

Annual Activity report for 2022

Summary

In 2022, the MCC Center for European Studies delivered **90 media interventions** organised and took part in dozen of **public events** (including in cooperation with international partners), and participated in several **international conferences**. On the education front, the Center offered several **courses for MCC students** in both spring and autumn semesters, organised a **study trip** to Brussels. Since November, the Centre also set up **its own website** where all its activities can be tracked.

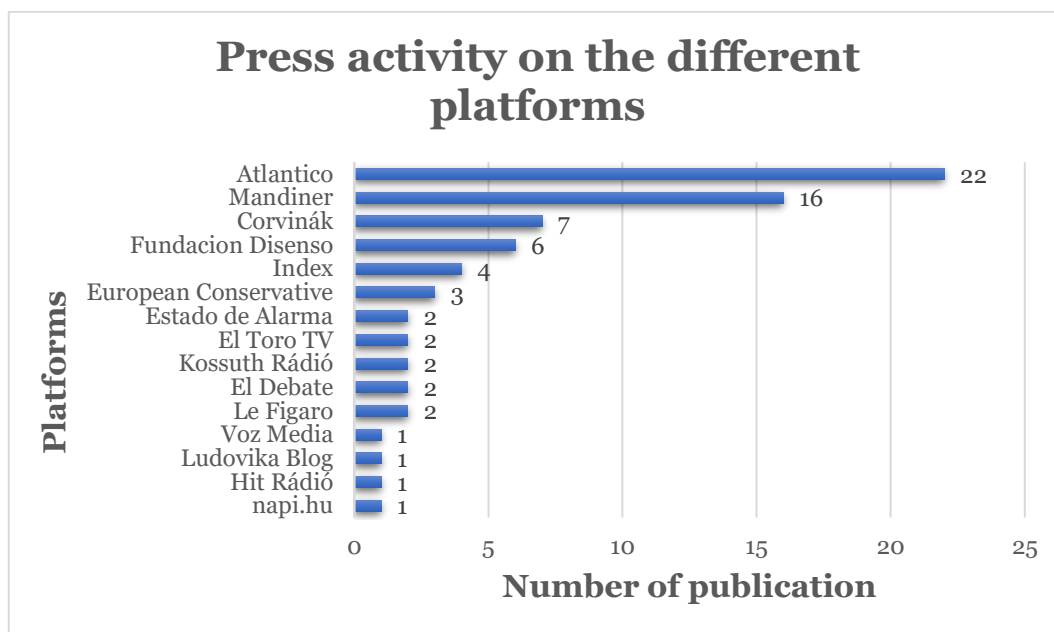
I Media activities

The members of the Center published a significant number of articles in 2022 on various national and international media platforms. In total, **90 publications**, including TV and radio appearances in addition to written articles and op-eds, **including 79 appearances** of the Head of the Center, Rodrigo Ballester.

The French site atlantico.fr had the highest number of publications (22), followed by mandiner.hu (16), and [Fundación Disenso](https://fundaciondisenso.org) (6). Rodrigo Ballester also published op-eds or was interviewed in lefigaro.fr, on index.hu, in [Newsweek](https://newsweek.com), the [Visegrad Post](https://visegradpost.com), [the European Conservative](https://theeuropeanconservative.com) and appeared on Kossuth Radio, Radio France, M1 and ElToroTV, among others. The Centre has a dedicated column, „[Between the lines](#)”, on the MCC’s own blog page (Corvinák), where several EU-related analysis, and articles can be found.

Moreover Rodrigo Ballester was a guest of MCC podcast two times in 2022, on the following topics: „[Ukraine’s fast-track EU Membership request](#)”, and „[EU sanctions Packages against Russia](#)”.

The chart below summarises the top 15 portals where we have most of our appearances:



The Center's media activities

II Publications:

In 2022, a total of 5 publications were published by our Center, which are available in English and Hungarian on our [website](#).

- Réka Zsuzsánna Máthé: *Presumed systemic corruption and lack of judicial action against it in Hungary: when OLAF reports prove the opposite*. Date of publication: 15.09.2022.
- Lívía Pavelka: *Conditionality of European Funds: tough on Member States, laxist on third countries?* Date of publication: 25.09.2022.
- Dávid Pércsi: *Should ban on gas be included in the sanctions against Russia?* Date of publication: 25.09.2022.
- Réka Zsuzsanna Máthé: *Methodological shortcomings in the Commission's Rule of Law Report: consultations « à la carte? »* Date of publication: 07.10.2022.
- Gergely Csurgai-Horváth: *Are digital platforms the railways of the 21st century?* Publication date: 11.10.2022.

III Public and academic events

In 2022, the Centre participated very actively in the debate on the Future of Europe, channeling and uploading a large number of ideas to the dedicated website and and organised several events around this specific theme. These included our events with ISSEP (the first part on 7 February in Budapest, the second on 20 April in Lyon). In total, MCC ranked as the fourth most active organisation at European level during the Future of Europe exercise.

Rodrigo Ballester, participates in numerous events and conferences both at home and abroad. Among these, the following are worth highlighting:

Events abroad:

- 24.03. 2022. Brussels, NatCon. *Redefining European Values: It's None of the EU's Business*
- 27.04.2022. Madrid, CEU-CEFAS. *Jornada de debate: Políticas de familia para afrontar retos demográficos: Analisis de los casos de Hungría y la comunidad de Madrid*
- 07.09.2022 Karpacz Economic Forum, *Panel discussion on Balázs Orbán.*
- 23.09.2022 Defending Freedom Conference, Tallinn. *The war on woke - keeping European campuses free*
- 04.10.2022. Art of Sustainability, New York, UN Headquarters. *Challenges of Green Transition*
- 19.11. 2022. CPAC, Mexico. *Defensa de las ideas*



Challenges of Green Transition, UN Headquarters, 4th October



CPAC Mexico, Defensa de las ideas, 19th November

Domestic events:

- 16-17. 02. 2022. MCC Summit, Budapest. Panel discussions:
 - *What do we teach about gender?*
 - *Book launch: the Diversity delusion*
 - *Book launch: The debasement of human rights*
- 03.04.2022. Hungarian Election Night, MCC, Budapest.
- 10.04.2022 French Election Night, MCC, Budapest. *Conséquences des dénouements et le nouveau paysage politique auxquelles la France sera confrontée dans les mois et les années à venir* (moderator: Pavelka Livia)
- 30.07.2022. MCC Fest, Esztergom. *Is This Legal? The Background of Social Media* (moderator: Gergely Csurgai-Horváth)
- 30.09.2022. Brain Bar, Budapest. Panel discussions:

- *The many ways of seeing the World (moderated by Rodrigo Ballester). Panel discussion with Zing Tjenseng and Jakub Olek.*
- *COMPETITIVE CHOICES - NONCONFORM Book Launch - WHAT WORLD AWAITS FOR GEN Z? - Finding originality in the age of complexity. o Panel discussion with Gergely Böszörményi-Nagy and Malcolm Gladwell (moderated by Rodrigo Ballester).*
- *Panel discussion with Paula Bruszezwska and Pavlína Louženska on the importance of education (moderated by Rodrigo Ballester)*
- **02.10.2022** Brazil Election Night, MCC, Budapest. *Why is Brazil's election crucial for the EU and Hungary?*
- **13.10.2022.** Budapest Lecture, MCC, Budapest: *Prospects of Right-Wing in Europe and Latin-America with former President of Colombia, Andrés Pastrana Arango (moderator: Rodrigo Ballester)*



Budapest Lecture with Andrés Pastrana Arango, 13rd October



Brain Bar with Malcolm Gladwell, 30th September



MCC-ISSEP conference, 7th February

IV Educational activities (courses, seminars and practical cases):

In addition to think tank activities, teaching is an important pillar of our Center. Within this framework, the Center has held training courses in English, both in the Budapest centre and in the regional centres, as well as across the border, on the following topics:

Budapest:

- Who is the boss in the European Union (simulation game)
- EU Migration policy: to move or not to move, that is not the only question
- The EU in the world: irrelevant or indispensable, interests vs values, vector or shield of globalisation?

Kolozsvár:

- The European Union: institutions and decision-making Process, theory and practice.
- Show me the money: a closer look at the conditionality of EU funds, the case of Hungary (simulation game).

Pécs:

- EU's Enlargement, who's next? (simulation game)

Győr:

- Global Trends: Contesting, Redefining, and Rehabilitation Our Western Values with Gladden Pappin and Patrick Shoaf Gray (28 January, 2022) (seminar)

Debrecen:

- Global Trends: Contesting, Redefining, and Rehabilitation Our Western Values with Gladden Pappin and Stephen Sholl (14 February, 2022) (seminar)
- From Homo Sapiens to Homo Deus with Vajk Miklós Lukács de Perény (08 June, 2022) (seminar)

Moreover, Rodrigo Ballester kept lecturing as an **invited Professor at the Institute of Political Sciences of Paris** (Sciences-Po Paris, Dijon Campus) for the 14th year in a row.

At the end of October 2022, the Centre organised a study trip to Brussels with a delegation of 12 students, where they met EU officials from the European Commission and the European Council and Members of the European Parliament.



Visit to the European Parliament, 26th October



Giving lectures about the historical background of the EU in Brussels

The Center also organised the professional programme for the **Autumn Academy**, which is a compulsory annual event organised by the school. The weekend was held in Győr, where the students examined the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war, looking at different regions and countries around the world. To conclude the programme, they took part in a simulation game where they were able to participate in a possible peace negotiation process. The game was also organised, led and developed by two members of our Center.