

COMPETITION LAB FOR JUDGES

2024/BUDAPEST

12-13 DECEMBER



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HUNGARIAN
COMPETITION
AUTHORITY



RCC OECD-GVH

Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (Hungary)



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The responsibilities of the Authority



The Hungarian Competition Authority (Gazdasági Versenyhivatal - GVH; its English name used in the early years of operation was Office of Economic Competition) was established by Act LXXXVI of 1990 on the prohibition of unfair market practices and started its operation on 1 January 1991. The enactment of the prohibition of anticompetitive behaviour and the setting up of the authority was motivated by the will of protecting the freedom and fairness of competition.

The Competition Act, which is currently in force, is Act LVII of 1996 on the prohibition of unfair and restrictive market practices. The Act entered into force on 1 January 1997. Besides the provisions on competition, the Act determines the legal status of the Authority and regulates its basic structure and operation, further, the procedures, which it conducts. By Hungary's accession to the European Union, the GVH became a member of the European Competition Network that consists of the national competition authorities of the EU Member States and the DG Competition of the European Commission. As from the same time, the GVH is required to apply EC competition law under certain conditions.

The task of the GVH in relation to the fairness and freedom of competition is to enforce the competition rules for the benefit of the public in a way, which increases long-term consumer welfare and competitiveness at the same time. Furthermore, it promotes competition in general and, where no competition exists on the market, the GVH endeavours to create competition and promotes appropriate state regulation to be put in place.

The activities of the GVH in connection with the safeguarding of competition rest on the following three pillars.

- 1) competition supervision proceedings - the enforcement of the national and the EU competition law;
- 2) competition advocacy - the GVH tries to influence state decisions;
- 3) competition culture - the objective of the GVH is to contribute to the development of competition culture by the dissemination of knowledge about competition policy, in order to raise public awareness of competition issues, and by the promotion of the development of competition-related legal and economic activities of public interest.

Beyond the safeguarding of competition, the GVH fulfils other law enforcement tasks provided by other legal acts such as the Trade Act.

More info



Greeting

Presidential greeting

Dear Colleague, dear Guest!

As President of the Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH), it is an honour for me to welcome you to the Competition Lab for Judges organised in the framework of the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (RCC) with the financial assistance of the European Union.

Judicial review of competition decisions is a major concern in many jurisdictions as competition cases generally deal with situations that require sophisticated legal and economic analysis. Your participation in the event reminds us of how important our initiative is and further motivates us to devote substantial attention to judicial control and legal certainty.

We hope that this meeting will be a worthy experience for you, both professionally and socially. This guide aims to provide you with some practical tips about the upcoming event and an insight into the most famous attractions of the city. As the hosts of the Competition Lab for Judges, we are at your disposal to meet all your needs and answer all your questions.

I wish you a productive and fruitful conference and a pleasant stay.

Sincerely,



Csaba Balázs Rigó
President of the Hungarian
Competition Authority



General information about Hungary

Languages

Hungarian is the official language of Hungary, whereas English is widely spoken.

Currency

The currency of Hungary is the Forint (Ft).

Local time

Hungary Time is GMT +1.

ATMs and Credit Cards

All major banks in Budapest have automatic teller machines (ATMs) and all major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

Electricity supply

The electricity supply in Hungary is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Hungary, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public locations.

Emergency Number

Call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance.

Actual weather in Hungary

<https://met.hu/en/idojaras/>



09.30-10.00	Welcome remarks, Group photo Csaba Balázs Rigó, President of the Hungarian Competition Authority
10.00-10.15	Questionnaire exercise - What do you know?
10.15-11.15	The economics and impact of cartels Cedric Argenton, Economist, Tilburg University

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.30	Anticompetitive agreements, decisions by associations and concerted practices Lefkothea Nteka, Partner, Lambadarios Law Firm
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12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00	Price fixing cartels - Analytical framework and case examples Paulo Burnier, Senior Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division
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15.00-15.15 Coffee break

15.15-16.15	Collusive tendering cartels - Analytical framework and case examples María Pilar Canedo, Senior Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division
16.15-17.30	Hypothetical Case Exercise

19.00-22.00 Welcome dinner

09.30-10.45	Buyers cartels and labour market cartels – Analytical framework and case examples Cristina Camacho, Head of Cabinet of the President, Portuguese Competition Authority
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10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00	Consequences of the infringements. How to calculate sanctions and other restrictive measures Vivien Terrien, Vice-President, Autorité de la concurrence
12.00-13.00	Hypothetical Case Exercise

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.15	Evidentiary issues in cartel cases Heinz Ludwig Mayer, Federal Cartel Prosecutor of Austria
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15.15-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.45	Hypothetical Case Exercise
16.45-17.15	Kahoot game!
17.15-17.30	Questionnaire exercise – What do you know now?

Castle Quarter – Buda Castle

The Castle Quarter (Várnegyed) refers to the oldest part of Budapest, located within the defensive walls of the Buda Castle (Budai Vár) complex. Located on the Castle Mount (Várhegy), it corresponds with the medieval royal city of Buda.

The Castle Quarter **offers a place for the heart and soul of Hungary's cultural and historical heritage**. Walking among the historical streets of the city of Buda one can come across landmarks such as the Vienna Gate (Bécsi Kapu), the [Matthias Church](#) (Mátyás Templom) or the Fisherman's Bastion (Halászbástya). Also located here, is the [Sándor Palace](#) (Sándor-Palota), official residence and workspace of the president of Hungary.

The Castle Quarter is located within the walls of the Buda Castle complex. The Buda Castle itself is one of the most iconic landmarks of Budapest. The building also hosts within itself numerous cultural institutions such as the [Hungarian National Gallery](#) (Magyar Nemzeti Galéria), or the [National Széchényi Library](#) (Országos Széchényi Könyvtár) our first national public institution founded in 1802.

The Castle Quarter in itself, can offer cultural and entertainment programmes for several days, and is among the most prominent tourist destinations in Budapest, and in Hungary.



Chain Bridge – Budapest’s Oldest Bridge

In 2023, we celebrated the **150th birthday of Budapest**. However, since the city’s historical past dates back almost two thousand years, the 150th anniversary is not about the foundation, but the unification of the **three historical parts**, namely Buda, Pest and Óbuda. Cities used to surround themselves with walls in order to protect their values. Today, we stand up for our principles and values by breaking these walls down and building bridges instead. A symbol of this is the Chain Bridge over the river Danube – being renovated for the 150th anniversary. We also build bridges in a figurative sense: out of acceptance and openness between people.

We owe the construction of the beautiful **Chain Bridge** to Count István Széchenyi – referred to as the greatest Hungarian thanks to his key political, cultural, and economic role. Although it is clear that connecting Buda and Pest became increasingly urgent in the 19th century for numerous reasons, the construction of the first bridge also owes much to Széchenyi’s personal experience: on hearing news of his father’s death, he travelled from Debrecen to Vienna, but he had to delay his crossing over the Danube by several days on account of the bad weather, i.e., the bridge also meant to serve uninterrupted traffic between the eastern and northern parts of the country. Count Széchenyi never actually got to cross the bridge as by the time of its inauguration he was already being treated in a mental institution, where he later took his own life.



And then what does it mean to be a “Budapester”? The 150-year history of the capital is the story of its people’s connection to themselves and their city. People inhabit Hungary’s capital in different ways: we live here with different desires, dreams and emotions, and Budapest is the city that gives way to what we desire and so that what we dream can come true. Budapest represents the opportunity, but also the responsibility, to become who we want to be. **Budapest is a city of self-expression and free choice of identity.**

This is why Budapest is constantly changing and at the same time, still resembles itself. 150 years ago, the citizens of the three districts of Pest, Buda and Óbuda began to assemble the city from its parts. And this 150-year-old work is still ongoing: the people of Budapest reunite their city every single day. It is their achievement that Budapest is one of the fastest developing metropolises in Europe and the true capital of the Hungarian nation.

Heroes' Square

Andrássy avenue is recognised as a World Heritage site with its magnificent buildings, such as the [Opera House](#) designed by renowned Hungarian architect Miklós Ybl, the Neo-Renaissance Academy of Music or the Fashion Hall, but it also includes the Heroes' Square at the end of the Andrássy avenue flanked by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Kunsthalle.

It is the largest and most symbolic square in Budapest. Originally, in the second half of the 19th century, an ornamental fountain designed by Hungarian architect Miklós Ybl, stood in Heroes' Square at the end of Andrássy avenue. The Gloriette Well was ultimately relocated to Széchenyi Hill (it has since been functioning as a lookout point), and an imposing monument was designed to take its place to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the Hungarian Conquest of 896: the Millennium Monument. In the centre stands the statue of Archangel Gabriel on a 36 m column: in his left hand he holds a double cross and in his right hand the Holy Crown, because, according to the legend, King Stephen of Hungary was prompted by the Archangel in a dream to convert to Christianity and crown himself.

The base of Gabriel's column is surrounded by the equestrian statues of the chieftains of the 7 Hungarian tribes, led by Grand Prince Árpád. The colonnades feature statues of historical figures that played an active role in creating modern Hungary.

Along with many other landmarks, the [Vajdahunyad Castle](#) was also constructed for the Jubilee celebration of the thousand years of the Hungarian State. The building complex is considered a particularly interesting tourist attraction as it combines elements from the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles at the same time. City Park is a spectacular location for boating and pedal boating, while in winter the artificial lake becomes a **skating ring**.



Gellért Hill and the Citadella

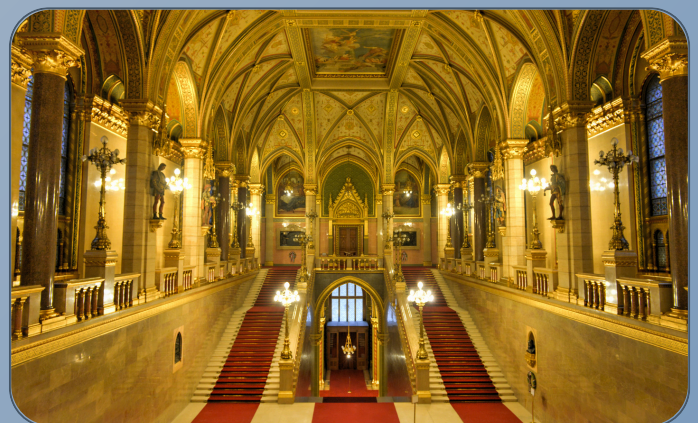
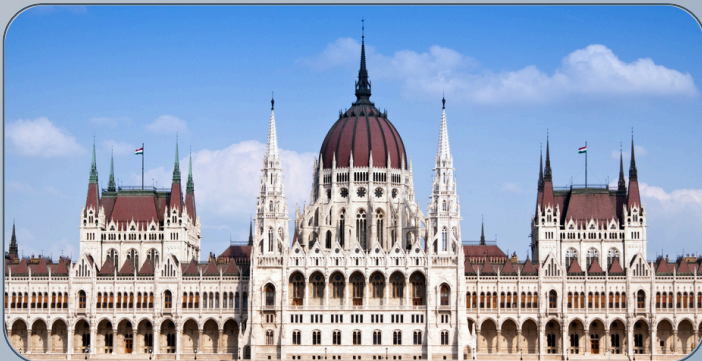
Originally built as a fortress by the Austrian army under Haynau, the Citadel sits atop the Gellért Hill offering a view of Hungary's capital as none other. Whilst the inner chambers of the fortress are currently closed to visitors due to renovation, the monument is among the most recognisable landmarks of Budapest and Hungary, symbolising the freedom of the Hungarian people. Indeed, the **Liberty Statue or Freedom Statute** commemorates those who sacrificed their lives for the independence, freedom and prosperity of Hungary (transition from communism to democracy). Gellert Hill bolsters many other iconic landmarks: such is the [Cave Church](#) (Saint Ivan's Cave) which has a temperature of around twenty Celsius degrees all year around due to the hot springs. Hidden in the green area in Gellert hill is the **Philosophers' Garden** featuring a group of statues depicting famous thinkers and religious figures.



House of Parliament

Building **this beautiful monument took seventeen years, from 1885 to 1902**, based on the design of architect Imre Steindl. Unfortunately, the designer himself did not live to see the inauguration since he died five weeks before. An essential stipulation for the project was that only Hungarian raw materials could be used for the construction of the Parliament and that Hungarian craftsmen and manufacturers had to be involved in the process – these conditions were fulfilled, with only the gigantic granite columns imported from abroad. Some of the figures are impressive: roughly 40 million bricks were used for the construction, while around 40 kilograms of 22-23 carat gold embellish the Parliament. It can be entered through a total of 27 gates, and 365 towers of varying sizes, one for each day of the year, rise from the Hungarian Parliament.

The neo-Gothic building is undoubtedly the most iconic symbol of Hungary – it symbolises the sovereignty of Hungary and the continuity of Hungarian statehood despite many tribulations. The building is not only the seat of the [Hungarian National Assembly](#) (Országgyűlés), but also houses the [Library of the Hungarian Parliament](#) (Országgyűlési Könyvtár) boasting a collection of some of the rarest and oldest manuscripts and books relating to the evolution of Hungarian law and constitutionalism.



More info



A New Wonder in Hungary: The House of Music Hungary

Music holds a special place in Hungary and the hearts and minds of Hungarians. A great number of Hungarian composers have created excellent music – among them Béla Bartók, Ferenc Liszt, Zoltán Kodály and György Ligeti have made their mark on the universal language of music. As a unique and complex institution of musical initiation as well as the venue for the country's first comprehensive exhibition presenting the history of music, the House of Music Hungary opened in the City Park in January 2022.



The building was designed by Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto and has evolved into a true contemporary architectural masterpiece. It is nestled among the trees of the City Park, honours its natural environment to a great extent, and provides a one-of-a-kind artistic experience that incorporates natural landscape, architecture and exhibition design, all of which serve the creation of music and sound.



There are several guided tours at the House of Hungarian Music:

[More info](#)



Thermal baths

Budapest is unique as a world capital in boasting medicinal springs under its territory, **supplying 70 million litres of hot therapeutic water, rich in minerals and other elements**. The water is used primarily in health spas and thermal baths or as mineral drinking water sold in bottles. It can be stated that one of the most outstanding points of Budapest's **vibrant spa life** is the [Art Nouveau-style Gellert Bath](#), which was opened to the general public after the WW1, but a bath has stood here as far back as the Middle Ages.

Furthermore, a series of baths can be found in a row, some of which were established during the Turkish occupation, whilst others during the Middle Ages: the Rudas, the Rác, the Király and the Lukács baths.

[Széchenyi Thermal Bath](#) is the largest spa complex in Budapest and in Europe. It is located in the heart of City Park and is surrounded by several wonderful sights. The water is recommended for the treatment of degenerative joint and spine diseases, calcium deficiency in the bone system and post-traumatic rehabilitation.



The spa is named after **Count István Széchenyi** – referred to as the greatest Hungarian – who played a key role in the development of the country. He started effective development work in the 19th century, revitalising Hungary through the modernisation of industry, agriculture, transport and trade. We owe him the construction of the beautiful Chain Bridge and he also had the Danube, the Tisza River and Lake Balaton regulated.



Christmas markets

The most popular **Christmas market** in Budapest is the fair located at Vörösmarty Square in the very heart of Budapest. The square has traditionally hosted folklore programmes, daily concerts and similar events of cultural value. The square **offers traditional Hungarian handicraft products** and delicious food, while children can enjoy a fun train ride.

The Advent Basilica, which has already won the title of the most beautiful Christmas market in Europe four times, is once again in full swing in front of [St. Stephen's Basilica](#).



The Christmas market offers plenty different stalls where you can **enjoy mulled wine and traditional delicacies**, such as chimney cakes, take photos of the magnificent Christmas tree and various light displays, take part in heart-warming activities and enjoy some ice-skating fun.

It is worth indicating that Christmas markets in the city start relatively early, with many opening as early as mid-November and lasting until the end of the year.

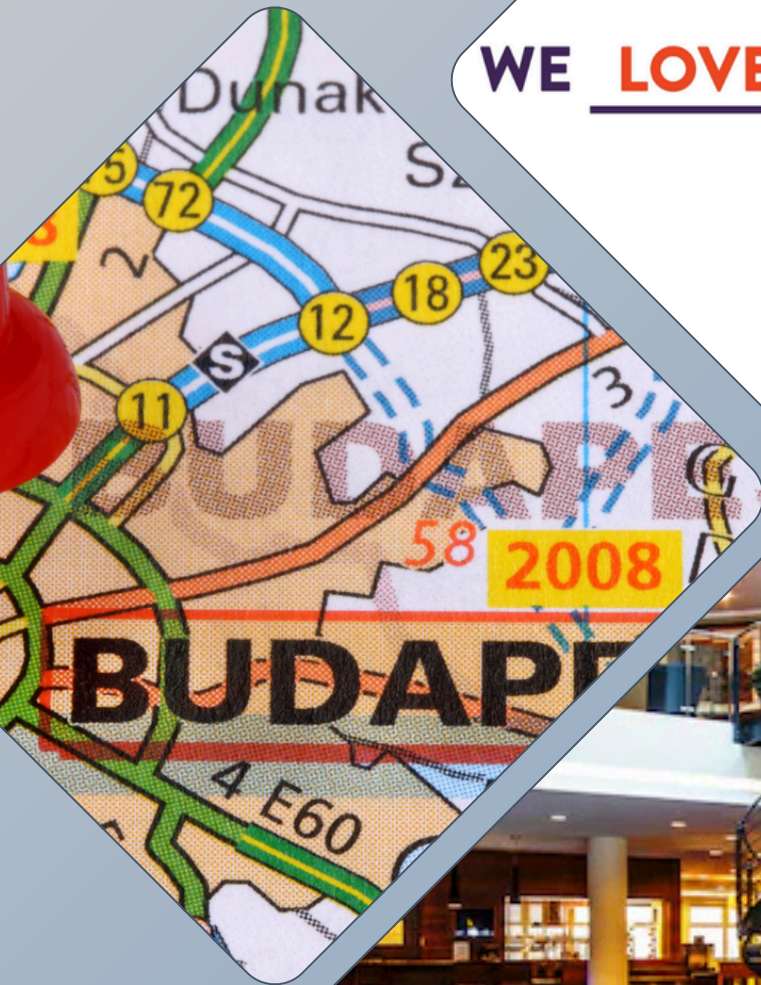


Practical information

Tap on the picture!



WE LOVE BUDAPEST



Contact information

If you have any questions concerning the event, please do not hesitate to contact our colleagues:



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**We are looking forward to welcoming you
in Hungary!**



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