Keeping Education Competitive, Keeping Students Informed

By Zsófia Végh

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THE VOICE OF AMCHAM HUNGARY

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Second Meeting With European Commissioner Dr. Tibor Navracsics In 2018

Dr. Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport met representatives of the Hungarian Pact4Youth initiative on October 12.

Following up the first meeting held in June, where members presented the objectives of the initiative and a publication which collected the best practices, programs and projects of the participating organizations, members of the Pact4Youth working group had a second discussion with EU Commissioner Navracsics.

At this meeting, the Pact4Youth working group presented their first project idea, which would tackle the problem of the NEET youth (young people who are Neither in Employment nor in Education or Training) in Hungary.

The project focuses on making internships more attractive, valuable and fair for young people to help their transition into the labor market. The project is still in a preparatory phase, however, members of the Pact4Youth initiative appreciated the opportunity of discussing their vision with the EU Commissioner, who gave a plethora of suggestions and insight to the problem in a European context.

Participants also had a discussion on AmCham’s then upcoming Competitive Education Conference (see the cover story and page three of this issue), focusing on career orientation, where Commissioner Navracsics was also a guest speaker.

The Hungarian Pact4Youth initiative – in line with the European initiative – aims to foster and facilitate the integration of young people, especially the NEET youth, into the education system and into the labor market, while also improving their labor conditions. According to CSR Europe, there are more than seven million NEETs aged between 15 and 24 in Europe.

AmCham Hungary is one of the actors involved in the Pact4Youth initiative in Hungary together with the National Youth Council (acting as project coordinator), the Ministry of Human Capacities, the Ministry for National Economy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Union of Students in Hungary (HÖOK), the New Generation Center (Új Nemzedék Központ), the UN Youth Delegate, Bridgestone Hungary, Meló-Diák Ltd., the European Youth Card Association, the National Kid Association and the Young Entrepreneurs Association Hungary (FIVOSZ).

AmCham Becomes Founding Member Of AI Coalition

On October 9, by invitation of Minister László Palkovics, businesses, professional organizations, chambers of commerce, academic and governmental institutions gathered together to establish the Artificial Intelligence Coalition, under the leadership of Roland Jakab. AmCham President Dr. Farkas Bársny participated at the ceremony at the Infotér Conference and signed the founding document of the AI Coalition on behalf of the chamber.

In joining this new platform, AmCham hopes to contribute to the elaboration of the country’s AI strategy, and represent the interests of its membership in the area of AI developments.

The aim of the AI Coalition is to support Hungary in the inevitable international AI competition, but also in becoming a reference point for the global AI community by defining the directions and framework of AI-based developments.

Furthermore, the coalition would like to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic businesses through the wide spread and extensive application of AI with special attention to Hungarian start-ups and SMEs. Also, the coalition will focus on the efficient, fair and regulated utilization of public data, which is an important advocacy topic for AmCham, included in last year’s “Cooperation For A More Competitive Hungary” recommendation package.
the conference: “The changes on the labor market, including the appearance and the disappearance of jobs and skills, pose a challenge to the education system because we need to define today what the labor market will demand in the future.” He said Europe can either choose to prepare students for certain professions or improve the skills that allow them to do several jobs. “Europe is looking to take the second option.”

When asked how effective the Hungarian education system was compared to other European countries, the commissioner said in competitiveness terms it is quite good. The youth unemployment rate is one of the lowest in Hungary across the continent – the labor market acknowledges expertise and education, he added.

**Informed Decisions**

With its all-new Career Orientation Program, AmCham aims to help secondary school students prepare to make a more informed decision regarding their career. The labor market is changing at a such a fast pace that parents and teachers can hardly keep up.

The platform allows corporate volunteers to register. These so-called Career Ambassadors will visit schools to hold a career orientation class or participate in career days. “In addition to giving a snapshot of their job, they focus on the skills and the expertise needed as well as the opportunities offered at a certain workplace.”

Career orientation days were made compulsory two years ago. Schools need to hold at least two days a year, said Zoltán Maruzsa, Deputy State Secretary for Public Education at the Ministry of Human Capacities (EMMI). “I welcome this initiative as it will enable industry players to get involved and students to have a better overview of the field they represent,” he said.

Beyond career orientation days, students can get acquainted with the workings of some of the fields within the framework of the so-called theme-week: a week-long program in three themes – IT, finance, or sustainability, said Gáborné Pölöské, Deputy State Secretary for Vocational Training and Adult Education.

Companies also organize events to help students get to know better what they can expect should they decide to choose their field.

“As a traditional metal industry firm, we place the most emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM),” said Tamás Horváth, CEO of Arconic. “We aim to reach out to students in various ways. We lecture in schools, we organize factory visits or shadowing, when they can follow an expert from the company. We also try and steer more girls towards our field,” he added.

**Dishonest Communication**

Many students realize they are not interested in a field after they have started their studies. “This is partly the result of dishonest communication about that field,” said Kristof Sipos, an undergraduate student of Debrecen University, and a EuroSkills Mechatronics gold medalist. Sipos admits he didn’t know until a few days before sending in his application what exactly mechatronics was. “It would help if career orientation/preparation for a decision did not start in the last year of high school,” he said.

Some companies do target students at a younger age. National Instruments starts as early as preschoolers. “We provided many kindergartens with robot toys,” László Ábrahám, managing director of NI Hungary said. At this age, there is no gender barrier – girls play with the same toys as boys, he added. The company is also involved with schools – it helps 6,000 students a year (in 100 schools) learn digital skills, algorithmic thinking and graphic programming. NI Hungary also cooperates with universities. “We have provided many universities with a field-programmable gate array (FPGA), an integrated circuit to help teaching,” Ábrahám says.

Technical skills are crucial, but of equal importance are soft skills. “Most companies aim to employ problem solvers, but we believe that having people able to identify problems by asking the right questions is just as important,” said Gábor Salamon of Morgan Stanley during a section when companies showcased some of their career orientation strategies.

“Managing cultural differences is one of the themes that is especially near and dear to us,” said Krisztina Felméry of Tata Consultancy Services. “With nearly 70 nationalities working for us, we think we are a credible source to talk about this topic,” she added.

In launching its career platform, AmCham says it has tried to set realistic goals. “If we get to spark students’ interest in this subject, if we get them to start talking about career choices with their teachers and parents and understand that by not deciding or by postponing this decision they are risking their future, we have accomplished something,” Lippai-Nagy said.

**BECOME AN AMBASSADOR NOW!**

On November 6, AmCham CEO Irizs Lippai-Nagy presented to the *Együtt a Jóvó Mérnökeiert Szívesettel (EJMSZ)* Conference the chamber’s new Career Orientation Program, which aims to help prepare secondary school students for one of the most important decisions of their lives: choosing their career paths.

With TATA Consultancy Services, AmCham has created a platform (karrierorientacio.hu) that allows volunteers from AmCham member companies, the so-called Career Ambassadors, and the representatives of Hungarian secondary school nationwide to organize career orientation visits.

Based on the success of the Language Ambassador and the Career Ambassador programs, AmCham’s goal is to continue holding inspiring, interactive and thought-provoking lectures on labor market needs, the modern business environment, the importance of language skills, the opportunities of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects and future jobs to students in the 9th-12th grades.

To support the volunteers, a short manual has been compiled that includes various exercises, subjects, useful tips and links which can be used to prepare for the career orientation classes. The manual is available to all registered Ambassadors on the website.

AmCham is looking for dedicated professionals who want to broaden students’ minds by sharing their knowledge and vast experience.

To see more about the program, or to register as a Career Ambassador, please visit: www.karrierorientacio.hu

Join the 50+ companies and 100+ volunteers who have already committed to share their knowledge and experience with students nationwide. Step out of your comfort zone and inspire the youth.

If you want to make a difference in the lives of the next generation, sign up now!

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.
**FDI In Hungary**

**AVL Builds Vehicle Test Base At Ërd**

Austrian automotive industry company AVL plans to build a testing base in Ërd (22 km south of central Budapest, on the outskirts of the capital), Ërd mayor András Mészáros told profiline.hu. The first office building will be completed on an area of 5.7 hectares by the end of 2019, and the testing facility for conventional and electric vehicles will be built by 2020, he added. The Budapest HQ of AVL Hungary will also move out to Ërd by the end of next year.

**Borsodi To Get EUR 12 Mln Regional Base**

North American-based multinational brewing company Molson Coors is investing EUR 12 million at its unit in Hungary, the managing director of Hungarian brewing company Borsodi, Zsolt Vuleta, told online daily napipro.hu. The investment will be executed in two phases and will raise the capacity of Borsodi's unit in Ërd (180 km northeast of Budapest) from an annual 1.8 million to 2.5 million hectoliters, which means approximately a total of 500 million bottles of bear, Vuleta said. Molson Coors is turning the brewery into a regional center that will also supply Czech and Croatian markets with its canned international brands, he said. Molson Coors invests where they see a return. This step is an acknowledgment of our brewery and the performance of all of the staff at the company, he added. In the first phase of the investment, almost EUR 8 million will be spent to boost canning capacity. The phase will start this fall and test production will start in the spring. Full capacity will be reached by June. A further EUR 4 million will be allocated to upgrade Borsodi's bottling line. The unit has 200 people on payroll at present, which will rise by about 10%, Vuleta said.

**Bunge Completes HUF 9 Bln Feed Plant**

U.S. cooking oil manufacturer Bunge has completed a HUF 9 billion feed plant at its base in Martíví (157 km east of Budapest), profiline.hu reported. The factory will turn out high-protein, GMO-free, sunflower-based feed that will be sold under Bunge’s SunPro brand, the head of the company’s local unit, Wojciech Jachimczyk said. The plant should reduce Hungary’s dependence on imports of high-protein feed, mostly soy meal, which comes to 600,000 tonnes worth HUF 70 bln-75 bln annually.

**Daimler Inaugurates HUF 3 Bln Mercedes Benz Academy In Kecskemét**

German carmaker Daimler has inaugurated its Mercedes Benz Academy, a training center completed through the investment of more than HUF 3 billion, next to the car factory in Kecskemét (88 km southeast of Budapest), gazdasagportal.hu reported. The investment was supported with a HUF 622 million grant from the state of Hungary. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Innovation and Technology László Palkovics. Speaking of the reform of dual vocational education, the minister said there are now almost 2,000 dual vocational students participating in higher education and more than 100,000 students studying in the dual vocational education system. The number of partner companies involved in the system is more than 700, he added. Christian Wolff, managing director of Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary said the factory played a pioneering role in introducing dual training in Kecskemét. The Mercedes-Benz factory in the city employs about 4,000 workers and turned out more than 190,000 Mercedes-Benz compact cars last year.

**Doosan Investing HUF 32 Bln In Tatárbánya**

South Korean conglomerate Doosan will invest HUF 32 billion in a battery copper foil plant in Tatárbánya (60 km west of Budapest), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said, adozona.hu reported. The company will carry out the investment with a HUF 4.7 bln government grant for the project, Szijjártó added. According to the minister, Doosan will be the sole supplier of battery copper foil, a key component of electric vehicle batteries, in Europe. Jongwoo Kim, the head of European operations of Doosan, said construction work on the plant will start this year and could wind up during the second half of 2019.

**Jaguar Land Rover Confirms Engineering Office In Hungary**

Jaguar Land Rover will open a technical engineering office in Budapest to support the company’s European supply chain management, it was announced on November 5. The new office will create 100 new roles complementing corporate, R&D, engineering and manufacturing functions headquartered in the United Kingdom. Executive director of product engineering, Nick Rogers said: "Hungary has a strong track record in automotive engineering. We have chosen it as the location for a new engineering office to enable close collaboration with our suppliers located in Central and Eastern Europe."

**LEGO Opens Education Studio**

Toy manufacturer LEGO has opened an education and innovation studio at the University of Nyíregyháza (230 km northeast of Budapest), azuzlet.hu reported. "Constantly changing education is necessary to serve the changing workforce of companies operating in Hungary," deputy state secretary responsible for adult education of the Ministry of Finance Pülsökei Gáborné said at the opening ceremony. The studio, which will prepare future teachers to use LEGO tools in their classroom teaching, said university rector Erika Figula Vass. "LEGO operates a large plant in Nyíregyháza."
The AmCham Hungary
Wall Of Fame: Fall

October 16: Leadership Masterclass with László Mérő and Dávid Klein.

October 16: Business After Hours at PICK Gourmet & Deli.

October 10: Leadership Masterclass with László Mérő and Dávid Klein.

October 25: Leadership Masterclass with H.E. Iain Lindsay, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to Hungary and Nóra Gravecz.

October 30: Leadership Masterclass with Orsolya Ludvig and Dr. László Ludvig.

November 12: IV. Competitive Education Conference.
Hungary 24th Most Competitive Country In The EU

The current ranking cannot be compared to previous years’ results, however, since the methodology was entirely changed for 2018 to put more emphasis on Industry 4.0 readiness, ICT adoption, digital competency and innovation.

Closer to home, Hungary was ranked 24th among members of the European Union, with the gap to the elite growing. Even though the country is ahead of regional peers Bulgaria and Romania, it is lagging behind its fellow Visegrád Four states Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia.

The professional roundtable panelists agreed that a reasonable approach to foster the effective exercise of their rights would accept and apply this “reasonable” approach.

Moreover, companies struggle to find skilled employees and the competence and efficiency levels of the current workforce is said to be low. Considering the long-term future, the most concerning issues seem to be the high national debt, the quality of healthcare and education.

Despite some poor ratings, Hungary did perform well in a number of categories. In terms of infrastructure and ICT adoption, Hungary is comparable with the EU average. Low interest rates and the government’s efforts to attract large foreign investors provided a major boost in the country’s ranking. Even though there is a lack of trust toward banks, the banking system is still above EU average. Although the index shows the digital skills of the population are low, Hungary adopts ICT effectively and its broadband and cellular internet coverage and speed put it among the elite.

Global trends

- The United States is the most competitive country in the world followed by Singapore, Germany and Japan.
- The disparity between countries continues to grow.
- Most governments fail to capitalize on the technological revolution due to limitations in institutional backgrounds, infrastructure and the quality of human resources.
- The EU’s (72 pts) disadvantage compared to Japan (92.5 pts) and the United States (85.6 pts) is growing. However, heterogeneity must be taken into account upon comparison as the average is heavily affected by the low performance of the EU’s newest members.

Life After GDPR: Good Rules And Prospects For The Future

On October 18, the University of Szeged and the Ministry of Justice hosted an international conference, focusing on the challenges associated with implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation and the future of data protection. The event included professional roundtable discussion on the application of GDPR at enterprises, moderated by AmCham Regulatory Committee Chair Dr. Gábor Orosz, and featuring a number of committee members.

The event opened with a welcome message by Giovanni Buttarelli, European Data Protection Supervisor, who highlighted that GDPR represents a significant milestone in protecting people’s fundamental rights, creating a uniform regulatory environment, directly applicable in EU member states.

Speakers included Gizem Gülten-Várkonyi (data protection as a fundamental human right), Urszula Góral (Director of International Cooperation and Education Department, Personal Data Protection Office of Poland), Dr. Endre Győző Szabó (Vice President of the Hungarian National Authority of Data Protection and Freedom of Information), Dr. András Tóth (Associate Professor, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church) and Dr. Gergely László Széke (Assistant Professor, University of Pécs).

The professional roundtable panelists agreed that establishing GDPR-compliant practices required significant efforts from the companies, including the adoption of new processes, tools, adjusting IT-systems, training employees and raising awareness for customers. Being large companies, they could tackle these challenges through allocating the necessary resources.

Members of the audience commented that compliance with the GDPR raised significant difficulties in smaller companies* or for self-employed entrepreneurs, who are not able to employ legal or data protection professionals. The panelists agreed that a reasonable approach should be followed in applying efforts proportionate with the size, nature and risk profile of the given data processing. It is a question whether the supervising authorities would accept and apply this “reasonable” approach.

Participants also agreed that the Hungarian authority could take on a greater involvement in providing individuals with more information to foster the effective exercise of their rights under GDPR, and in providing more detailed guidance to SMEs, in order to assist their compliance efforts.

According to the majority opinion of the participants, compliance is not a state, but an ongoing effort to meet the requirements of the regulation. Regarding the future of data protection, the roundtable thought the national legislation should speed up the process of adjusting sectorial laws with GDPR, overcoming the uncertainty and filling the obvious gaps in the network of laws.

Extraordinary Regulatory Committee Meeting

On October 11, AmCham’s Regulatory Committee welcomed from the Ministry of Justice Deputy State Secretary Dr. Zoltán Nemessánya and Dr. Tibor Bogdán, a chief advisor to the minister.

The deputy state secretary thanked AmCham for its outstanding professional input and the support that has been regularly provided within the framework of a strategic partnership agreement between the chamber the ministry, first signed in 2011 and renewed in 2015. He highlighted the importance of AmCham’s input into the sectoral legislation that is relevant and needs to be modified in AmCham’s view for the sound implementation of the GDPR in Hungary.

Drs. Nemessánya and Bogdán gave an overview of the ministry’s legislative work and priorities for the remainder of 2018 and 2019, which sparked a professional dialogue with committee members.
**New Members On Board**

**Corporate**

**MasterCard**

Country Manager: Mr. Endre Élyéüs
Address: 1052 Budapest, Déák Ferenc utca 3-5.
Web: www.mastercard.hu

MasterCard is a technology company in the global payments business. We connect consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses worldwide, enabling them to use electronic forms of payment instead of cash and checks. We use technology and data-driven insights to make electronic payments more convenient, secure and efficient for people everywhere. MasterCard does not issue cards, but develops advanced payment solutions and seamlessly processes billions of transactions around the world every year.

**Sárhegyi and Partners Law Firm**

Managing Partner: Dr. Zoltán Sárhegyi
Address: 1022 Budapest, Árvácska utca 6.
Web: www.sarhegyi.hu

Sárhegyi & Partners is a leading, independent Hungarian law firm advising national and multinational businesses, start-ups, financial institutions, private equity funds, venture capital firms, sovereign wealth funds, governments and other organizations. With more than 35 lawyers we regularly handle a wide range of transactions, disputes and regulatory matters on behalf of Hungarian, European and international companies, private equity firms and financial institutions. The lawyers’ depth of knowledge in these sectors – achieved through their local and international experience – means their clients can expect the highest quality legal services in all aspects of the representation.

**TCS Consultancy Services**

Country Manager: Mr. Karim Trabelski
Address: 1195 Budapest, Petőfi utca 7.
Web: cowbells.hu

The Budapest Cowbells were formed in 2014 with the merger of the Budapest Cowboys and Újbuda Rebels. The Cowbells have succeeded in becoming 2 times Hungarian champions 2014/2017. We focus on youth development and training not only on the sport of American Football but also to live a healthier lifestyle.

**Sustainability**

Address: 1022 Budapest, Érseki út 12.

MasterCard provides a platform where global and local companies, large or small, come together and join forces to lobby the government and to contribute to Hungary’s competitiveness. By being a Patron member, we can effectively channel messages to shape policies, and facilitate collaboration between educational institutions and business entities. In addition to the broad portfolio of services and events, we are able to further improve the business climate, make the country more competitive, and therefore a better place to do business. It also helps us greatly to live our core ethos of “going back to society”. We are able to contribute to the society and community where we operate with our premier partner AmCham. It is a great thing.

**Delivery Center Head**

Mr. Karim Trabelski

In 2001, we chose Hungary to set up our operation in Eastern Europe because of the excellent talent pool and attractive business environment. Seventeen years later, we still enjoy the favorable business climate, whether it is quality of talent, infrastructure, or the support of governmental policies. We see Hungary’s developments reflected in our growth, we have doubled our headcount in the past three years. We support our customers across Europe and worldwide from our center, the central location of the country is a great advantage. Our customers also enjoy the cultural and time zone proximity. What would you like to see change to improve the business climate here?

**Patron Profile**

**LEASEPLAN HUNGÁRIA ZRT.**

Why is Hungary a good place to do business?

LeasePlan Hungary is one of the successful companies within the group thanks to the quality of the people we have in our local team. Operational lease is a very complex, business from a finance and reporting point of view, and we are a service provider on the other hand. Well educated, motivated, smart people are needed in this industry, and Hungary provides these experts and talents. Geographical location and the taxation environment also makes our market attractive, and one that cannot be missed from the region for global companies. I believe that the growth potential at many industries is still a main point of attractiveness for Hungary, and it is a great market to pilot new, innovative ideas, developments, products and services.

What would you like to see change to improve the business climate here?

We see more openness, willingness and effort from the government side, from different ministries, to understand, whether it is quality of talent, infrastructure, or the support of governmental policies. We see Hungary’s developments reflected in our growth, we have doubled our headcount in the past three years. We support our customers across Europe and worldwide from our center, the central location of the country is a great advantage.

Our customers also enjoy the cultural and time zone proximity. What would you like to see change to improve the business climate here?

**TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

Why is Hungary a good place to do business?

LeasePlan is a leader in two large and growing markets: Car-as-a-Service (Caas) for new cars and the high-quality three-to-four-year-old used car market, through its CarNext.com business. LeasePlan’s Caras business purchases, funds and manages new vehicles for its customers, providing a complete end-to-end service for a typical contract duration of three to four years. CarNext.com is a fast-growing digital pan-European marketplace for high-quality used cars. LeasePlan has 1.8 million vehicles under management in more than 30 countries. We have more than 50 years of international experience and almost 25 years locally, with a total workforce in Hungary 10. Our mission is to provide what’s next in mobility via an “any car, any time, anywhere” service, so our customers can focus on what’s next for them.

The biggest challenge we see, and feel every day, mainly from our supplier side, is to find and retain and even persuade to stay in the country different professionals, like locksmiths or their team. There are very diverse topics and working groups, so it is easy to select those that are appropriate for our company and that we can connect with and contribute to. We fully endorse the focus and values of AmCham.

**Company description:**

TCS Consultancy Services is an IT, consulting and business organization and part of the TCS group, India’s largest industrial conglomerate. Since its establishment in 1968, TCS has become a global player with 400,000 plus associates representing 130 nationalities in 45 countries operating in a unique Global Network Delivery Model™ (GNDM™), recognized as the benchmark of excellence. TCS is among the most valuable IT services brands worldwide. It is ranked by Forbes as one of the top 100 innovative companies in the world. We have been recognized as a Global Top Employer by The Top Employers Institute, one of eight organizations worldwide to have achieved this status. Our first Global Delivery Center was established in Budapest, Hungary in February 2001. The objective of this center is to provide near-shore services to our customers in Western and Eastern Europe and to customers with a global presence. Since its establishment, TCS Hungary is a strategic delivery center globally offering a broad portfolio of services.
Blind Children Tour Budapest Airport, Aeropark Museum

The children from the National Institute for the Blind participated in a tour of Budapest Airport with the support of the AmCham Foundation. Emőke Petneházy reports on another inspiring ACF day.

"Last year, I visited Ferenc Liszt International Airport, Aeropark Museum and the Aeropark Budapest with two of our students from the National Institute for the Blind. I worked for the former Hungarian airline Malév for 27 years and I really wanted to show the kids a truly fascinating place. After a nice presentation about the airport, the children had the chance to get in and feel the airplanes as well. "The kids are full of unforgettable memories. Many were moved by the kids’ story. That’s so am I. It is all thanks to a wonderful group of former colleagues and they even helped us out during the visit. But we still needed transport. I asked Erika Bosnyák of the AmCham Foundation – a reliable partner for many years – to help. Thanks to her, ACF and AVIS offered to cover the costs of the buses. "We headed for the airport with 94 people on board. The kids had a wonderful experience learning about flying and the airport and its facilities. The kids could smell the kerosene and hear the thunderous sound of the jet engines. We even waved to all the pilots rolling by us on the runway. As the highlight of our visit, we went to Aeropark and checked out the Iljushin Il-18 and TU 154 aircraft. What an adventure! "We received donations for the tickets from my former colleagues and they even helped us out during the visit. But we still needed transport. I asked Erika Bosnyák of the AmCham Foundation – a reliable partner for many years – to help. Thanks to her, ACF and AVIS offered to cover the costs of the buses. We headed for the airport with 94 people on board. The kids had a wonderful experience learning about flying and the airport and its facilities. The kids could smell the kerosene and hear the thunderous sound of the jet engines. We even waved to all the pilots rolling by us on the runway. As the highlight of our visit, we went to Aeropark and checked out the Iljushin Il-18 and TU 154 aircraft. What an adventure! "The kids are full of unforgettable memories. So am I. It is all thanks to a wonderful group of people who decided to go the extra mile to show the kids a good time."

Five Young Talents Receive ACF’s Zsuzsa Rajki Award

The purpose of the AmCham Foundation is to provide aid to the underprivileged in Hungary, especially children, and the support institutions and organizations who care for them. Zsuzsa Rajki had been a cornerstone of the ACF for almost three decades; not only one of its founders and drivers, but its face and representative. In recognition of her work and to further her legacy, Dr. Péter Komáromi, the chairman of the foundation, with the full support of the board of trustees, launched the Zsuzsa Rajki Award for Young Talent during the spring of 2018.

"With the Zsuzsa Rajki Award, our goal is to help talented and deprived young people realize their full potential and become open-minded and creative adults who value life-long learning and possess the power of change. In the future, we would like to expand this initiative with a corporate mentor program to help the recipients get prepared for the rapidly changing demands of the labor market," said Mária Gordon, a board member.

The AmCham Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of the first Zsuzsa Rajki Awards for the 2018/2019 school year to five youths who displayed immense talent and exemplary dedication to their crafts in the fields of sports, science and music.

• Richard Berki and Tibor Nagy, sixth grade wrestling talents
• Boglárka Szűcs, a folk musician from Várpalota
• Ákos Török, pianist
• Szilárd Varga for his outstanding performances in natural sciences

All winners will receive financial support to continue their studies and purchase equipment.

Application for the 2019 Award will open again in the spring.

AmCham Office Staff

Top row from left

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