

Preface

Dear Readers,

You are holding in your hands a publication, which is a collective work of the lecturers and participants of the 9th Batthyány Summer School, which was held from 13th to 19th July 2014, in Győr, Hungary, organised by the Batthyány Lajos College.

The Batthyány Summer School is open for university students, doctoral students and young researchers, who seek an opportunity to spend a week in a Visegrád country in an inspiring international environment. This program is a mixture of academic, social, cultural and free-time activities. Such a platform for scientific debate beyond the boundaries of one country contributes to the global view on social sciences, which is so important in current days.

The participants of the 9th Batthyány Summer School could listen to lectures given by famous experts of the legal, political, economic science, and sociology also. This year the lectures focused on the global and local issues of the 21st century, from the point of view of law, economy and other social sciences. The topics included the sustainable development, the challenges of the international relations, the challenges of the European Union and the challenges of the state in the 21st century.

Besides the academic program, the participants had the chance to learn about the rich cultural heritage of the city of Győr, Hungary and the Central-European region. The program included sightseeing trips, cultural events as well. The visit to the thousand-year-old Abbey of Pannonhalma, is always one of the most popular activity of the Summer School.

On the so-called Cultural Evenings, participants from each country showed the others the cultural, historical, natural beauties of their country, possibly the musical, singing and dancing traditions as well. These events help the participants understand other cultures, find the endless richness of diversity in each other, and thus develop tolerance, and a better dialogue of cultures.

Honour and obeisance behoves to the organisers of the 9th Batthyány Summer School: *Laura Hegedűs, Csilla Gömbös, Georgina Sarlós and Petra Ujvári.*

Contributions contained in this collection reflect all those features.

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