

A Közlekedési Kultúra Napja

A Közlekedési Kultúra Napja továbbra is kiemelt rendezvénye a Közlekedéstudományi Egyesületnek. A nemzetközi jelleget erősítik a meghívott külföldi vendégek előadásai. Az immár hagyományosnak minősíthető „Bevezető”-t ez évben is Sebastian Belz úr az EPTS alapítvány titkára mondta el.

Budapest, 09. 05. 2025

Day of Transport Culture

Speech of Sebastian BELZ,

Secretary General of the European Platform of Transport Sciences (EPTS Foundation e.V.)

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Dear Dr. FÓNAGY, Dear Mr. BÍRÓ, Dear Dr. HORVATH,

Tisztelt Hölgyeim és Uraim,

Dear Organisers and Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity of giving you once again some words of greeting from the side of the European Platform of Transport Sciences. It always is a very good feeling to attend the Day of Transport Culture in Budapest and to meet you personally.

The EPTS is a pan-European association, where people from all European nations related to the field of transport sciences collaborate together, exchanging knowledge and scientific results across borders to face the challenges of transport and mobility in our unifying Europe.

We are working together since 2001 and with member associations in 25 different European countries, representing more than 30.000 individuals, we have established a frequent and fluent network to set up the sustainable European Transport Architecture of the Future.

Mobility always means relationship, and we want to help building peaceful and prosperous relations between European citizens and nations, even beyond the European Union. I believe, that this goal has gained more importance recently, as we are facing multiple crises, caused by both, the environment and humans.

The goals of the European Platform are based on the principles of neutrality and objectivity and cover all transport modes and all scientific professions in all countries. The EPTS' contribution to this complex and long-lasting development is regarded as highly important by Brussels officials and in the national parliaments.

From the beginning – almost 25 years ago – the Hungarian KTE is member of EPTS and one of our largest partners. We have had the privilege to hold four of our annual European Transport Congresses in Hungary, three times in Budapest and once in Győr. All of these Congresses were organised splendidly and with such a grand hospitality, that I can just say: Köszönöm szépen, my dear friends, for your excellent and caring partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Transport Culture is a core European value!

Interaction with other people inevitably requires some sort of distinct cultural education. You may address somebody in a more polite – or in a more offensive way. But first you must become aware, that you are not alone. Only then you will be able to consciously consider how to treat your counterpart. So, AWARENESS is a key.

This cultural education starts in your earliest childhood, when you learn how to interact with your parents, brothers and sisters. It continues during your time in school, at university and at work. And last not least it also covers the “leisure” side of life: sports, hobbies, church activities etc. Literally every part of life follows these cultural rules, written or unwritten. And so does transport.

As soon as we leave our private house we enter common grounds. There - again - we interact with other people. They are walking, cycling, travelling with public transport, driving or just standing on the same grounds as we do. We all share this same space to fulfil our – often diverging – needs, and thus we need to know, how to behave properly. These cultural rules shall prevent us from harming others and being harmed by them.

Yet, there is a special challenge incurred in mobility: it is speed! The faster one moves, the more likely it is to cross one another’s way in danger. And the heavier your mobility device is, these “crossroads” may end in really hazardous situations. Distinct regulation is a necessity. Surplus, everybody always has to act and react in an appropriate and reliable way, especially in uncertain circumstances and without exception towards the “safe side”.

Moving in a diverse space needs a very deep understanding, a highly integrated philosophy of life. Next to the pure “control of the machine” it needs attentiveness and curiosity to look beyond. It is truly a question of behaviour, of social competence, and of dedication to “Transport Culture”.

And that is the reason, why today’s Day of Transport Culture is of such outstanding importance, especially during these times of disruption in Europe and the World! Before the action comes the word. Before the word comes the thought. We need a higher sensitivity for our and our neighbours feelings and thoughts, because they are the origin of our common culture.

To draw people’s attention to transport safety issues and to tolerant behaviour starts in the people’s minds.

TO TREAT EVERYBODY EVERYTIME LIKE YOU WISH TO BE TREATED YOURSELF is a universal, non-negotiable common value. Always pay respect to your counterpart, in your family, at work, during holiday, at home and abroad.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this 11th Day of Transport Culture is another one under wartime conditions. Crises become more and more dominating. But I am sure, that we are able to overcome them, because we can work on our solid attitude. This Day will thus serve as an even stronger commitment to the values of human rights, freedom and peace, for the Hungarian people and for all European citizens. We will continue to work together for our common success.

I wish you all a beautiful day and a safe and sensitive travel at all times. And please, always LOOK BEYOND!

Kulturált közlekedést minden napra!

Köszönöm szépen! Thank you very much!