



UNIVERSITY OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
LUDOVIIKA



FACULTY OF WATER SCIENCES  
CUM SCIENTIA PRO AQUIS HUNGARIAE!

# A Flagship Internationalization Action at LUPS Faculty of Water Sciences

**Agnes Kovacs**

**Assistant research fellow**

**LUPS FOW UCW**

**27.11.2025 Baja**



# UNESCO Chair in Water Conflict Management



**unesco**  
Chair



# What is a UNESCO Chair?

A global network established by UNESCO that promotes international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication.

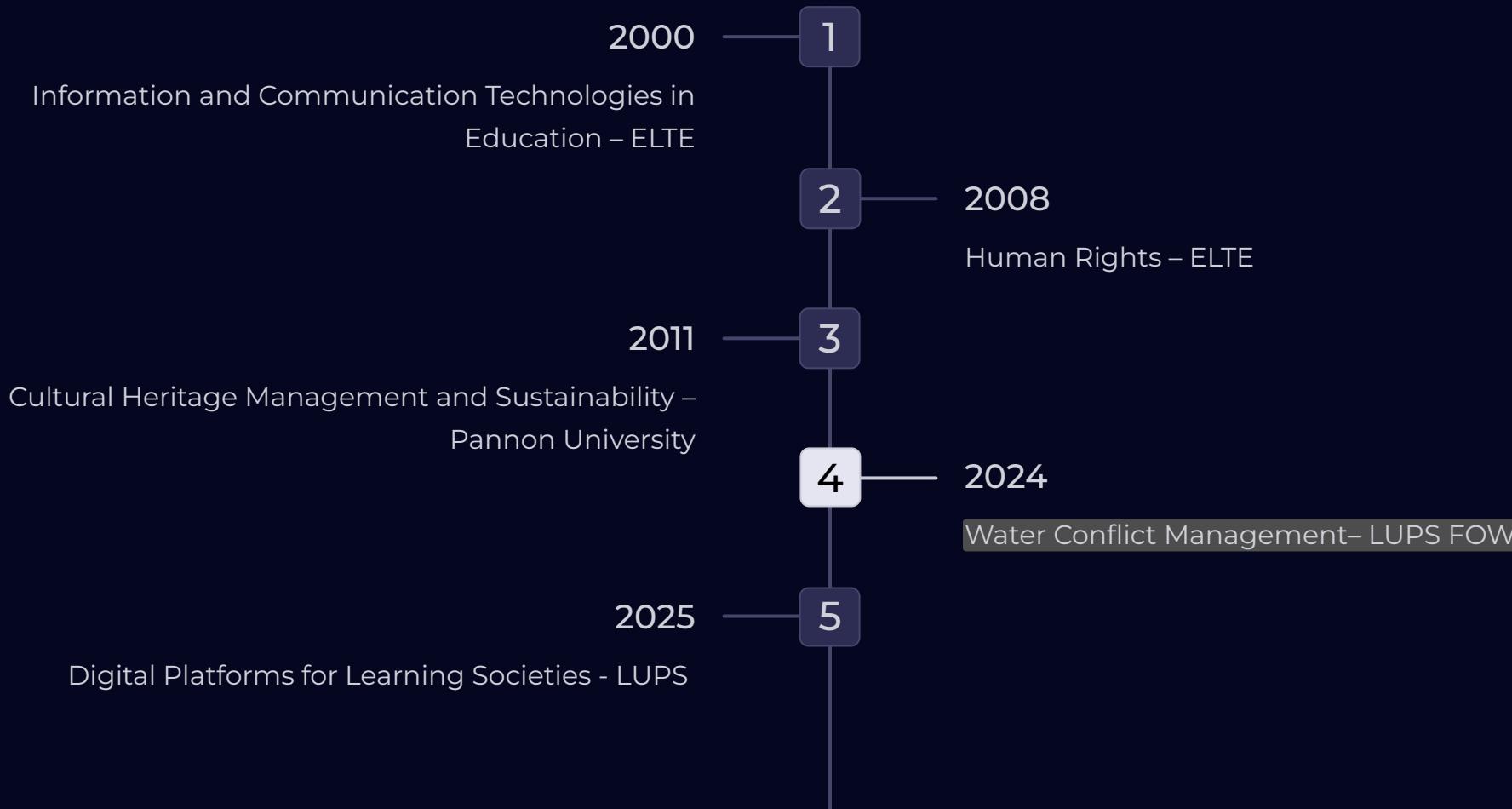
There are about 1000 UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN networks operate worldwide, connecting the academic world with society, forming a bridge between science, policy, and practice.

## Main Goals

- Knowledge sharing and collaborative research
- Capacity building and innovation
- Support for Sustainable Development Goals
- Promotion of intercultural dialogue



# UNESCO Chairs in Hungary



# Why is Water Conflict Management Important?

## Global Water Stress

Water scarcity and water stress are increasing worldwide, with transboundary waters affecting 40% of the global population.

## Risk of Conflicts

Climate change, population growth, and political tensions increase the risk of conflicts over shared water resources.

## Peace and Cooperation

Water can simultaneously be a source of conflict and a driving force for peace and cooperation.



# The UNESCO Chair in Water Conflict Management

ⓘ Hungary's fourth UNESCO Chair and a regional center for water diplomacy and water conflict resolution.

**Founded:** March 21, 2024

**Headquarters:** Faculty of Water Sciences, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest

ⓘ **Chairholder:** András Szöllősi-Nagy, Prof, PhD LUPS  
**Core Team**  
László Balatonyi  
Dejan Komatina  
Tamás Pálvölgyi  
János Bogárdi  
Krisztina Ligetvári  
Ágnes Kovács



# Our Mission and Strategic Objectives

The UNESCO Chair aims to strengthen international cooperation, education, and research in water diplomacy and conflict resolution, promoting peace and sustainable governance of shared water resources



## Education and Training

Development of academic programs (Master's and PhD) and short professional courses



## Research and Cooperation

Promotion of politically relevant, interdisciplinary research.



## Capacity Building

Building interdisciplinary skills in water diplomacy and conflict prevention.



## Open Access

Strengthening public communication and scientific dissemination.



## Water Culture and Ethics

Promotion of the ethical, cultural, and heritage dimensions of water.



# Educational Programs and Trainings

## Master's Program

International Water Governance and Water Diplomacy Master's Program (from 2020)

## Doctoral Program

Development of a Water Sciences doctoral program

## Short Courses

Economic Evaluation of Water Resources, Drought Prevention Training with the OTS Institute

## Youth Strategy

Connection to the UNESCO Water Youth Strategy

Involving students from the LUPS FOW International Water Policy and Diplomacy MA Programme in the work of the Chair's Communication and Dissemination group

# Research and International Partnerships



We advance water governance and diplomacy through robust research initiatives and extensive international collaborations, addressing global water challenges and fostering sustainable solutions.

## Research Initiatives

Joint research across Europe, Central Asia, and Africa on critical water issues.

Leading the "Water, Peace, and Foresight in the Digital Age" initiative.

Developing an Erasmus Mundus "Applied Ecohydrology" doctoral program.



## Key Partners

IHE Delft (Netherlands) and other academic institutions (e.g., Algarve, Lodz, Antwerp)

UNECE Water Convention

EYPW (European Youth Parliament for Water)



## Regional & Sectoral Collaborations

1

Central Asia  
Regional bodies & academic institutions

2

Europe  
EU-funded projects & research networks

3

Global Organizations  
UN agencies & international NGOs

4

Youth & Civil Society  
Young professionals & community projects



# Promoting Water Culture and Ethics

Our work emphasizes the integration of ethical, intercultural, and inclusive approaches across all levels of water-related education, cooperation, and diplomacy.

## Key Achievements

### Youth Engagement

Strengthening international cooperation, education, and research in water diplomacy and conflict management.

### Youth Representation

Actively engaging and ensuring youth representation in all UNESCO Chair activities and events, thereby amplifying diverse voices.

### Digital Age Exploration

Exploring the cultural and ethical dimensions within the "Water, Peace, and Foresight in the Digital Age" initiative.

### Cultural Heritage

Protecting and promoting water-related cultural heritage through dedicated educational programs and awareness campaigns.

# UNESCO Chair's Key Events 2024-2025

May 2, 2024  
UCW launch event  
(Organizer)

Dec 1, 2024  
UCW online  
platforms launch  
(Administrator)

Mar 22, 2025  
Water Conflict  
Dialogues - UCW  
News Letters  
(Publisher)

Jun 21, 2025  
Danube Day on  
Children's Island  
(Organizer)

Aug 24-28,  
2025  
World Water Week  
2025 (Participant)

Oct 1-2, 2025  
UNESCO IHP ENA  
Regional  
Conference (Host,  
postpone)

Nov 25, 2024  
Student Science  
Event for L-UPS  
students, every  
month (Organizer)

Mar 22, 2025  
World Water Day  
2025 (Participant)

Jun 11-13, 2025  
UNESCO IHP 50th  
anniversary  
(Participant)

Jun 24, 2025  
Workshop  
"Pathways to  
Peace - Engaging  
Youth in Water"  
(Organizer)

Sep 30, 2025  
Conference  
"Integrated Water  
Policy and Water  
Diplomacy"  
(Organizer,  
postpone)

# Future Directions and Conclusion



## Expansion

Expanding cooperation in Africa, Asia, and the Balkans



## Targeted Trainings

For diplomats, decision-makers, and water experts



## Digital Program

Implementation of Water, Peace, and Foresight in the Digital Age

The UNESCO Chair in Water Conflict Management is a flagship initiative for the internationalization of Ludovika. It strengthens the university's role in global water diplomacy, integrating research, training, ethics, and community engagement. It builds bridges between science, policy, and society.

*"Water is not just a resource – it is a tool for peace and cooperation."*



Contact: [ucw@uni-nke.hu](mailto:ucw@uni-nke.hu)