**WOMEN IN SCIENCE:   
TODAY’S CHALLENGES – TOMORROW’S PROSPECTS**

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION   
TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF VILMA HUGONNAI (1847-1922),   
THE FIRST HUNGARIAN FEMALE PHYSICIAN

PROGRAMME

27 JUNE 2022

LISZT INSTITUTE   
92, RUE BONAPARTE, 75006 PARIS

**WHAT IS THIS EVENT ABOUT?**

This event is to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Vilma Hugonnai, the first Hungarian female physician, and is part of a series of events to commemorate this anniversary in association with UNESCO. By evoking the historic example of Vilma Hugonnai, the roundtable discussion will address crosscutting issues and offer personal perspectives related to the role of women in science, as well as education and scientific careers outside one’s home country.

The event is organised by the Permanent Delegation of Hungary to the OECD and UNESCO, and the Union of Hungarian Women, with the support of the Liszt Institute Hungarian Cultural Centre in Paris.

**WHO WAS VILMA HUGONNAI?**

A keen promoter and symbol of women’s rights to education and medical profession, Vilma Hugonnai (1847-1922) was the first Hungarian female physician. Since women were not allowed to participate in university level education in 1870s’ Hungary, she had to study medicine in Zürich, Switzerland. Having received her medical degree in 1879, she returned to Hungary, where she was confronted with the authorities’ refusal to recognize her qualification. Hence, instead of starting her career as a medical doctor, she had to take a midwife exam and start to practice as a midwife. While doing so, she took part in a number of organizations and initiatives that fought for women’s equality, including voting right and girls’ education. In 1895, when a royal decree finally made it possible for women to pursue university studies in humanities, pharmacy and medicine, she reapplied for the naturalization of her Swiss diploma, and on 14th of May 1897, eighteen years after her graduation in Zürich, she obtained her degree in Hungary, too. In 1914, when the country did not have enough army surgeons to take care of the wounded, Vilma Hugonnai, at the age of 67, completed an army medical course to be able to help, together with her 84 female partners.

Her relentless struggle for the recognition of her medical qualification, her fight for women’s voting right and girls’ education, as well as her achievement in public health education made Vilma Hugonnai a symbolic figure of women’s equality in Hungary. The 100th anniversary of her death is on the list of anniversaries to be celebrated in 2022 in association with UNESCO.

**HOW IS THE EVENT STRUCTURED?**

The event will include the screening of a short film to introduce the life and legacy of Vilma Hugonnai, which will be followed by the roundtable discussion itself, with the participation of Hungarian female scientists who work in France. After the roundtable discussion, participants will be invited to a standing reception.

During the event, an installation will be on display presenting the outstanding life and work of Vilma Hugonnai. (The same installation will be showcased from the 28 June until 1 July 2022 in UNESCO Headquarters.)

**WHO WILL BE THERE?**

The event will bring together Hungarian female scientists, working in France, with Paris-based diplomats from national delegations to UNESCO and the OECD, experts from these international organisations engaged with science and/or gender issues, as well as general public interested in the topic.

**DATE AND VENUE**

The event will take place on 27 June 2022, starting at 16:30, at the Liszt Institute Hungarian Cultural Centre in Paris (92, rue Bonaparte, 75006 Paris).

**REGISTRATION**

You are invited to register your participation at the following e-mail address:

[**rsvp.HunDel@mfa.gov.hu**](mailto:rsvp.HunDel@mfa.gov.hu)

The deadline for registration is 23 June 2022. Your early registration will be highly appreciated.

**CONTACT**

For further information, please contact the Permanent Delegation of Hungary to the OECD and UNESCO at [dl.hungary@unesco-delegations.org](mailto:dl.hungary@unesco-delegations.org) or +33 1 53 65 65 00.

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LISZT INSTITUTE, PARIS

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| **16:00-16:30** | **REGISTRATION** |
| **16:30-16:45** | **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**   * **Ms. Margit Batthyány-Schmidt**, President, Union of Hungarian Women * **Ms. Gabriela Ramos**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO |
| **16:45-17:00** | **THE LIFE OF VILMA HUGONNAI**  Screening of a short film to introduce the life and work of Vilma Hugonnai, the first Hungarian female physician. |
| **17:00-18:20** | **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  The roundtable discussion will address crosscutting issues and offer personal perspectives related to the role of women in science, as well as education and scientific careers outside one’s home country, thus evoking the example of Vilma Hugonnai.  **Panellists:**   * **Ms. Zsófia Balogh**, Project Leader, Gustave Roussy * **Ms. Éva Jakab Tóth**, Research Director, Center for Molecular Biophysics * **Ms. Margit Molnár**, Economist, Head of the China Desk, OECD * **Ms. Andrea Somogyi**, Beamline Scientist, Synchrotron Soleil   **Moderator:**   * **Ms. Gabriela Ramos**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO |
| **18:20-18:30** | **CLOSING REMARKS**   * **Mr. László Turóczy**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the OECD and UNESCO |
| **18:30-20:30** | **RECEPTION**  Participants of the events are invited to a standing reception hosted by the Permanent delegation of Hungary to the OECD and UNESCO. |

*Please note that the language of the event is English. No interpretation will be available.*