



IPEX ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*drafted by the Hungarian Chairmanship of the IPEX Board
Approved by the IPEX Board on 23 January 2026
Approved by the Secretaries General at their meeting in Copenhagen, 2 February 2026*

Foreword

Present document was drafted by the Hungarian Chairmanship of IPEX, which took over the Chairmanship from the Spanish Cortes Generales on the 12th May 2025 with the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments (EUSC) in Budapest and will end on the 5th of May 2026, when the Parliamentary Dimension of the Danish Presidency will conclude with the EUSC in Copenhagen. The present report itself covers the work of IPEX for the calendar year of 2025 as it takes stock of the work done during the last third of the Spanish Chairmanship (January-April 2025) and the first two thirds of the Hungarian Chairmanship (May-December 2025).

The Hungarian Chairmanship falls in the mid-term of the current Rolling Work Programme (RWP) for the period 2024-2026.

I. Meetings under the Hungarian Chairmanship of the IPEX Board

The IPEX community meets at various levels, formats and intervals. The central, governing body of IPEX is the Board, which – according to established custom – meets three times per year¹: once before the Meeting of the Secretaries General (January-February), shortly after the new Chairmanship assumes office (early summer, but depending on the date of the EUSC) and once in the autumn in Brussels. A Chairmanship is responsible for organising the annual Meeting of Correspondents, which takes place only once a year. Day-to-day tasks are carried out by the working groups set up based on the RWP.

As with previous IPEX Chairmanships the Hungarian Chairmanship organised three Board meetings and the annual Meeting of IPEX Correspondents. The list of meetings organised by the Hungarian Chairmanship:

- 26/06/2025, Budapest – Meeting of the IPEX Board
- 27/06/2025, Budapest – Annual Meeting of Correspondents
- 16-17/10/2025, Brussels – Meeting of the IPEX Board
- 23/01/2026, videoconference – Meeting of the IPEX Board

Two physical meetings in the Chairmanship capital

The first Board Meeting of the Hungarian Chairmanship and the annual IPEX Correspondents Meeting, a merged two-day conference was organized on 26-27 June 2025 in Budapest in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly (HNA). As the last in-person Board meeting outside of Brussels dates back to 2020, the main objective of the organizer was to bring IPEX-related officers of National Parliaments closer to each other by providing more in-person encounters in this field.

On the first day, Board members held fruitful exchange of views based mainly on the key findings of the recent IPEX survey and technical questionnaire. The Chair of the IPEX Board, Mr. György SUCH, Director General of HNA presented the Hungarian IPEX Chairmanship's programme. During the meeting, the chairs of the four working groups gave an overview on the progress of their ongoing projects. The meeting was followed by a guided tour in the Parliament building with the participation of the Correspondents as well.

¹ According to Art. 6 (2) of the IPEX Guidelines Board meetings are held at least twice a year.

The annual IPEX Correspondents Meeting took place on the second day. Preceded by a presentation of Mr. Krisztián KOVÁCS, Director for Foreign Relations of HNA on the communication experiences of the parliamentary dimension of the Hungarian EU presidency, the first session of the meeting gave place to a lively dialogue on the presence of IPEX on social media platforms. A presentation was conducted by the co-chairs of the Working Group on Promotion and Social Media, where key elements and direction of future development as well as an impact assessment were presented. During the second session, participants discussed the possible cooperation of IPEX with other EU-related platforms such as e.g. ECPRD or the EGOV. The ECPRD platform and its daily functioning were introduced by Ms. Ida KELEMEN, Head of the Information Service for MPs of HNA. The Correspondents also discussed the Hungarian initiative to host on IPEX educational programs and materials of National Parliaments. Participants appreciated the idea of this new format of merged events and took actively part in the debates.

II. Composition of the IPEX Board 2025-2026

The Secretaries General approve the composition of the Board [Art. 2. (c) of the Guidelines]. Furthermore, the IPEX Guidelines clearly define the composition of the Board (Art. 4), whereas there are Parliaments/Chambers being members ex officio, and there are those who volunteer.

The incoming Chairmanship is responsible for launching a call of interest for Board membership among EU national parliaments, which the Hungarian National Assembly did on the 19th December 2024. Based on the Guidelines and the call of interest, the membership of the IPEX Board for 2025/2026 was as follows:

Ex officio members

- Hungary (National Assembly as Chair)
- Denmark (Danish Parliament)
- Ireland (Houses of the Oireachtas)
- Poland (Sejm and Senate)
- European Parliament

National Parliaments, which actively participated in the Board and its activities:

- Austria (National Council and Federal Council)
- Bulgaria (National Assembly)
- Cyprus (House of Representatives)
- Germany (Bundestag)
- Finland (Finnish Parliament)
- France (National Assembly and Senate)
- Greece (Hellenic Parliament)
- Italy (Chamber of Deputies and Senate)
- Luxembourg (Chamber of Deputies)
- The Netherlands (House of Representatives)
- Portugal (Assembly of the Republic of Portugal)
- Romania (Chamber of Deputies and Senate)
- Slovenia (National Assembly)
- Spain (Congress of Deputies and Senate)
- Sweden (Swedish Parliament)

III. Implementation of the Rolling Work Programme 2024-2026

Working Group 1

Work in the Working Group on the Update of the IPEX v3 System focused on the technical questionnaire (TQ) prepared and launched by WG1 on 25 November 2024. The questionnaire ran until 21 January 2025. After the responses were evaluated the WG produced an executive summary, which was sent to correspondents, the target audience for the TQ. An IPEX Now meeting was held with the participation of national correspondents (NCs) on the 19 March 2025 to present the results and receive feedback. The results of the TQ and the IPEX Now meeting were presented at the Board Meeting in Budapest 26 June 2025. Based on all input an action plan was drawn up. During the course of the year three out of four technical errors on the IPEX webpage were resolved. An ongoing task of WG1 is to prioritise whether hotfixes are needed on the webpage. WG1 is currently analysing the issues arising from the TQ to see what are technical and what are user-related (content) issues, with the aim of making a prioritisation between the issues.

On 16 May 2025 members of WG1 met with the Democracy Support Network (DSN), a network initiated by the European Parliament to bring together experts on capacity building projects from national parliaments. The discussion aimed at improving accessibility of information on the DSN subsection, with an articulated need to make it more user friendly. WG1 also held discussions on the initiative of the Hungarian Chairmanship regarding the hosting of education content.

Working Group 2

Activities in Working Group on Content and IPEX Networks were characterised by the preparation and execution of the 2025 User's Survey, and the subsequent report titled "*IPEX through the eyes of its users: Take Three*" from October 2025. This was the third edition of the survey and a report targeting IPEX users. In preparing the questionnaire, the Working Group relied on the 2023 User's Survey as a foundation, thereby ensuring continuity and comparability of results. The questionnaire was officially launched at the IPEX Users' Conference in Rome 28 March 2025 and was concluded on 2 May 2025. Within the five-week time frame and following several reminders, the questionnaire was completed by 105 IPEX users, representing a 42% increase in the number of respondents compared to the previous edition. The report based on the results of the Survey was officially presented at the Board Meeting of 17 October 2025 in Brussels. Following this presentation the working groups began to identify possible actions, which correspond to their activities. These possible actions will be integrated into the WG action plans. The Chairmanship will also channel the findings of the report into the discussions on the next Rolling Work Programme 2027-2029.

Along the work on the 2025 survey, members of WG Content were active in finding solutions for editorial fixes on the webpage as well as achieving clear and consequent publishing of documents. Along the IPEX Guidelines and the recommendations from users themselves the working group started preparations to create guidelines for uploading content, which would help correspondents and other contributors in their daily work.

Working Group 3

Besides organising trainings for correspondents, the Working Group on Training produced training materials especially for DSN, a guide for organizing IPEX Now Meetings as well as a coordinated calendar to facilitate the working groups' planning of activities targeting for instance correspondents and to avoid overlaps of meetings and topics. In order to improve the correspondents' and Board members' access to training materials, WG3 and WG4 on Promotion and Social Media have put forward a joint suggestion to WG1, on finding a long-term centralised storage solution for easy access to training and promotional material. WG on Training is continuously updating existing training material, as well as develops new ones for the new functionalities on IPEX. In this regard WG3 has begun to develop material on how to use the Educational subsection for correspondents as well as on a new guide on how to use social media for promoting IPEX, in collaboration with WG4.

Working Group 4

A central thematic of the activities by the Working Group on Promotion and Social Media evolved around strengthening social media presence of IPEX on new platforms, such as LinkedIn, Threads, Instagram and Bluesky as foreseen by the Work Programme 2024-2026. An extended social media presence contributed greatly to increase the visibility of IPEX partly by promoting conferences of interparliamentary cooperation, often in cooperation with the incumbent Presidency Parliament, and also by launching new, social media campaigns, such as Parliaments Wednesdays, Monthly Highlights and the IPEX Quiz. To accomplish and manage successfully all new social media accounts and campaigns WG4 is using a social media management platform. The cost of this tool was covered by the Hellenic Parliament. The IPEX YouTube channel was boosted with videos of Parliamentary Dimensions Conferences, and until today it includes videos from five Parliamentary Dimension Presidencies of the Council of the EU

The Working Group had a strong working relationship with WG3 on Training throughout the year, which led to the establishment of a temporary online folder for training and promotional materials The WG is also planning to create a new guide on how to use social media for promoting IPEX, in collaboration with WG3.

In order for correspondents to be able to promote IPEX more effectively WG4 updated the Presentation on the Benefits of using IPEX. The Working Group is currently working to produce a new promotional leaflet for IPEX and a Guide on Best Practices for Promotion and Social Media focusing on Parliamentary Dimension Presidencies in line with the Chairmanship's priorities. Moreover, it is finalising an online survey, which would aim to identify the general audience of the IPEX Website. Questions are related to user satisfaction, task completion rate, user experience, loyalty, awareness of IPEX's social media accounts. Finally, WG4 will, in the near future, update the Wikipedia page of IPEX.

IV. Implementation of the Hungarian priorities

The Hungarian National Assembly set three main priorities for its Chairmanship: organising a physical Board meeting in the Chairmanship capital, to open up new avenues of interparliamentary cooperation by creating a new subsection on the IPEX platform for educational programmes on parliamentary democracy and citizenship in

the European dimension, and finally to start debate on sharing best practices regarding the Parliamentary Dimension of the Council Presidency.

The Board returns to the capital

In accordance with Article 3. Par 2. (c) of the IPEX Guidelines the Board is to meet correspondents once a year in collaboration with the national Parliaments/Chambers. In addition IPEX Board meetings used to take place in physical format in the capitals before the pandemic. Taking these into account, the Hungarian National Assembly decided to hold the first Board meeting of its Chairmanship offline in Budapest, with the physical presence of Board members on the 26th June 2025. It was also decided that the annual Meeting of Correspondents would be held the day after, the 27th June 2025, where Board members had the possibility to take part.

Educational programmes

The idea that IPEX could become the platform where Parliaments/Chambers could share best practices on their educational programmes was first presented by the incoming Chair of IPEX, Mr. György SUCH, Director-General of the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly at the Meeting of Secretaries General in Budapest 9-10 February 2025. Speakers of EU parliament had also confirmed this new form of cooperation later in their Conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments (Budapest, 11-12 May 2025), where they stated that IPEX should also serve as “a platform for the exchange of best practices between national parliaments and the European Parliament on activities of mutual interest, such as education and information programmes on democracy”.

The concrete proposal was then presented during the Board Meeting in Budapest 26 June 2025, which opened the discussion on the proposal in the working groups. Technical implementation aspects were presented to the Board in Brussels, 17 October 2025. Final approval was then asked from the Board by using written procedure with the deadline of 18 December 2025. After the approval the IPEX Information Officer implemented the technical aspects of the proposal so that the new subsection is ready to be used. It only becomes visible if Parliaments/Chambers would use the function to share content, otherwise the subsection would remain hidden.

Sharing best practices on the Presidency

The Hungarian Chairmanship took the initiative to collect best practices on the organisational aspects of a Council Presidency’s Parliamentary Dimension, with a special regard to IPEX. Instead of a static document, the framework chosen for this exercise was debated: the Chairmanship put the topic on the agenda of working groups and the Board, and had also proposed organising an IPEX Now meeting in this regard. The Chairmanship considers the presentations on EU Presidency communication, first held by the Belgian Senate, and then continued by the Hungarian National Assembly (26/06/2025) and the Polish Senate (17/10/2025) as an already existing, bottom-up practice that could feed into this wider debate.

Management

In order to have a broader oversight on the proceedings within IPEX, the Hungarian National Assembly was present in all four working groups by approval of the Board. This was vitally important so that the Chairmanship in-office is aware of and is

constantly kept in the loop. Mr. Csaba HUSZÁR, acting Board Chair took over the chairmanship of Working Group 2, which made him member of Working Group 1. He was also a member of Working Group 4. Ms Krisztina FOUCAULT-VÁRADI, Permanent Representative of the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly to the EU was nominated member of Working Group 4 and Mr Daniel NYILAS, IPEX Correspondent was nominated to be part of Working Group 3. The Hungarian Chairmanship invites the subsequent chairmanships to give due consideration to this practice.

The Hungarian Chairmanship initiated an ad-hoc meeting format with the participation of the Chair of the Board, the chairs of working groups, the representatives of the previous and incoming chairmanships [along Art. 5 (4) of the Guidelines], the representative of the European Parliament, and the IPEX Information Officer intended as a consultative forum to assist the Hungarian Chairmanship in preparing Board meetings, to help prepare decision-making.

V. Next steps

The Hungarian Chairmanship will continue the work along the priorities it established in 2026 until the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments in Copenhagen, 3-5 May 2026. Details on how to use the new functionality regarding the educational materials will be elaborated. WG2 on Content will establish guidelines on what is within the scope of the section, while WG3 will reach out to correspondents to make them aware of the new functionality. WG4 would promote the new functionality via the social media accounts.

After the Meeting of Secretaries General discussion will begin on the preparations of the new Rolling Work Programme for the period 2027-2029 in cooperation with the incoming Danish Chairmanship of IPEX.

Possible new topics for further IPEX Now meetings will be explored.

The discussion will continue on the best practices of organising a Presidency Parliamentary Dimension at different levels.

2026 would see a possible new major update of the IPEX website, which will require coordination from the side of the Hungarian Chairmanship as well as technical and financial resources from the European Parliament.

Annex

- Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2025