Summary of Our "May the Future Be With You!" Calls for Applications

Beginning in 2022, our Foundation announced the youth-focused call for applications "May the Future Be With You!" over three consecutive school years, inviting participation from students in grades 7–12. The main goal of this series was to encourage young people to think critically about the social, technological, and spiritual-mental questions that shape our future, and to share their personal viewpoints in creative formats—such as video essays, reports, or presentations. To support this effort, our Foundation made resources and materials available on our website's Kikötő section, as well as on our Facebook and Instagram pages, offering a comprehensive range of inspiration for each participant's chosen topic.

The submitted works showed clearly that students are interested in the issues of artificial intelligence, sustainability, and the online world. Many entries discussed digital dependence, cyberbullying, and anxiety, highlighting how strongly the virtual space affects young people's well-being. We found it especially significant that factors influencing mental health require focused attention, as several submissions touched on challenges that threaten young people's emotional balance. These findings led us to launch the Kapaszkodó (Lifelines) project, which aims to provide assistance for students, parents, and teachers in dealing with mental health challenges.

The quality of the submissions, along with students' capacity for critical thinking and their eagerness for creative self-expression, showed that young people are ready to shape the future and to engage with societal and technological questions that already affect them. While many participants explored the drawbacks of the digital environment, most expressed an optimistic vision for the future, emphasizing the importance of human values, responsible thought, and well-prepared planning. Through "May the Future Be With You!" we were encouraged to continue creating opportunities for students to share their insights, as their critical, committed, and innovative ideas have great value for all of us. Allowing them to voice these ideas contributes to the development of both public education and our wider society.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to MEP György Hölvényi for his support, including providing the prizes for the student winners during their visits to Brussels.