



Central Europe, the EU and myself

The challenge

Dear Hungarian Students, we kindly invite you to participate in our international Challenge “**Central Europe, the EU and myself**”. In 1989, our region regained freedom and, thanks to that, in 1990 (East Germany) and in 2004 (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) it finally joined the EU. For you, the enlargement in 2004 is a distant memory, while the democratic revolutions of 1989 are already part of history. Your generation has experienced democracy, European solidarity and prosperity within the EU as something obvious and natural for many years. However, today these values face serious challenges in Central Europe: nationalism, Euroscepticism, authoritarian trends and economic vulnerability. In consequence, the legacy of 1989 and 2004 seems to gain relevance again as an important source of inspiration. Awareness about these events among young Europeans, particularly from Central Europe, is essential in order to build a common understanding of our European history and values and to deal with challenges as a community.

Share your reflexions on these events in a 1.000-word essay. Tell us how you see the democratic revolutions of 1989 and what they mean for you/your country/your region or even the EU. Explain how you perceive the EU integration of the region as a (Central) European citizen. What lessons can be drawn from 1989 and 2004 that should be kept in mind for our present and future?

The best essays of the international competition will be rewarded:

- 1st place: invitation to a roundtable discussion about the heritage of 1989 and 2004 in Brussels (all cost covered) and the publication of the winning essay in a special issue of the *New Eastern Europe* journal
- 2nd place: invitation to a roundtable discussion about the heritage of 1989 and 2004 in Budapest (all costs covered)

The Hungarian Europe Society will also reward the 4 best essays submitted by Hungarian participants with valuable vouchers.

The essay shall be maximum 1.000 word long and written in English.

Send your essay to Erik Uszkiewicz, vice-chairperson of the Hungarian Europe Society via email (uszerik@gmail.com) by 31 March 2020, 5 pm.

Announcement of results: 14 April 2020

The project

EUritage celebrates the 30th anniversary of Central European democratic revolutions as well as the 15th anniversary of their accession to the European Union. These historical events now belong to our common European heritage. They unite European citizens as part of the same community of values. Key lessons from Central European democratic transition and European integration process are necessary to build our common European future. This project is led by WiseEuropa together with the Institut für Europäische Politik, the Metropolitan University Prague, the city of Gdańsk and the Hungarian Europe Society. It is co-financed by the European Commission within the framework of the Europe for Citizens programme.

