

The Century of Ellen Key: Literature and Heritage

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at ELTE TÓK hosted an interdisciplinary conference titled “The Century of Ellen Key: Literature and Heritage” on March 27–28, 2026. The event was opened by Dr. habil. Éva Márkus, Dean, and Diana Madunic, Swedish Ambassador to Hungary. The keynote speakers came from Sweden and Finland: Claudia Lindén, Professor, Södertörn University; Tiina Kinnunen, Professor, University of Oulu; Elina Druker, Professor, Stockholm University; Margareta Aspán, Stockholm University; and Hedda Jansson, Stockholm University. We consider it a special honor that Professor Emeritus András Masát agreed to chair the conference’s scientific committee. The 47 presenters came from 10 countries (Hungary, China, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Spain, Uzbekistan, Austria, and Switzerland). Among the speakers, we were honored to have three professors emeritus: Enikő

Bollobás, a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Magdolna Orosz, and János Szávai.

The conference materials feature a beautiful portrait of Ellen Key painted by Gyula Benczúr on April 1, 1905, which was created during the writer, educator, and women’s and children’s rights activist’s visit to Budapest in 1905. On March 27, 1905 (exactly 121 years ago), Ellen Key delivered her German-language lecture titled *The Evolution of the Soul* to an audience of approximately 3,000 (!) people in the Vigadó’s ceremonial hall.

The conference would not have been possible without the support of Éva Márkus, Dean of ELTE TÓK, Éva Márkus, the head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Valéria Árva, the unceasing support and assistance of our department colleagues, as well as the staff of the Dean’s Office, the department teaching assistants, the head of the Student Union, Dorka Árvai, and the students of the Student Union. Thank you very much!

- *Andrea Poros* -