

CURRICULUM VITAE

Balázs Tárnok

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Europe Strategy Research Institute
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EDUCATION:

- 2015 - 2020 **Ph.D. in Law and Political Sciences**, [Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Doctoral School](#), Budapest
Title of Ph.D. thesis: “The European Citizens’ Initiative with special regard to the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of national minorities”
- 2016 - 2018 **LL.M., ESP Translator Specialized in Law**, [Pázmány Péter Catholic University Deák Ferenc School of Postgraduate Studies](#), Budapest
- 2010 - 2015 **Degree in Law (Juris Doctor)**, [Pázmány Péter Catholic University Faculty of Law and Political Sciences](#), Budapest
- 2012 - 2013 **Erasmus study program** at European and international law studies, [Radboud University Faculty of Law](#), Nijmegen, The Netherlands

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Jul 2022 – present **Minority Rights Adviser** at *Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights*, Budapest
- Jun 2022 – present **Managing Director** at [Europe Strategy Research Institute](#), University of Public Service, Budapest
- May 2022 – present **Deputy Head of Program** at [Károli Interdisciplinary Academy](#), Károli Gáspár University, Budapest
- coordinating the national minorities program of the Academy, giving lectures in the field of EU and international minority rights and advocacy
- Jul 2019 – present **Research Associate** at [Europe Strategy Research Institute](#), University of Public Service, Budapest
- conducting research in the field of EU law and politics, participatory democracy, rights of national minorities in the EU, human rights advocacy
- Feb-Apr 2022 **Senior Legal Analyst Assistant** at *OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Election Observation Mission to Hungary*

- providing legal analysis for the legal department on the Hungarian and international legal framework in relation to the general elections in Hungary in 2022 and interpreting high-level meetings attended by the Head of Mission

Jan-Dec 2021

Visiting Research Fellow at [*Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame*](#), Indiana, USA (supported by Hungary Foundation)
- conducting research to examine the current status and the future possibilities of Hungarian human rights advocacy in the US

Oct 2020 –
Jan 2021

Visiting Lecturer at [*Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Deák Ferenc School of Postgraduate Studies*](#), Budapest
- giving lectures for post-graduate students participating in the EU law training program on the rights of national minorities and minority advocacy in the EU

Nov 2019 –
Dec 2020

International Adviser at *International Directorate, [*University of Public Service*](#)*, Budapest
- fostering academic cooperation with American and Western European universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations

Jul 2018 –
Mar 2019

Policy Officer at the *Prime Minister's Office, State Secretariat for EU Relations, Department for EU Institutional Relations*, Budapest
- coordinating communication with the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

Dec 2017 –
Jun 2018

Legal Adviser at [*Rákóczi Association*](#), Budapest
- coordinating the campaign of signature collection for the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative

Oct 2017 –
Mar 2018

Campus Mundi Intern at the *Party of the Hungarian Community in Slovakia*, Bratislava
- conducting research in the field of promoting the interests of ethnic Hungarians living in South Slovakia in the EU institutions

Jan 2017 –
Jul 2018

Legal Counsel at [*Dr. Sobor Law Firm*](#), Budapest
- providing legal assistance to the litigation process of the European Citizens' Initiative on National Regions at the Court of Justice of the European Union

Apr 2016 –
Jan 2017

Legal Counsel at [*Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights*](#), Budapest
- working as a legal counsel at the Secretariat of the Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights Ombudsman for Future Generations

Jul 2015 –
Apr 2016

Junior Research Fellow at [*Rákóczi Association*](#), Budapest
- conducting research in the field of the Hungarian minority education in Slovakia, and coordinating the School Enrollment Program in Slovakia

Apr 2014 –
Mar 2015

Intern at *Institute for the Protection of Minority Rights*, Budapest
- monitoring the violations of human and minority rights of ethnic Hungarians living beyond the borders of Hungary, and conducting research in the field of the rights of national minorities and European law

Jun-Aug 2014

Erasmus Program Intern at [*Fórum Minority Research Institute*](#), Slovakia

- conducting research in the field of minority rights in Slovakia

Feb-May 2012 **Intern** at *Office of the Parliament*, Budapest
- providing assistance at the legislative department

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS:

Languages **Hungarian** (native), fluent in **English** (C1 - 2007, 2017) and **Slovak** (C1 - 2010), **Czech** beginner level

Computer Skills *Microsoft Office, Social Media and other online platforms*

NON-PROFIT ACTIVITY:

2022 – present **Board Member** at *Foundation for the Protection of Minority Rights* (Kisebbségi Jogvédő Alapítvány)

2022 – present **Member of Editorial Board** at [Foreign Affairs Workshop](#) – *Rapid Analyses Series* (Külügyi Műhely Alapítvány – Gyorselemzés sorozat)

2018 – present **Vice-Chairman** at [Rákóczi Association](#) (Rákóczi Szövetség), Budapest

2016 – present **Member** at *Hungarian International Law and European Law Association* (Magyar Nemzetközi Jogi és Európai Jogi Társaság), Budapest

2011 - 2014 **Vice-President** (2011-2013), **President** (2013-2014) at *Kaszás Attila Student Association* (Kaszás Attila Diákkör), Budapest

2007 - present **Vice-President** at *Hussar and Military Reenactment Association of Felvidék, Slovakia*

2003 - 2013 **Volunteer** at *Learning Enterprises*
Country coordinator for Slovakia (2011-2013) at *Learning Enterprises*

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS:

Sep 2022 **Hungary Foundation Alumni Award 2022**, [Hungary Foundation](#)

Aug 2022 **Europa Fellowship**, [Common Sense Society](#) – Fehérvárcsurgó, Hungary

Jun 2022 **Lőrincz Csaba Award**, [Pro Minoritate Foundation](#), Hungary

Jan 2021 - Dec 2021 **Post-Graduate Visiting Research Fellowship**, [Hungary Foundation](#) – University of Notre Dame, USA

Jun-Aug 2014 **Erasmus Internship** – *Fórum Minority Research Institute*, Slovakia

Sep 2012 – May 2013 **Erasmus Study Grant** – *Radboud University, Nijmegen*, the Netherlands

List of Academic Publications in English:

[“Protection of the Rights and Promotion of the Interests of National Minorities in a New Era”](#). *Hungarian Conservative*, Vol. 2, Issue 6. pp. 14-21.

[“European Citizens’ Initiatives for the Protection and Promotion of Rights and Interests of National Minorities – Latest Developments”](#), in Marcel Szabó, Laura Gyeney, and Petra Lea Láncoš (eds.): *Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law 2020*, Eleven International Publishing, The Hague, Vol. 8, 2020.

[“European Citizens’ Initiatives for the Protection of National Minorities”](#) co-authored with Péter Varga, *Hungarian Journal of Minority Studies*, Vol. II, 2018.

[“European Minorities Win a Battle in Luxembourg. The judgment of the General Court in the case Minority SafePack European Citizens’ Initiative”](#), *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe*, Vol 16, No 1, 2017.

[“The Szekler National Council’s European Citizens’ Initiative for the equality of the regions and sustainability of the regional cultures at the Court of Justice of the European Union”](#), in Marcel Szabó, Laura Gyeney, and Petra Lea Láncoš (eds.): *Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law 2016*, Eleven Publishing, The Hague, 2016.

[“Regional Policy”](#) co-authored with Petra Lea Láncoš, in Marcel Szabó, Petra Lea Láncoš, Laura Gyeney, and Kinga Debisso (eds): *Union Policies*. Eleven International Publishing, 2016.

[“Common Agriculture Policy”](#) co-authored with Marcel Szabó, in Marcel Szabó, Petra Lea Láncoš, Laura Gyeney, and Kinga Debisso (eds): *Union Policies*. Eleven International Publishing, 2016.

List of Other Publications in English:

[“Council of Europe criticising Slovakia for violating human rights of national minorities”](#), *EU Strat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, July 7, 2022

[“The U.S. Ignores Human Rights Abuses in Slovakia at Its Own Peril”](#), *The National Interest*, May 3, 2022

[“Why Is Ethnic Discrimination Still Legal in Slovakia?”](#) *Foreign Policy*, March 12, 2022

[“Reconciling the Hungarian-Ukrainian Schism”](#), co-author: Michael van Ginkel, *Real Clear Defense*, December 18, 2021

[“Ignoring Minority Rights is Part of Brussels’ Agenda to Homogenize Europe”](#), *Newsweek*, September 10, 2021

[“Human rights of ethnic minorities in Ukraine – the ‘Kaboul moment’ is on the way?https://eustrat.uni-nke.hu/hirek/2021/01/20/the-european-commission-turned-its-back-on-national-and-linguistic-](#)

[minorities](#)”, *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, August 31, 2021.

“[Why is Hungary ‘blocking’ Ukraine’s NATO accession?](#)” *The Washington Times*, June 27, 2021 (print edition)

“[Ukraine Is Fighting the Wrong War](#)”, *Newsweek*, June 15, 2021

“[Minority Rights – Ukraine’s Gateway to the West](#)”, *Int’l J. Const. L. Blog*, Apr. 30, 2021

“[European Commission: Ukraine must respect the rights of national minorities](#)”, *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, March 22, 2021.

“[Widening the gap between the EU and its citizens. On the European Commission’s decision rejecting the Minority SafePack Initiative](#)”, *Constitutional Discourse*, March 10, 2021.

“[EP committee demanding action of the European Commission on the Beneš Decrees](#)”, *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, January 27, 2021.

“[The European Commission turned its back on national and linguistic minorities](#)”, *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, January 20, 2021.

“[Ukrainian-Hungarian Relations Throughout the Years – How to Move Forward](#)”, co-authored with Lyudmyla Filyuk, International Centre for Policy Studies, Kyiv, 2020.

“[Slovakia Still Applying the Beneš Decrees – Principle of Collective Guilt in the European Union](#)”, *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, July 15, 2020.

“[Impact of the Coronavirus on ECI Procedures – Will the Commission Extend Deadlines?](#)” *EUStrat Policy Observer*, Europe Strategy Research Institute, Ludovika-University of Public Service, Budapest, April 28, 2020.

List of academic publications in Hungarian:

“Mire elég egymillió aláírás? Az európai polgári kezdeményezés mint a nemzeti kisebbségek jog- és érdekvédelmi eszköze” (What is a one million signatures worth? The European Citizens’ Initiative as a tool for the promotion of the rights and interests of national minorities in the EU). Ludovika Egyetemi Kiadó. *Forthcoming 2023*.

“[Tízéves az európai polgári kezdeményezés – mivé vált az Unió részvételi demokráciájának új eszköze?](#)” (Ten Years of the ECI – What Has Become of the New Tool of EU Participatory Democracy?) *Európai Tükör* (European Mirror), 2021/4., 2022. 37-53.

“[A nemzeti kisebbségek jog- és érdekvédelmének kihívásai és lehetőségei egy új világrendben](#)” (Protection of the Rights and Promotion of the Interests of National Minorities in a New Era), *Pro Minoritate*, 2022 summer. 3-13.

“A szlovákiai magyarok jog- és érdekvédelmi lehetőségei a nemzetközi térben” (Possibilities of promoting the rights and interests of Hungarians in Slovakia in the international sphere). In: Gyurcsik

Iván (szerk.): Gyönyör József-emlékkötet Lesz-e végre igazi hazánk? Kisebbségért-Pro Minoritate Alapítvány, Méry Ratio Kiadó, 2022.

“A koronavírus hatása az európai polgári kezdeményezésekre - a határidő-hosszabbítás jogi és politikai kérdései” (The Impact of the Coronavirus on the European Citizens’ Initiatives – Legal and Political Questions of Deadline Extensions), co-authored with Dénes András Nagy, In: András Koltay-Bernát Török (eds.): *Járvány sújtotta társadalom – A koronavírus a társadalomtudományok szemüvegén keresztül*. Ludovika Egyetemi Kiadó, 2021.

“[Az európai polgári kezdeményezés különös tekintettel a nemzeti kisebbségek jog- és érdekvédelmére](#)” (The European Citizens’ Initiative with special regard to the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of national minorities) *PhD dissertation*, Pázmány Péter Catholic University Doctoral School of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest, 2020.

“[A civil szervezetek szerepe az európai polgári kezdeményezésekben, különös tekintettel a nemzeti kisebbségek jog- és érdekvédelmével kapcsolatos kezdeményezésekre](#)” (The role of civil society organizations in European Citizens’ Initiatives with special regard to protecting and promoting the rights and interests of national minorities), *Kisebbségvédelem* (Protection of Minorities), Issue 2, 2020.

“[Az európai polgári kezdeményezés működési nehézségei és az európai polgári kezdeményezésről szóló rendelet felülvizsgálata](#)” (Operational difficulties of the European Citizens’ Initiative and revision of the Regulation on the European Citizens’ Initiative), *Iustum Aequum Salutare*, Vol. 16, Issue 2, 2020.

“A nemzeti kisebbségek védelme az Európai Unióban” (Protection of National Minorities in the European Union), co-authored with Tamás Zoltán Wágner, in: Marcel Szabó, Petra Lea Láncoš, Laura Gyenyey & Kinga Debisso (eds): *Uniók szakpolitikák* (Union Policies). Pázmány Press: Budapest, 2019.

“[A Minority SafePack európai polgári kezdeményezés és a magyarországi aláírásgyűjtés tapasztalatai](#)” (The Minority SafePack European Citizens’ Initiative and the experiences of the campaign of signature collection in Hungary), *Létünk* (Our Existence), Year XLIX, Issue 2019/2, 2019.

“A diszkrimináció tilalma és az egyenlő bánásmód elve az Európai Unióban” (Non-discrimination and the principle of equal treatment in the European Union), in: Marcel Szabó, Petra Lea Láncoš, Laura Gyenyey & Kinga Debisso (eds.): *Az Európai Unió jogi fundamentumai* (Legal bases of the European Union), Pázmány Press: Budapest, 2018.

“[Bevezető – Jelentések a nemzeti kisebbségek jogainak védelméről az -Európa Tanácsban és az Európai Parlamentben](#)” (Introduction: Reports on the Protection of Right of National Minorities at the Council of Europe and the European Parliament), *Kisebbségi Szemle* (Minority Review), Issue 2018/1, 2018.

“[Európai polgári kezdeményezések a nemzeti kisebbségek védelmében](#)” (European Citizens’ Initiatives for the Protection of National Minorities), co-authored with Péter Varga, *Kisebbségi Szemle* (Minority Review), Issue 2017/3, 2018.

“[A Törvényszék ítélete a Minority SafePack kontra Bizottság ügyben](#)” (The Ruling of the General Court in the case of Minority SafePack v Commission), *Jogesetek Magyarázata* (Explanation of Legal Cases), Vol. VIII, Issue 1-2., 2017.

“[Az Európai Törvényszék ítélete a Székely Nemzeti Tanács európai polgári kezdeményezése ügyében](#)” (The Ruling of the General Court in the case of ECI of the Szekler National Council), *Jogesetek Magyarázata* (Explanation of Legal Cases), Vol. VII, Issue 4, 2016.

“[Régi és új kisebbségek Európában – A migrációs válság lehetséges hatásai az őshonos/hagyományos és a bevándorló kisebbségek jogaira](#)” (Old and New Minorities in Europe – The Possible Effects of the

Migration Crisis on the Rights of Indigenous/Traditional and Immigrant Minorities), in: *A kisebbségek jövője a globalizálódó világban* (The future of minorities in a globalizing world), UN Association of Hungary, 2016.

[“Az őshonos nemzeti közösségek helyzetének védelme és előmozdításának lehetőségei az Európai Unióban, különös tekintettel a szlovákiai magyarság és az európai kisebbségek nyelvhasználati jogaira”](#) (The protection of autochthonous national communities and the possibilities of fostering their legal status in the European Union with particular regard to the language rights of Hungarians in Slovakia, and of European minorities), in: Dr. Tamás Csaba Gergely (ed.): *Magyarország és a közép-európai térség az Európai Unióban* (Hungary and the Central European region in the European Union), Díjnyertes pályázatok 2014, Országgyűlés Hivatala (Office of the Parliament), 2016.

PRESENTATIONS IN ENGLISH

“Contemporary application of the Benes Decrees in Slovakia”, Human Rights Workshop organized by the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, August 4, 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Experiences from the Minority SafePack offline campaign in Hungary” Workshop on Collecting Paper Signatures for a European Citizens’ Initiative, Democracy International (online), April 12, 2022

“Hungarian Human Rights Issues in Ukraine and American Advocacy”, Quinnipiac University, USA, October 12, 2021

“Human and Minority Rights Advocacy in the United States”, Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut, October 10, 2021

“Nation-building and history – Application of the Benes decrees and the principle of collective guilt in the 21st century”, Indiana University, USA, September 22, 2021

“Minority Rights in the European Union” (moderator), European Forum Alpbach 2020 (online), Discussion with MEP Loránt Vincze, September 1, 2020

“The Minority SafePack Initiative campaign in Hungary”, Hearing: European Citizens' Initiative, European Parliament, PETI Committee, Brussels, February 21, 2018

“Strengthening Citizens’ Rights with special regard to the European Citizens’ Initiative and protection of national minorities”, Mini-Hearing on EU Citizenship, European Parliament, LIBE Committee, Brussels, February 19, 2018

“Preserving identity through youth and education – The activity of the Rákóczi Alliance”, ELA-Erekly Conference on Education Law, Pázmány Péter Catholic University Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest, October 21, 2016

“The Slovak ecclesiastical restitution regulation and its problems from a free movement of capital perspective”, Public hearing, European Parliament, Brussels, April 5, 2016