

OVERVIEW

On the request of the World Futures Studies Federation Prof. Dr. Erzsébet Nováky, executive member of WFSF, head of Futures Studies Centre at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, Hungary announces a biannual series of summer courses entitled: 'The youth for a less selfish future'.

The Budapest Futures Course has a new approach and concept consistent with the changing global age:

1. The 1996-2001 medium term strategy of UNESCO underlines the importance of youth from several points of view. In accordance with this the main concept of the Budapest Futures Course is an interchange of ideas which aims at the mobilization of youth to participate in the active and conscious formation of the future as well as at making surveys and comparisons of the cultural, political and economic features of the different futures articulated by youth.
2. From the special political-geographic position of Hungary between West and East, Budapest represents a particular culture including the values of the Euro-Atlantic world, and the theories of alternative social frames at the same time. As neither the collapse of the bipolar world nor the possible options of the shaping new world order can be understood without the experience or the different social theories, the Budapest Futures Course emphasizes the exposure and the possible synthesis of the different cultural, political and economic traditions, which shape the coming futures today.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COURSE

1. International Workshop

The Budapest Futures Course as an international workshop determines some of its features that characterise all lectures, workshops, small group work and informal presentations.

2. Postgraduate Course

The Budapest Course is postgraduate and invites all those who actually participate in education, research work, economic policy, business etc., those who have the ability, possibility and willingness to spread the spirit and the very practical results of the Budapest Course.

3. Output Orientation

Our intention is that the participants could formulate the message from the analysis of the given programme for their own special field, i.e. education, research, economic policy, business etc. The suitable form seems to be the interchange of ideas. The participants are active members of the course analysing together their own research results as well as those of the invited lecturers. Thus the programme of each summer course is particular and relatively narrowly defined.

4. Follow Up Work

The course will not finish at the end of the second week. We would like to make available how the participants manage to put the message of the course into practice, what experience they have. We are thinking of after-conferences and the foundation of a periodical which makes possible to spread the materials and the outcome of the course, as well as the new results of research work on the topic of previous courses.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The BFC 1999 participants have agreed that 'selfishness' is always embedded in cultural-economic environment, which needs further investigation. The articulated hypothesis was that the expression 'less' refers to the desirable future where common values of societies do not suppress unique local features of the world.

The participants of the BFC 2001 discuss changes in futures studies and in future visions of the youth as well as cultural surroundings of shifts in values. 'The youth for a less selfish future' programme highlights the problem of 'selfishness' this time.

This course is structured on a three dimensional approach: time, space and field.

Time refers to the global need to changing values. While the technological revolution has been transforming the economic and political subsystems of developed countries, the dominance of the cultural leadership is still ahead. The future calls for the globalisation and democratisation of self-governance, which can be achieved along values different from the principle of individual economic benefit.

Space-dimension incorporates the different local appearance of values and social visions. Multiculturalism and one-world themselves appear as a value of the future. The course is to outline how social development models are connected to values in multicultural regions of the world.

Field represents different aspects of values. It is only the materialisation of values that enables cultures to dominate social development. The course focuses on the technological, environmental, political, etc. changes that are initiated by new values as well as the transformation of values following from global technological development.