

## INTRODUCTION

This book contains papers of the *Budapest Futures Course 2001* (August 25 – September 1, 2001, Budapest) of the World Futures Studies Federation. This course is the second in the series of the Budapest Futures Course “*The Youth for a Less Selfish Future*”. We trust that young people – independently of their place of residence – are able to outline and establish a less selfish future world, nevertheless several signs such as over-consumption and environment-burdening way of life in some countries and in some strata put restrictions to visioning.

Futures Studies Centre, Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration organised the first *Budapest Futures Course (in 1999)* where participants examined and discussed the meaning and components of *future orientation of youth* from theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects. One of the main conclusions was that *future orientation and activity for the future(s) are not independent of values*.

Therefore the Budapest Futures Course 2001 addressed the topic *Changing Values – Forming New Societies*. Summer course participants articulated different aspects and components of social values, their time-, space- and field-dimensions. We focused on making a close connection among social development (future models of social development) and values.

One of the main conclusions of the Budapest Futures Course 2001 was that *acceptable visions for societies can be drawn in different regions of the world, although these visions have special characteristics*. The main cause of the differences is rooted in the tradition and values of the given region.

This course was an output-oriented seminar: not a “mini conference”, but a course with presentations, workshops and transdisciplinary discourses. We provided opportunity for presenting different ideas and views about futures of the participants and for discussing them during the seminar. The atmosphere of debate was sometimes so hot, that the University Council Hall of the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, the venue of the Budapest Futures Course series, became friendly and cosy.

This book is more at the same time less than a live course. More since materials backing presentations are structured, thorough, settled; however, less because a

book can never reflect the atmosphere of workshops, the spirituality of being-together and how colourful the thoughts, suggestions were. The course summary at the end of the book, one interpretation of summarising introductory presentations and workshops, hence also aims at moderating the shortages that result from live talk.

I wish to express my thanks to the World Futures Studies Federation for their faith in us, to UNESCO for its financial backing, to the lecturers, the workshop leaders and the attending participants for their professional work, active and constructive contribution, and to the organizers of the summer course for their tireless dedication. I wish special thanks to the co-editors (*Tamás Gáspár, Gergely Tyukodi*) and the publisher's reader (*Éva Hideg*).

I convey this book with the hope that the positive traditional values together with the new ones will give a solid base to form new societies, which – hopefully – will be better and less selfish than the world where we live now.

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