

# ANTALL JÓZSEF

F O U N D A T I O N

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*„Democracy is not to be declared, but to be operated”  
(József Antall)*



*„It was a great pleasure for me to know that on the tenth anniversary of my husband’s death the objectives and the frameworks of operation of the foundation bearing his name have now crystallised. József Antall firmly believed that being a politician is a profession: in the first few years of transition, the public actors and the decision makers came from all walks of life. Today, more than one and a half decades later, public debate could be less fierce and more worthy of the ancestors if it were based on professional argumentative reasoning rather than on emotions. This is why we do our very best to train the present and future generations of politicians.”*

***Mrs. József Antall***

***President of the Antall József Foundation***

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## Political foundations in Hungary

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### The good model

The road to the recognition of the idea in the motto led amidst harsh historical lessons particularly in Germany. Following WWII, state-financed foundations were set up independent of, but still closely associated with the political parties for the purpose of reinforcing democracy, promoting public activities, and improving the standards of politics through the political training of the citizens.



### Adaptation of the model

Owing largely to the persistent work of Dr. Ibolya Dávid, President of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Hungarian National Assembly had, in the summer of 2003, enacted Act XLVII of 2003 on foundations engaged in scientific, educational, research, and training activities to promote the operations of political parties. (Act XLVII of 2003)

Being the forerunner in the region, Hungary was the first to use budget resources to set up scientific workshops – on the basis of the established and tested German model – that could address and reach a much wider public than the often disreputable realm of politics; these workshops not only produce a fresh supply of professional politicians but also help public actors to convey more carefully elaborated and articulated professional opinion to the public.



### Eponymy

Naming the Hungarian Democratic Forum's own political foundation after József Antall did not only pay homage to the Party's first Prime Minister, but also defined the political direction for the Foundation.

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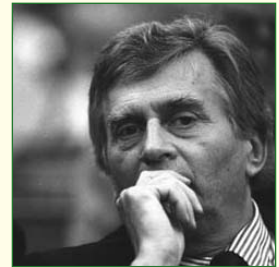
## Eponym – József Antall

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### Family background and the period of submergence

Antall was born in Budapest on 8 April 1932 to parents of minor nobility. The father, József Antall Snr. was a lawyer, the founder of the largest opposition party of the time, the Independent Smallholders' Party, in 1931. Heading a number of various ministerial offices, József Antall Snr. is most remembered for defining the minimum sustenance level for the first time in Hungary and for assisting persecuted countrymen and foreign refugees in the holocaust years.

His son, József Antall had definite ideas of the future already at the time of the '56 revolution concerning the establishment of a democratic multi-party system. He was one of the founders of the Christian Youth Association and actively participated in the reorganisation of the Independent Smallholders' Party.



Following the suppression of the revolution, Antall sought refuge in internal emigration, which he termed the years of “submergence”. He earned himself a name as a recognised medical history researcher in Europe while also continued to expand and improve his political horizon, information, and culture; closely following European and world events, he was one of the few individuals who had definite and stable political views and clean-cut ideas on the directions politics ought to take already at the time of the political changes that swept across Eastern Europe in the late eighties.

### Dawn of the political transition

Antall joined the opposition movement at the beginning of 1988. During the negotiations of the Opposition Round Table, József Antall had worked for the restoration of Hungarian constitutionality and democracy playing a pivotal role in the establishment of Hungary's public legal makeup.

His professional abilities and compromise-seeking approach raised him above the rest during the negotiations and, as a result, was elected President of MDF and the party's candidate for prime minister on 21 October 1989 with a sweeping majority.

Thanks to his efforts, the MDF movement had grown into a right-centre Christian-democratic party with a well-defined image upholding national liberal and plebeian-national values at the same time.



### Prime Ministerial commission

The National Assembly elected Antall Prime Minister of Hungary on 23 May 1990. In addition to establishing real, operating democracy in the country, the main points of his government program entailed objectives such as setting up real, free, social market economy with a view to integration into the world market, establishing the dominance of private property, and a definite shift in the direction of foreign policies.



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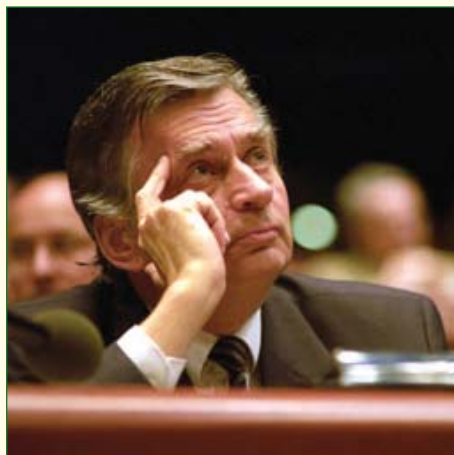
### **The Prime Minister of the political system change**

By 1993, Antall had successfully navigated the country through the most difficult years of political and economic transition. He succeeded in turning Hungary into an island of stability in the then unsettled East Central European region.

Always keeping the idea of the constitutional state and constitutionality in mind as the pivotal objectives of the state, Antall had considered the parliament to be the most important political scene. He relentlessly steered the country through the process of economic restructuring despite numerous hardships that had to be tackled on the way and successfully launched a privatisation process unique in the region that helped establish real proprietary structures and favorable environment for investors.

The changes of internal politics were also pursued in his foreign policies: Antall withdrew from the Warsaw Pact and played a leading role in driving out the last of the Soviet troops from the country. Recognising the great opportunities in regional cooperation, he was the founder of the Visegrád Cooperation. The country's European integration and NATO membership were two of the most important and express objectives of his politics.

He died of a terminal illness on 12 December 1993. He would turn 75 this year.



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## The ideology pursued by the Foundation: Modern conservatism

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In addition to Antall's concept of democracy and political heritage, the Foundation identifies itself with the ideology of modern conservatism. In its social political ideals, conservatism is based on the traditions of Christian democracy with respect for the individual, traditional human values, and human communities – such as the family, the nation, and the church – being in the focal point.

As for economic policies, the Foundation advocates self-sustenance, lean governance, market and enterprise-friendly regulations.

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## Objectives and activities of the Foundation

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The aim of the Foundation is to actively contribute to the development of Hungarian political culture, and to the promotion of social dialogue. In pursuit of Antall's fundamental ideas, the Foundation treats the concept of "Hungarian" public life independent of the national borders, encompassing all members of the nation.

It is in this context that the Foundation performs scientific, training, analytical, and educational activities with focus on the following five main domains:

- upholding and maintaining the Antall-legacy
- trainings
- analyses
- social dialogue
- foreign and security policies.



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## 1. Upholding and maintaining the Antall-legacy

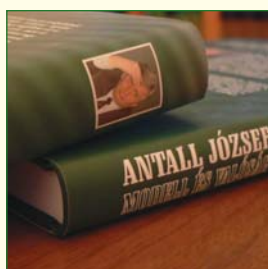
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József Antall had left a significant political and intellectual legacy behind. He strove to build a Hungary on solid Christian morals as is predetermined by the country's one thousand-year-old history. His policies were defined by perspective and prospective thinking. Taking this stable moral and philosophical platform, his political activities were characterised by dialogue and a constant search for social consensus.

The future of the nation was much more important to him than the daily changing sympathy of voters. Today, more than ten years after his death, more and more people are beginning to recognise the importance of his political decisions, while today's political approach puts his work into an ever more attractive light.

### **antalljozsef.hu**

Carrying the Antall-legacy means serious and responsible work for us all. This includes the upholding, nurturing, researching, and dissipating the material and spiritual legacy of the eponym via study book publication and operating websites.



### **Publication of Antall's speeches**

The re-edition of "Model and Reality" containing József Antall's speeches and writings will make it possible for a wider audience and today's youth to familiarise themselves with the ideas and thoughts of one of the most outstanding public figures of the years of political and economic transition.

The speeches have already been published in German; publication of the French, English, Croatian, and Polish editions is already under way. All this is done in an effort to put the legacy of Antall in its right and worthy place among political thinkers in European public opinion.

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## 2. Training

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### **Antall Public Life Academy:**

The thematic makeup of the program focuses on political scientific foundations, communication skills, and skills development with a target group including active and future politicians, and the young who are open to and interested in involvement in public life. One of the main aims of the program is to stop the erosion of interest shown by the younger generations in politics since there can be no democracy without democrats who actively participate in the shaping of their environment.

Teaching the youth to understand and participate in public life is served by our Parliament-visit program, which is primarily offered to educational institutions located in the country.



### **Apprentice program:**

The Foundation welcomes all publicly active youth who identify with the philosophy of the Foundation willing to obtain relevant work experience as a prerequisite for completing their higher education courses.

1-3-month work experience is offered and the tasks primarily concentrate on the areas of politics, political science, communication, and foreign and security policies.

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### 3. Analyses

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Foreign and internal political opinions and specialised political studies are prepared as part of the analytical work performed. These aim to make objective analyses and professional materials available to decision-makers on a regular basis in order to support and reinforce the content of political debates.

*[www.kulgyifigyelo.hu](http://www.kulgyifigyelo.hu)*

The journal entitled Political Analyses is a joint publication made in cooperation with the Iró Gergely Foundation; the thematic journal is an ideal forum for young professionals to share their analytical work with the public.

*[www.iroga.hu](http://www.iroga.hu)*

Conferences, which discuss special current political subjects – often in cooperation with universities – are an important part of the work.



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### 4. Social dialogue

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Our educational work helps create discussion forums where politicians, representatives of the scientific and economic life, various groups of intellectuals, as well as thinkers concerned with the country's future, and the makers of public life can meet and engage in dialogue. It is important that these events do not solely concentrate on the capital and its catchment area. To this aim the Foundation organises conferences, presentations, discussion forums, and meetings in major towns throughout the country with focus on subject matters attracting public attention such as security policies, economic policies, media communication, and political science.

#### **Deák Ferenc Public Life Club**

This is a meeting point for experts, politicians, specialised politicians who play a key role in determining the course of public life – a workshop of discussion and exchange of ideas identifying with the values of modern conservatism. This is a meeting place for intellectuals who like to engage in fortnightly discussions with all the various representatives of the political spectre.

*[www.deakklub.hu](http://www.deakklub.hu)*



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## 5. Foreign and security policies

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### European integration

One of the key objectives of our work is to provide an analysis of the challenges facing the EU, the analysis of Hungary's European policies, the exploration of opportunities for enforcing our interests, and the dissipation of information on European integration. It is to this aim that we organise excursions for students and teachers to Brussels providing a direct, on-hand experience of how the EU works. We are convinced that the clear division of tasks under the framework of subsidiarity, the promotion and improvement of European-level democratic control and competitiveness are the appropriate answers to the challenges imposed by globalisation.



### Hungarian-Hungarian relations

With our cross-border activities we not only wish to identify Hungarian organisations actively engaged in maintaining cross-border relations, but also intend to find cooperating partners in the Upland, Sub-Carpathia, Transylvania, and Voivodina whose local knowledge can provide a solid base for effective partnership.

One of the most important elements of our work in this respect is participation in the organisation of summer universities. The Carpathian-Basin Summer University, run for the fifth consecutive year in Nagyvárad, is of crucial importance as it provides an ideal opportunity for all young people living in the Carpathian Basin to convene and exchange ideas.

*[www.karpatmedenceinyariegyletem.hu](http://www.karpatmedenceinyariegyletem.hu)*

The question of minority autonomy is an important and permanent subject for us to deal with – particularly now with the accession of Romania. The EU provides us with numerous models that are efficiently working today in other countries.



### Lecture series on security politics

In cooperation with the Corvinus University of Budapest and with support from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this series of lectures has been running now for years with great success. Our main objective with the lecture series has been to provide a comprehensive picture of the system and the challenges of security politics of our times and to shed light onto the importance of specific security political risks.

*[www.aja.hu/biztonsagpolitika](http://www.aja.hu/biztonsagpolitika)*



### Ambassador Club

The events of the Ambassador Club, operated by the Foundation in cooperation with the Andrásy Gyula German-Language University, is a forum and meeting point for people interested in diplomacy and Hungarian foreign affairs.

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## Partners

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We maintain intensive relations with international brains trusts, intellectual workshops, political academies, and foundations actively and effectively working in an integrating Europe. The primary arena for this is the European Ideas Network (EIN), which links the European Christian-democratic and conservative workshops into an integral network. The regular EIN meetings seek to find new solutions for the challenges facing Europe – such as security policies, demography, monetary policies, European integration, governance in the 21st century – in work groups.

We maintain exceptionally close and effective relations with a few German foundations having representations in Hungary including the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung, who we have organised a number of various joint events, conferences, and lectures with in the past two years.



European Ideas Network (EIN)



Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



Hanns Seidel Stiftung



Adalbert Foundation



Fondation pour l'innovation politique



International Republican Institute



Andrásy Gyula German-Language University



Youth Democratic Forum



Író Gergely Foundation

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## Foundation Management

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