Main Directions of the Barankovics István Foundation's Support Practice

The Barankovics István Foundation is an organization representing the values of Hungarian and European Christian democracy. It is committed to promoting the development of public life culture, deepening social dialogue, and strengthening democratic values. Its mission is to advance the common good, to support public and academic discourse grounded in the principles of Christian social teaching, and to foster the practical realization of social responsibility.

The Foundation implements its objectives through its own events and book-publishing program, through the regular support of five nationally active Christian-democratic organizations, and by institutionally embracing initiatives from the Christian civil sector. The Board of Trustees decides on submitted applications based on professional and value-based considerations. The number of applicants has increased dynamically in recent years: in 2023, 76 events and 8 publications were realized with the Foundation's contribution, while in 2024 already 138 events and 14 publications received support. By autumn 2025, the number of submitted applications had risen to nearly 150.

Program Support – Value-Based Community Building

At the heart of the Foundation's support practice lie objectives that strengthen the social presence and impact of Christian-democratic thought. Reinforcing Christian civil life means not only providing institutional backing but also empowering communities organized around faith, solidarity, and social responsibility. Through value-based community building and the development of social capital, the Foundation embraces initiatives capable of building bridges between generations, social groups, and regions.

A key goal is the public education and identity formation of young people, as establishing democratic participation, community commitment, and value-conscious thinking are essential for the future stability of society. Support for family and children's programs serves the intergenerational transmission of values, with particular emphasis on shared experiences, education, and cooperation. Another priority objective is assisting Hungarian communities beyond the borders, which—by strengthening the bonds of national belonging—aim to preserve their shared cultural and religious heritage.

Supported spiritual and religious programs—such as sacred walks, pilgrimages, church concerts, and ecclesiastical events—offer not only a religious experience but also reinforce the identity of local communities. Contributions to heritage-preserving events—for example, local history lectures, festive programs, folk dance and folk music events—transform national cultural heritage into a living community experience. By supporting local-patriotic organizations, the Foundation stands behind initiatives that promote local identity, community cohesion, and the preservation of regional values.

Publication Support – Knowledge Sharing and Memory Policy

The thematic diversity of publications supported by the Barankovics István Foundation reflects its value-centered approach and social commitment. Among the published works are historical monographs, church-historical analyses, public life commemorative volumes, social policy studies, and cultural and identity-strengthening works. These publications are not merely academically rigorous documents but also tools of collective memory, contributing to the transmission of Christian-democratic values, the reinforcement of national and local identity, and the deepening of social dialogue.

Many of the publications are connected to specific events or anniversaries, making them an integral part of the Foundation's support practice both in content and in function.

…

The activities of the Barankovics István Foundation clearly illustrate how social capital can become a tangible resource. Its trust-based, value-driven, and cooperative support model contributes to the strengthening of Christian civil society, the deepening of social cohesion, and the preservation of democratic culture. Through its work, the Foundation not only builds communities but also shapes social patterns—ones in which individual fulfillment and community responsibility reinforce each other.