities

Emphasizing the intersections between technology, governance, and ecology, furthermore political, ethical, and cultural implications of technological advancements, as well as the role of environmental humanities in addressing global sustainability challenges.

Frontiers of Technology: Political, Cultural, and Ethical Dimensions of AI and Robotics

Exploring the rapidly evolving influence of AI and robotics on politics, security, social systems, and even armed conflicts. Chaired by László Karvalics (iASK, Hungary).

Keynote

David Daou (UNU-EHS, Germany)

Zsuzsanna Márka (Columbia University, USA)

Levente Szabados (Foundation for Information Society, Hungary)

Attila Tanyi (University of Tromsø, Norway)

Environmental Humanities

Workshop with a focus on ecological consciousness and humanities, and the ways cultural narratives shape our responses to environmental crises. On the importance of interdisciplinary research in understanding the cultural roots of environmental challenges.



Zsuzsanna Márka (Columbia University), David Daou (UNU-EHS) Frontiers of Technology: Political, Cultural, and Ethical Dimensions of AI and Robotics panelists



Right to left: Szabolcs Márka (Columbia University), László Karvalics (iASK), David Daou (UNU-EHS), Zsuzsanna Márka (Columbia University), Attila Tanyi (University of Tromsø)

Panelists

Franz Graf (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic)
 Inna Hakkinen (University of Helsinki, Finland)
 Kehinde Balogun (Catholic University of Portugal)
 Kariuki Weru (UNU-EHS, Germany)
 Sanae Okamoto (UNU-MERIT, Netherlands)
 Chaired by Izabella Agárdi (iASK, Hungary).

Reimagining Environments: New Approaches in Ecological Design

Interactive workshop engaging participants in experimental design thinking, envisioning sustainable urban and rural environments harmonizing with natural ecosystems.

Boglárka Jakabfi-Kovács (Architect, Systems Design Researcher, MOME Hungary) encouraged innovative systems-thinking approaches to reconfiguring human-environment interactions, and introduced participants to alternative models of ecological planning beyond conventional sustainability frameworks.

Art exhibition featuring the works of Magdolna Mihály, painter

Introducing artistic practice exploring the intersection of environment, materiality, and cultural memory through a visual and conceptual extension of the day's themes, bridging artistic expression to ecological consciousness.



Izabella Agárdi (iASK) chairing the Environmental Humanities Panel



Szabolcs Márka (Columbia University) at the Globalisation and New International Legal Frameworks Panel

Day 4: Globalization, Law, and Cultural Narratives

Legal frameworks, globalization, and political cultures in East-Central Europe, addressing how law interacts with cultural identity, generational rights, and international governance.

Globalization and New International Legal Frameworks

Tackling the complexities of legal adaptation in a rapidly changing world and the need for frameworks that balance cultural diversity with global human rights standards. Highlighting the role of cultural rights in international law, legal challenges posed by globalization, repercussions of emerging global crises, including climate change and migration and the necessity of generational rights in shaping future governance models.

Session

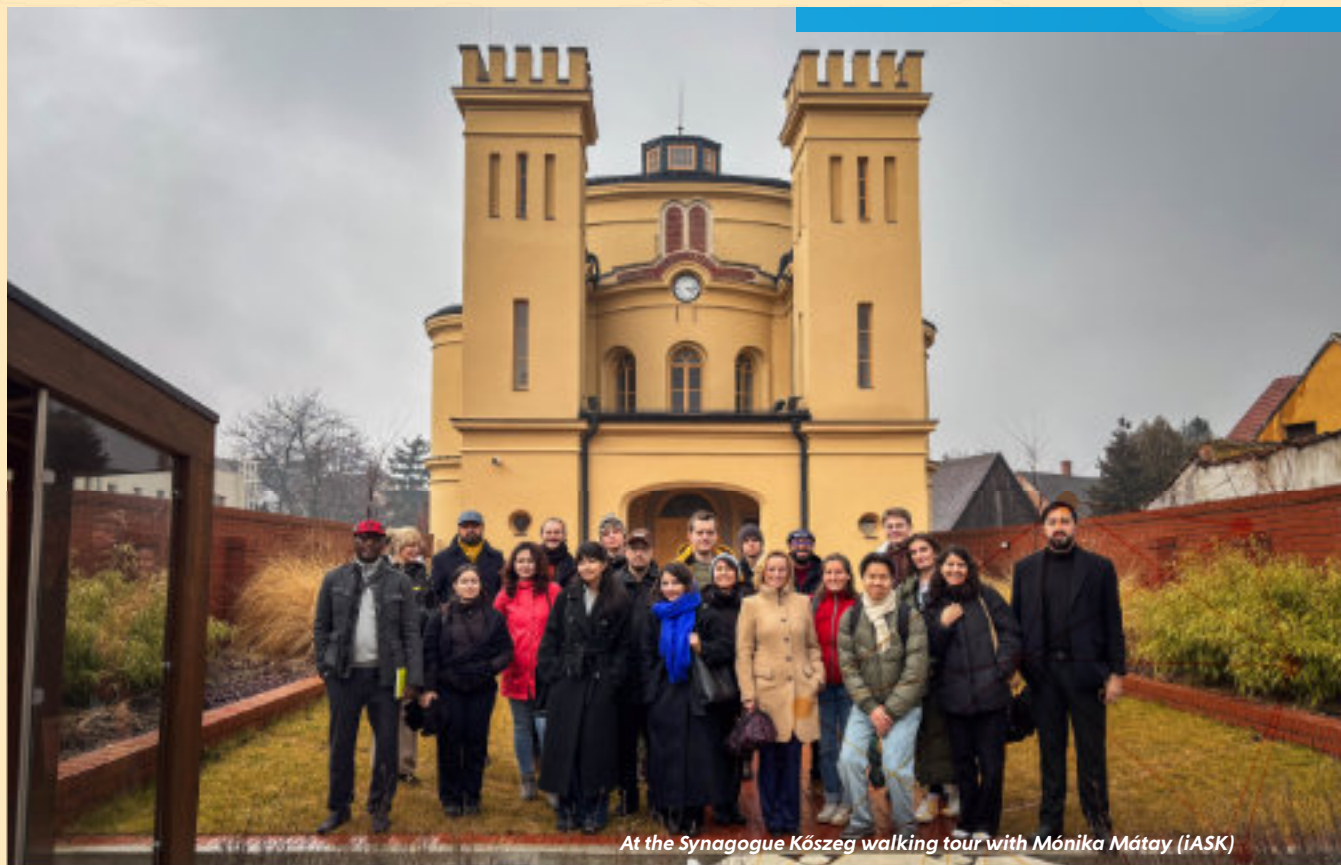
Csaba Györy (ELTE, Hungary) | Áron Fábián (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies, Hungary) | Márton Matyasovszky-Németh (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies, Hungary)

Walking tour

Exploring Kőszeg's historical and cultural heritage from medieval architectural landmarks to the legacy of 20th century transformations underscoring how historical narratives are inscribed in urban spaces, and how cultural heritage can be mobilized to foster local identity and global dialogue.



Certificate awarding ceremony Amit Singh (Universidade de Coimbra Centro de Estudos Sociais, Portugal) receiving his certificate from Ivana Stepanović (iASK fellow)



At the Synagogue Kőszeg walking tour with Mónika Mátay (iASK)

Guide

Mónika Mátay (iASK, ELTE, Hungary), historian

Public lecture – Shaping the Future: Political and Legal Culture in East-Central Europe

Examining the historical evolution of political and legal cultures in the region, tracing their impact on contemporary governance and European integration debates. Reflecting on how legal traditions interact with socio-political change, and how the rule of law is contested in transitional societies.

Lecturers

Márton Matyasovszky-Németh (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies, Hungary)

Áron Fábián (iASK, Bibó István College for Advanced Studies, Hungary)





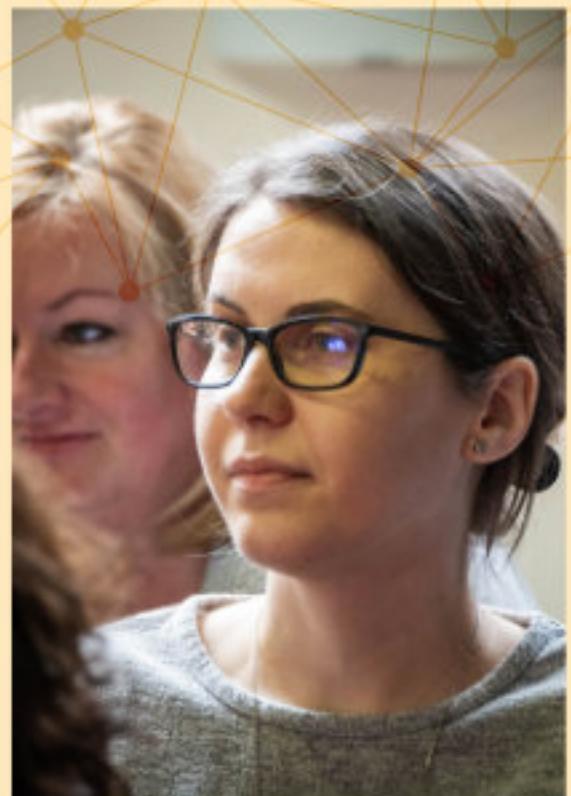
Mirko Savković (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Day 5: Wrap-Up and Reflections on Future Directions

Participants on site took part in a roundtable discussion, where they summarized their key insights from the week's sessions, on interdisciplinary themes of governance, technology, and socioecosystems. A perfect opportunity to synthesize ideas, share personal perspectives, and highlight potential future research directions. Following the roundtable, participants who had prepared academic contributions presented their papers, engaging in discussions that tied their research to the broader themes of the Winter School. This session emphasized the collaborative and intellectual spirit of the event, fostering an exchange between emerging and established scholars.

Concluding and Certificate Awarding Ceremony, final remarks

Impact of the discussions, the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the need for continuing engagement. The closing sentiments reinforced the Winter School's role as a platform for fostering dialogue, building networks, and inspiring future research and policy initiatives.



Henrietta Dóka (iASK)



Festetics Palace
Kőszeg walking tour with Mónika Mátay

iASK
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES KŐSZEG



Observing the Memorial "Memento" of the First World War



Art, Creativity, and the Future: Exploring New Horizons
Zoltán Mizsei (iASK fellow)



*Left to right: Norbert Kroó (iASK, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Péter Dombi (Wigner Research Centre for Physics) on the first day of the event*



Dezső Boda (University of Pannonia), Daniel Brooks (iASK, University of Toronto, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and at the Linnean Society of London) at the Paradigm Shifts in an Era of Escalation: Transformative Technologies, Conflict Dynamics, and Science Diplomacy Panel



András Gelencsér (University of Pannonia), Jody Jensen (iASK) discussing science diplomacy



Norbert Kroó on transformative technologies





Kőszeg walking tour with Mónika Mátay (iASK fellow)

7th UNESCO MOST Winter School

Bridging the Paradigm Shift:
Governance, Technology, Socioecosystems
February 24–28, 2025 | Kőszeg

iASK
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES KŐSZEG

ISES
Institute for Social
and European Studies
Jean Monnet European
Centre of Excellence

unesco
Club

AD KÖSZEG
KÖSZEGI ÁLLAMTUDOMÁNYI
KUTATÓKÖZPONT

VKE
Városmegyei Közművelődési
Központ

unesco
Institute for
Sustainable
Development

unesco
Institute for
Sustainable
Development

Photos: Gergely Lipi/iASK