

**Henriett Dinók, Barbara Baska, Katalin Bársony,**



to realize that I will become more by helping others, even when it means giving away something that is uniquely mine. Teaching is a good example: we have all seen teachers who have held back a piece of their knowledge just to make sure that they will always remain the authority, and will know more than their students. I think it's a twisted way of seeing things: teaching or in other ways, you have to help others, do it fully, and this will become the real source of your self-fulfillment, too," she adds.

Not only have these women found success in their professions, but they have also found this success at home. They might be highly educated, speak

and I was seriously considering going abroad. But in an environment like this, even very minor changes or feedback can go a long way. And these minor changes become apparent every now and then. Changing attitudes is never easy, so we have to appreciate every little sign we discover."

"When you work in a prison," explains Fellegi, "you will see that there is a bigger chance to change things where there is nothing left to lose. Similarly, in Hungary, it is a lot easier to do something good – and a lot more difficult at the same time. As criminologists, we don't aim to create 'good' people from 'bad' people; our goal is simply to change

## WOMEN ON THE SHORTLIST

**KATALIN BÁRSONY** is an award-winning filmmaker and executive director of the Budapest-based Roma media organization Romedia Foundation. She directed the Mundi Romani – the World through Roma Eyes documentary series, the first-ever documentary series on Roma communities around the world to be broadcast on a mainstream television channel (Duna Television Hungary).

**BARBARA BASKA** Designer, artist, filmmaker. At 14 she designed the image for a European Council project called Democracy for School. Her diploma film at the University of Theatre and Film, Kelen, was showed in the Urania cinema, and was invited to the Hungarian Film festival (Filmszemle) in 2012. As a designer she has won various international awards including the Ferrari's Award in Turin, Italy.

**HENRIETT DINÓK** Lawyer, a former researcher at the University of Chicago, at present a researcher at the Hungarian Academy of Science's Social Science Researcher Center of the Institution of Law. She is involved with civil organizations such as the European Roma Rights Center and the Helsinki Commission. She is also the member of the curatorium of the Chance for Children with Disadvantaged Backgrounds Foundation, and a volunteer worker at the Romaversitas Foundation.

**BORBÁLA FELLEGI** Criminologist, founder and CEO of the Foresee Research Group, the only NGO in Hungary dedicated to giving scientific answers to the complex questions of preventing and reducing social inequality.

**SZILVIA GYURKÓ** Advocacy director of UNICEF Hungary. After graduating from law, as a teacher at ELTE Science University, she became the professional leader of a program called law clinic. For years she has been a staff member of the National Institute of Criminology. She was a leader of the Family, Child, Youth Association (Család, Gyerek, Ifjúság Egyesület), and has been the legal advisor to several important organizations.



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**Szilvia Gyurkó, Borbála Fellegi**

numerous languages, travel a lot, but they also deem it important to remain connected to their roots, and stay in Hungary.

"We try to bring home a piece of each of the countries we visit and the cultures we see," says Bársony. "Our work is received very well abroad, and this feedback is of great importance, because it gives us the strength we need to soldier on with the daily work."

Gyurkó agrees. "Whenever we are abroad, our main motivation is to bring the knowledge home. A few years ago there was a point in my life when I thought I was doing something that is not at all timely in Hungary. It was a very lonely feeling,

these people for the better. It can be a big change to someone, and something much smaller, or even nothing, to someone else, and I think the same goes for the country. We have to value every inch of progress we make," she concludes.

AmCham's Women of Excellence award is deliberately not a career award, but a prize that celebrates women who are successful in many different walks of life. Consequently, it is impossible to ignore the question of work-life balance.

"I miss a clone," Baska exclaims. "At first I thought I was missing a twin sister, but no, what I really need is a clone. Of course I want a fam-

ily, but currently I have way too much on my plate even without children." Bársony is also planning to settle down, but not just yet. "According to Roma traditions, I am definitely considered as an old maid, as all my cousins I grew up with have children by now," she says. "When you spend 16 hours a day in a studio, that will challenge any relationship. And I don't subscribe to the traditional model anyway. I think it all depends on finding the right person, with whom you have the same values and priorities. But before thinking about a family, I strongly believe that we will have to raise a second generation of professionals within our organization," she says.

"It is definitely difficult," adds Fellegi, a mother of two, "but the truth is that the birth of my daughters turned out to be when my career gained the biggest momentum. In fact Foresee became an organization from a one-woman show, simply because I was forced to delegate tasks, and teach people how to do them well. I once had a dream, where my daughters and I were sitting in the middle of circle formed by my mother, my grandmother, and all our female ancestors. The message was, I figured, that regardless of work and career, our biggest task in life is to take care of our family," she concludes. **ZsB**

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