

BOOK OF YOUR LIFE

supporting intercultural inclusion among university students

The Book of Your Life (BoYL) project aims to support the integration of international students arriving at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) with the local student community, promote cultural inclusion and encourage acceptance and tolerance among local and international students.

An essential objective of the project is to launch initiatives which are in line with ELTE's Internationalisation Strategy, and which will be embedded in the University's practice well beyond the actual project period (Jan-Sep 2024).

BoYL is implemented in the framework of The Europe Challenge 2024 run by the European Cultural Foundation and its partners (Fondazione Cariplo, Scottish Library and Information Council, Arts Council England).

About the Europe Challenge

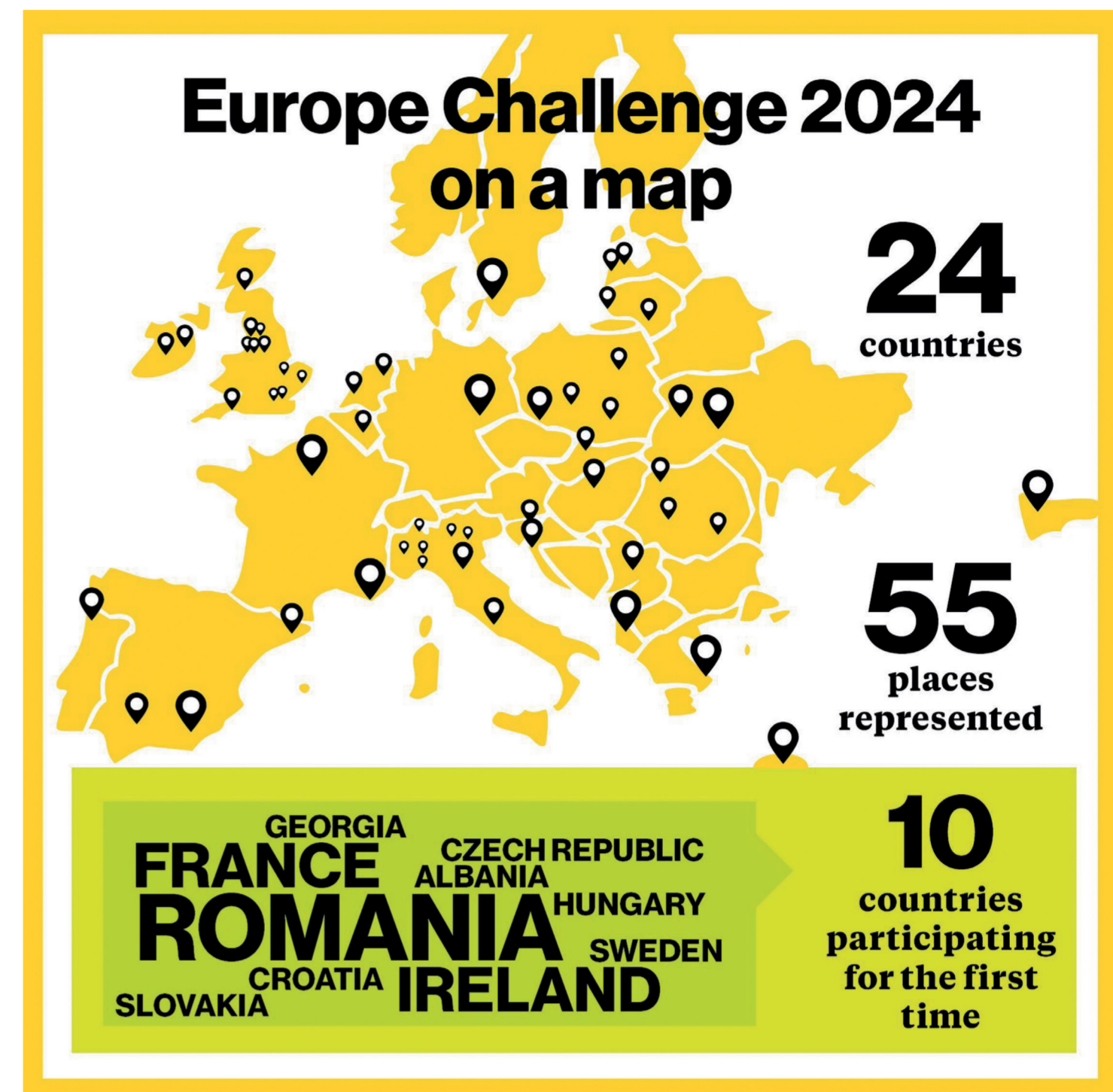
The Europe Challenge programme unites European libraries and their communities to jointly develop creative solutions for addressing various challenges facing Europe, such as social exclusion, inequality, disinformation, and the climate crisis. They may not only receive financial support for the implementation of their programmes but their representatives can also participate in the related mentoring programme for skill and knowledge development.

Based on the jury's decision, ELTE is one of the grantees and represents the only successful applicant from Hungary in the programme's history so far.



KEYWORDS

- Participatory approach
- Top-down and bottom-up
- Co-creation process
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Services based on the students' needs
- Community space with booking protocol



What is the Book of Your Life project about?

BoYL is implemented jointly by the University Library and Archives, the University Students' Union (EHÖK), the International Strategy Office and the University Strategy Office.

International students of ELTE arrive from over 100 countries; they form more than 10% of the currently enrolled members of the University Library and Archives.

In the 1st phase of the project, international and domestic students brainstormed together with university support staff about activities which would make their daily life in the library and the university environment more convenient. Also, students co-created the University Library and Archives' new community space in a physical sense, through creative furniture upcycling and decorating workshops.

In the 2nd phase of the project, from late spring 2024 onwards, multilingual thematic activities are regularly organized in the community space, including interactive lectures, round tables, book exchange and students' art exhibitions. Outreach to and mobilisation of the student community also involves online campaigns via ELTE's social media.



"Libraries are more than just houses for books; they are the lifeblood of European communities."

(André Wilkens, Director of the European Cultural Foundation)

