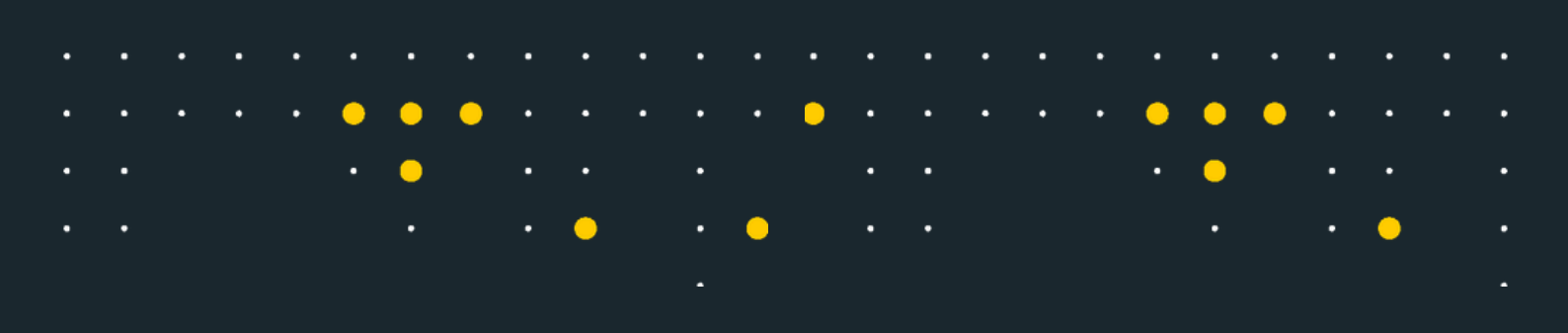




QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe 2026

Budapest, Hungary

Impact summary



“The Summit was exceptionally well organised and professionally delivered. The plenary sessions were of a very high standard, offering valuable insights into the future of higher education and business education. The opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking were beneficial, providing a forum for engaging discussions and the sharing of good practice.”

Professor Laura Costanzo

Dean of the University of Southampton Business School
University of Southampton

Our Partners

We would like to thank all our partners for making the conference exceptionally successful.

Host



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If you would like to support any future edition of the QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe, or other QS conferences, partner with us and grow your academic and professional network across the globe.



Book a consultation





Testimonials

The QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe 2026 opened the door to a global network of colleagues and insights that is impossible to gain elsewhere.

Claire Hamilton

Director Marketing and External Relations
University of Sheffield

It was an excellent experience to realise the importance of strategy and branding in linking our actions to market needs and the country's economic growth.

Professor Konstantinos Petridis

Professor, International Relations Office
Hellenic Mediterranean University

The summit provided valuable insights into how universities can strengthen their international reputation and visibility while remaining closely connected to academic quality and societal relevance. A key takeaway for me was the importance of being attentive to potential reputation gaps between how universities are perceived by scholars, employers and other external stakeholders. and future collaborations.

Lone Grønbæk Jørgensen

Head of Department & Centre Director
University of Southern Denmark

Strengthening Europe's Talent and Innovation Advantage

The **QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe 2026**, hosted by **Széchenyi István Egyetem – University of Győr**, convened over 400 higher education leaders, government ministers and associations, industry experts, and delegates from Europe and beyond, to strengthen the future of higher education for the region.

Across three days in Budapest and Győr, Hungary, we explored how Europe can navigate disruption and maintain strength by being smarter, tighter, more aligned, and more strategic than faster-growing regions.

From building Higher Education as a strategic asset for economic growth to exploring new horizons for European research, and from asking how universities must sell the dream of a great career to leading with faster decisions and better judgement in the age of AI – the Summit sparked many conversations to advance industry-aligned, innovative and impact-driven education.

We were honoured to welcome speakers from the Ministries of Hungary, Georgia, Portugal, Azerbaijan, UNESCO, UNHCR, IFC The World Bank, Study in Greece, ENQA, AUDI Hungaria Zrt, India Foundation, Lenovo, IBM France Lab, Tempus Public Foundation, CESI, CEEMAN, Public First, Harvard Business Impact, IE University, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Warwick University, Queen's University Belfast, Lund University, Tec de Monterrey, Southern Cross University, TUM International, and many more.

In her closing remarks, Dr Eszter Lukács, Vice-President for International Affairs and Strategic Relations at Széchenyi István Egyetem, said: “We must not lose sight of the unique values that define our continent. We are custodians of a rich cultural heritage. Our cities are vibrant, diverse and offer a quality of life that continues to attract students and researchers from around the world. These are distinctive strengths that set us apart globally, and upon which we can confidently build.”

Event Stats

Key statistics

626

Total number of attendees

60

Total number of locations represented

151

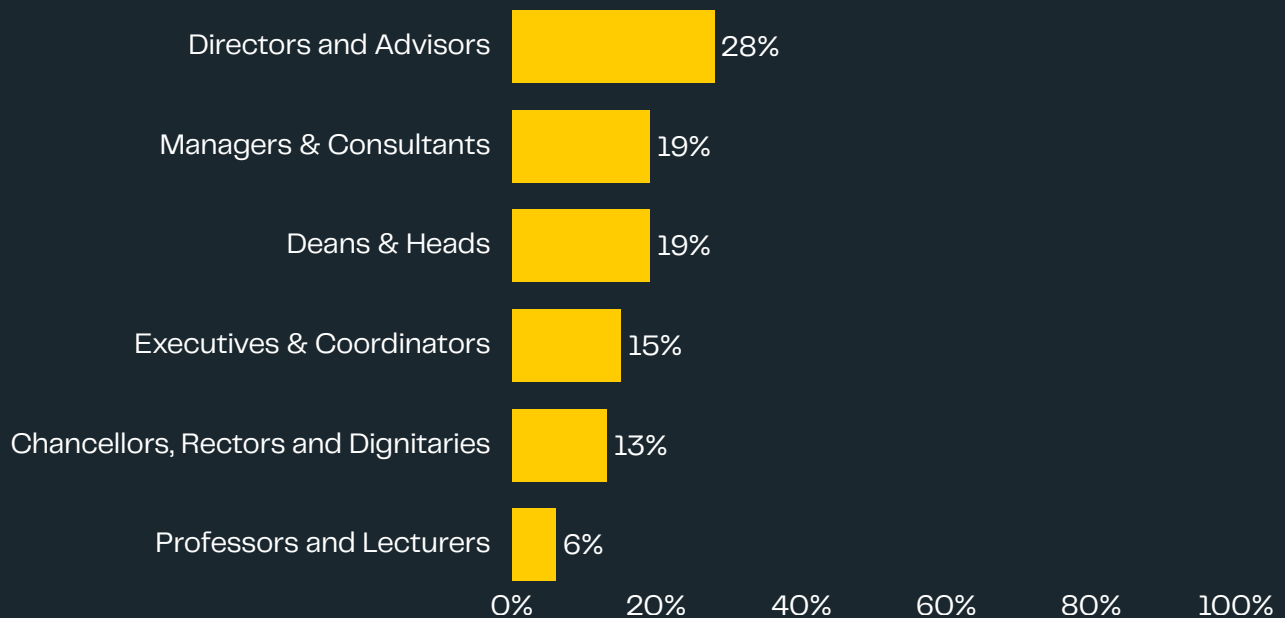
Total number of speakers





Event Stats

Audience Profile



What our attendees say

5.4/6

Overall
experience of
the Summit

5.3/6

QS Summits
App

5.1/6

Programme
content

5.2/6

Networking
opportunities

5.1/6

Venue

Key Learnings

QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe 2026

Throughout the Summit, delegates explored how European higher education can remain globally competitive while strengthening its relevance to society, industry and today's learner expectations, motivations and perspectives.

Discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration, institutional agility and lifelong engagement in responding to economic, technological and societal change.

As the Summit concluded, delegates reflected on the conversations, shared priorities and practical actions that will shape the future of higher education across Europe.

Key learnings included:



Build coherent institutional strategies and data-led decisions



Connect university priorities with government, industry and workforce needs



Create partnership ecosystems beyond bilateral collaboration



Become a lifelong learning partner through continuous upskilling and reskilling



Respond with greater agility to technological, demographic and societal change



Rethink mobility to strengthen skills, inclusion and global resilience



Translate research, entrepreneurship, and knowledge into meaningful societal and economic impact

Speaker Spotlight

We would like to thank our esteemed speakers including



András Báló

Head of Unit for Cross-border Higher Education and International Affairs, Hungarian Ministry of Education and Children



Dr Prof Zviad Gabisonia

Deputy Minister
Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia



Dr Denise Castilho de Matos

Institute for Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Portugal



Dr Ulkar Sattarova

Director of the State Agency for Science and Education
Republic of Azerbaijan



Dr Theodoros Papaioannou

CEO
Study in Greece



Dr Eszter Lukács

Vice-President for International Affairs and Strategic Relations
Széchenyi István Egyetem



Dr Aigerim Kaumenova

Director
CEEMAN



Dr Ram Madhav

President
India Foundation



Dr Cheryl Yu

Director of Programmes
TNE Institute



Joachim Lutz

Dean and President
Mannheim Business School

QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe 2026 Gallery



[View Summit photos](#)

Summit gallery



[View Summit photos](#)

QS Conferences 2026



QS India Summit
1–3 February
Goa, India



Global Skills Week
25–26 March
Washington D.C., USA



QS China Summit
8–9 April
Shenzhen, China



QS EduData Summit
3–4 June
Singapore



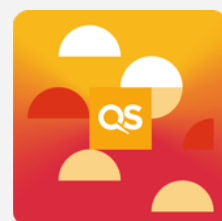
**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Europe & MoveON
Conference**
24–25 & 25–26 June
Budapest, Hungary



QS Africa Forum
9–10 July
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia



**Back to School
Summit**
16–17 September
New York, USA



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Americas**
30 September–2 October
Guadalajara, Mexico



QS Arab Forum
14–15 October
Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Asia Pacific**
3–5 November
Bali, Indonesia



QS Eurasia Forum
19 November
Astana,
Kazakhstan



**QS Reimagine Education
Conference & Awards**
7–8 December
London, UK



**QS Higher Ed Summit:
Middle East**
13–15 December
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Access the latest information



Dates and locations of conferences are subject to change, please check our websites for any updates.



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