**AFRICA: POWER RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC**

As part of the International Seasons Africa Week, organized by the International Directorate of the UP, the seventh Africa Conference was held in collaboration with the Africa Research Center of the UP at the South Transdanubian Regional Library and Knowledge Center from 19-20 May. The international academic conference, "Power, Governance, and Development in Post-COVID Africa", was held in a hybrid format and explored the changes catalyzed by the pandemic and the processes that led to them.

The conference was opened by István Tarrósy dr., Head of the International Directorate of the UP and the Africa Center.

"The conference is part of the International Seasons series, which offers a year-round program of colorful events that will allow you to learn about the rich and colorful cultures of the more than 110 countries from which our students come."

- the professor highlighted the role of the UP as a cultural hub, adding that this is the seventh Africa Conference since 2010, which explores topical issues with expert speakers from around the world.

The conference was opened by Judit Kiss dr., Ph.D., Chair of the Africa Subcommittee of the Scientific Committee on International and Development Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The opening lecture of the seventh Africa conference was given by Tim Zajontz dr., a researcher at the University of Freiburg, Germany, on "'Global Africa' in the emerging post-COVID world order".

Following the plenary presentation, the first session highlighted several interesting developments. In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, the pandemic not only caused insecurity but also, as a corollary of the emergency, "governments in different countries had to balance the security and freedom of their people. In the ten countries where elections were held in 2021, the extent to which they handled the situation well or took advantage of it played a huge role in the decision," said Mohamed Salih dr., a researcher at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, presenting his study.

Hajer Trabelsi from Tunisia, a Master's student at the Institute of Social Relations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the UP, explored the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

László Csicsmann dr., Vice-Rector for Academic Workshops at Corvinus University of Budapest, in his presentation "Arab Spring 2.0 in North Africa: the impact of the pandemic on the process of political transition", discussed the recent political transition in several countries of the wider Middle East.

The management of the pandemic, its representation in political communication, and the changing nature and content of presidential statements in Tanzania represented the object of the paper of István Tarrósy dr., that was presented at the 7th Africa Conference.

Following the individual presentations, an interesting discussion on the topics concerned emerged at the end of the session, following several questions, and in the afternoon sessions of the conference, as well as in the following day's presentations, researchers examined the further power realignment and the many changes in Africa, from different approaches.