Our Mission

The Barankovics István Foundation was founded by the Hungarian Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP), an organization representing the modern values of Hungarian and European Christian democracy. The Foundation was established in 2006 by KDNP with the aim of cultivating the forward-looking traditions of Christian politics and seeking Christian-democratic responses to the socio-political challenges of the 21st century. The Foundation supports those committed to Christian and democratic values in deepening their beliefs, and wants to show the legitimacy of the organization's Christian democratic principles in society to those who approach democracy from other perspectives. With its activity, the Foundation would also like to demonstrate that there are common values underlying social coexistence in today's Hungary, and that realising this is in the interests of us all.

Our eponym

Our eponym, István Barankovics (1906-1974), was a prominent figure of Christian democracy in the 20th century. With his work as a journalist and editor, he contributed largely to creating the spiritual foundation of Christian democracy in Hungary between the two world wars. After the Second World War, between 1945 and 1949, he was the Secretary-General of the Democratic People's Party, KDNP's predecessor. He became the president of the Christian Democratic Union of Central Europe (CDUCE) after being forced to emigrate due to the communists' taking of power in Hungary. He was a member of the executive committee of the Hungarian immigrant government, leading the department of religion and public education. Our main task is to nurture and progress his intellectual heritage.

Value-based politics

The Barankovics István Foundation carries out value-based activities whose roots lie in the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The basis of our social view is Man's personal perception. Our task is to preserve the human dignity of Man created in God's image, to strengthen social solidarity and justice, and to consolidate social capital. We regard people not only as individuals, but also as social beings, who not only have rights, but also duties in promoting the common good. For this reason, subsidiarity is an important asset, a prerequisite for responsible action by citizens who work for common goals. We are convinced that democracy is the most appropriate political system to promote public good, and that in this process Christian politics and Christians in politics have a particular role to play.

The activities of the Barankovics István Foundation

1. **Supporting Christian public life, patronage**

Through its activities, the Foundation seeks to strengthen Christian public life. It provides support through applications for organizing programs and events, and for publications. Its purpose is to enable those with a Christian worldview to have their values more effectively advocated and implemented in today's Hungarian society. With this activity, the Barankovics István Foundation also coordinates the strategic cooperation of the actors of the Hungarian Christian Democratic movement. Between 2010 and 2019 :: In 2019, on the 75th anniversary of the birth of Hungarian Christian democratic politics, it was a supporter of the nationwide series of events.

2. **Christian democratic values in public communication**

We are also actors in Christian democratic public communication. The Foundation regards its task as managing the Christian-Democratic socio-cultural base and informing its followers. We operate three websites and two Facebook profiles to promote our values, social view and cultural commitment, and to keep our readers up-to-date. Our studies and articles shape the self-image of Christian democracy, formulating answers to today's challenges. For educational purposes, we are present on Wikipedia, where we write articles or supplement existing ones. On our Youtube channel, video summaries of major events, conferences and other events can be viewed. The “Vallás és közélet” (Religion and public life) news portal is part of our online portfolio. There, besides the media content related to the KDNP and its direct subcultural environment, we select news and articles from the Christian media world, the official websites of Churches, blogs reflecting a religious attitude, and websites of European Christian Democratic parties, Catholic and other religious organizations. From printed media, our foundation supports the publication of “Hazánk”, the official journal of the Hungarian Christian Democratic People's Party.

3. **Our scientific activities**

The Zoltán K. Research Institute, operating within the Barankovics István Foundation, carries out basic and applied research and development in fields related to the Foundation's objectives. In addition to deeper exploration and a presentation of Christian democracy's past, it considers it its duty to represent current issues within its worldview and to redefine Christian Democratic political theory to answer today’s questions.
Our conferences bring together like-minded people and provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, and strategic cooperation between European and Hungarian Christian democrats. Between 2010 and 2019, the Barankovics István Foundation :::::: organized its own conferences on, among other things, the situation of European Christianity, the family, the current challenges of Christian democracy, public policy and public morals. We have published scholarly papers on the history of

Hungarian and European Christian democracy by invited experts.
The Foundation's Research Team of the Christian Democracy Knowledge Base, consisting of researchers and professionals in higher education, has been operating since 2011. The knowledge base created by these researchers is an encyclopedia-like collection of articles designed to provide quick, scientific and public insight into the world of modern Christian politics. Today, the knowledge base contains more than 200 articles and 1,200 bibliographic entries and is constantly expanding. Our new development is the Document Library, where we collect, archive and make the records of Hungarian Christian democracy's history available for scientific use. As of 2019, the Christian Democracy Knowledge Base will be available on a dedicated website as part of the BIA website family.

4. **Our educational program**

István Barankovics, our eponym, regarded raising political literacy as one of the key issues for the future of democracy, and therefore urged the creation of "schools of Christian politics". The Foundation devotes some of its financial and intellectual resources to developing democratic values and a culture of mentality of active citizenship. In this area, it carries out its activities in two directions: towards teachers and towards young people in public and higher education. Our Teacher Roundtable serves the purpose of dialogue with educators. We mount annual teacher competitions to support methodological solutions for the development of civic competences, publish educational materials, and organize conferences and training. We organize civic competence training for university students. It was a great pleasure for us in 2014 to set up our "We need a new song in ten years time" training with Roma youth from the Szeged Christian Roma College. In 2012-2017, our highly successful social science study competition, Online Democracy Activity, served to enhance the active citizenship skills of high school students. The creative and playful competition was undertaken by nearly 500 students and 45 mentoring teachers. In 2019, we launched our Demoduo program to similar purpose, where even primary school children are given the opportunity to join in.