



**SOVEREIGNTY
PROTECTION OFFICE**

POLITICAL WORK BY PRESSURE ORGANISATIONS IS FUNDED BY EU GRANTS

13 May 2025





According to contracts leaked at the beginning of the year, certain climate activist political pressure organisations were tasked with influencing EU legislation in line with the European Commission's objectives by putting pressure on Members of the European Parliament in dozens of funded projects. In the wake of the scandal, the obvious question was raised from several sides: is this kind of unfair cooperation also common in other areas receiving funds? This suspicion also justifies an inquiry into pressure organisations in Hungary whose operations are financed by EU programmes. Looking back at the projects of the last ten years, patterns emerge in Hungary as well, and highlighting certain projects, it even seems that those who are demanding greater transparency in the relations between the EU and political pressure groups in the wake of the scandal are right.

A significant portion of the funding goes to areas in Hungary where large numbers of people can be involved. The topics are suitable for dividing people, disrupting social peace, and creating a basis for the EU public to put Hungary or other non-compliant states in the spotlight. Green politics and sexual minorities, for example, are global front lines that are clearly visible in the projects. Culture is the most common medium for divisive topics, and the fields of education and training ensure that they remain in the public consciousness, drive a wedge into society, and lay the groundwork for ongoing conflict.

Told through art

The climate catastrophe dance is a good example of the connection between art and political goals. The 2084 Project¹, funded directly by Brussels, is typical of green projects in that it places the responsibility for climate change on the recipient, the individual, with the aim of achieving social change and behavioural change, i.e. steering the complex issue in one direction. Three art groups, one French, one Polish and one Hungarian, are dancing their way through what the world might look like in 2084 with just under €200,000. The dance is accompanied by training courses, exhibitions and education. The Hungarian participant, the Létra Cultural Association, receives the most money, **having received €86,384 over a year and a half**². **The main goal of the Fluctuations Project, implemented by the Subjective Values Foundation with French and Dutch partners, is to promote the European Green Deal and a common European cultural identity.** To this end, they examined the role of inland waterway transport in the decarbonisation of artistic activities. In practice, the project involved organising the Fluctuations

¹ Source: ladderartcompany.com/hu/projektek/a-2084-projekt/

² Source: ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251814/101132026/CREA2027



Festival³ in September 2024 at an entertainment venue in Budapest's 8th district. The event's programme included the pressure organisation Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, the Heroes of Responsible Dining Foundation, which promotes vegetarianism and insect consumption, and the Budapest Pride LGBTQ organisation⁴. The cultural and environmental project thus provided a platform for a wide range of pressure organisations to promote their ideologies.

The Subjective Values Foundation has received €840,000 in direct EU funding for seventeen projects to date, making it one of the largest recipients of funding among pressure organisations in Hungary.

The Anthropolis Anthropological Public Benefit Association received €500,000 in direct EU funding after 2022. This pressure organisation **received €150,000 from two projects to run film clubs under the name KineDok between 2022 and 2026**. The association worked with Central and Eastern European organisations on the EU project, including the Georgian member Chai Khana, which is supported by USAID and Open Society Foundations⁵. In addition to screening documentaries, a priority aim of the KineDok is **to build community and shape attitudes**. The film club's programme includes creations promoting progressive ideologies, such as *Fairy Garden*, set in Hungary, which depicts the life of a transgender teenager⁶. **Sensitisation of young people** in schools is also one of the association's tasks in the same project. Through school programmes, they **"help students develop critical thinking in the areas of diversity, inclusion, sustainability, and equality,"** thereby increasing cultural activism among young people.

A positive view of migration

The Clarinet project⁷ is led by the municipality of Lampedusa e Linosa in Italy in an international partnership. The island group, which is affected by migration, coordinates the project, which aims to show EU citizens the impact of people with a migrant background on the EU community. The total budget for the project was €874,299, of which €786,869 was funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund⁸. In addition to planning **communication**

³ Source: www.instagram.com/fluctuations_fesztival/

⁴ Source: s3-eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/szubjektiv.org/wp-media-folder-www-szubjektiv-org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/fluctuations_2024.pdf?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaYsLWIYbpdm0xa0wqJWCGqt6q5vT912UEvsmWV1484V30fAf4a6bxo8Kt8_aem_Gq46mbr3lhvN_yL5CkxFww

⁵ Source: chaikhana.media/en/about

⁶ Source: kinedok.net/hu/selection/katalogus

⁷ Source: www.clarinetproject.eu/hu/a-projekt/

⁸ Source: home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2014-2020_en



campaigns on migration and training programmes, the funded organisations **are required to collect “positive stories”** about migration and integration. They are creating artworks on the topic for partner municipalities. The Hungarian Croma Foundation⁹ received more than €32,750 for the Clarinet project. The collection of mandatory positive stories and narratives¹⁰ was also published on the foundation’s blog. A Hungarian-language handbook¹¹ was also produced, which presents specific examples of appropriate communication campaigns.

LGBTQ issues

Among the programmes promoting **LGBTQ issues**, **Háttér Society** received significant funding for the international project **Colourful Childhoods**¹², which was financed¹³ by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme¹⁴. The aim of the project was to increase the knowledge of professionals working with children about the pandemic, to develop strategies to promote the well-being of LGBTQ children, and to **shape public opinion on issues affecting LGBTQ children**. The Háttér Society worked towards this goal as the Hungarian participant in the project. According to the programme description, workshops were organised specifically for children. The project summary¹⁵ also highlights that more than 4,000 children were surveyed. **However, they point out that such workshops were only organised for children in countries where this is legally possible**. The total budget for the project was €577,000, of which €520,000 was funded by the European Union. Háttér Society received €49,414 of this amount.

Háttér Society was the coordinator of the United in Diversity¹⁶ project, which was also funded by CERV. In addition to Háttér Society, Szimpozion Association, the Hungarian Association of Social Workers, and the Hungarian Psychological Association also participated in the project, which aimed to reduce discrimination against LGBTQ people in education, healthcare, social services, and psychological support, and to improve the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professionals working in these fields toward LGBTQ people. The plans also included

⁹ Source: www.cromoalapitvany.hu/clarinet/

¹⁰ Source: gyakoroljuk.blog.hu/

¹¹ Source: www.cromoalapitvany.hu/kommunikacios-kampanyeszkozok/

¹² Source: en.hatter.hu/what-we-do/training/projects/colourful-childhoods-empowering-lgbtqi-children

¹³ Source: www.szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/The-European-Comissions-Cerv-Programme-This-is-how-Brussels-turned-on-the-money-tap-to-fund-the-Soros-network.pdf

¹⁴ Source: ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv

¹⁵ Source: ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251589/101049251/CERV

¹⁶ Source: ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251589/101049716/CERV



encouraging **professionals and professional organisations to speak out on LGBTQ issues**, i.e. to exert political pressure. The total budget for the United in Diversity project was more than €184,000, of which €166,000 was covered by European Union funding. This amount was distributed among the four Hungarian organisations.

Pressure organisations active in the areas examined use the guise of equality, justice, culture, and environmental protection to help their patrons' narratives become part of the public discourse in Hungary. After coming under suspicion at the beginning of the year, the organisations are trying to keep events in their favour by labelling the actions of those demanding greater transparency as political attacks and claiming that they do not engage in political activities with the support they receive.

What is certain is that the statement "The views and opinions expressed (...) do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union," which must be included in the communication materials of the funded projects, is not true, or at least not in all cases.