

**Speech Delivered at the Fourth Ministerial Forum on Cultural Cooperation
between PR China and Central and Eastern European Countries**

**Cultural Cooperation between Hungary and China in 2020-2021 presented by
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In 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban jointly announced that the relations had been upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

High-level exchanges have laid a solid foundation for bilateral ties and also the mutual political trust has been strengthened. Hungary was the first European country to support the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

In the past few years the Chinese-Hungarian cultural cooperation has significantly advanced and strengthened alike.

In 2016 a delegation of high-ranking officials from the National Library of China paid a visit to the Hungarian National Széchényi Library.

As a peak of the visit, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two national libraries. In 2017 the Hungarian Academy of Arts (MMA) signed an agreement on cultural cooperation with the Chinese National Academy of Arts (CNAA).

Both parties have stated that the need for getting to know each other's cultures is growing. However there is a special field of art which had been out of focus in these years and now becomes a major factor on Hungarian and Chinese cultural cooperation and cultural exchange: circus arts.

Circus arts belong to the family tree of performing art. It speaks to family and community, creating intergenerational transmissions of knowledge and shared language, culture, and history. An example: On the closing day of the the 6th China

International Festival I gave a presentation on the importance and the successful implementation of circus pedagogy as a teaching approach in Hungary.

Total of 24 circus troupes and 200 performers from 22 countries participated in the 6th China International Festival organized by the Chimelong International City. The Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival, known as one of the world's top circus venues, also presented shows to the festival.

In the recent years circus schools have become increasingly important sites of exchange.

The importance of contemporary circus arts should be emphasized here as it provides a solid recreational and educational tool for children.

Hungarian and Chinese circus arts have many common features: wide range of acrobatic acts, balancing acts and demonstrations of physical skill among others. One of the most prominent events of the circus art in the world, the 13th Budapest Circus Festival in 2020 is going to host highly acclaimed Chinese acrobats and artists.

Also the Hungarian Circus Arts Centre plans to promote Hungarian acrobats in Chinese Circus Festivals. During the program artists are going to take their circus training and performance to the next level.

The main goal is to obtain a well-rounded skill set to meet the needs of the contemporary arts field whether pursuing professional performance opportunities or entrance into a multi-year circus program. Youth development is also 'in the spotlight' as Hungary and the People's Republic of China are partnering for student exchange programmes in 2020.

Minor classes (by the of 13) and major classes (by the age of 18) of acrobats are enabled to study in a full college program, including diploma within the framework of the institutional bilateral agreements.

Thank you for your attention!