**Resumé of Elek Bartha**

*Elek Bartha* is a full professor and Vice Rector for Education at the University of Debrecen. He is an ethnographer, a folklorist, a researcher of religion and a Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

He was born in Budapest in 1956. He graduated from *Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem* [*Lajos Kossuth* University of Arts and Sciences] with a degree in ethnography in 1980. He earned his dr. univ. degree here in 1983 and completed his habilitation process in 1999. He defended his dissertation in folklore studies for the CSc title in 1990 and his DSc dissertation in cultural anthropology in 2002. From the beginning, his academic and teaching career has been connected to the University of Debrecen (previously: *KLTE*) during the past four decades. He headed the Department of Ethnography for two decades, he has been Vice Dean for Education and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and, between 2010 and 2012, Academic Vice President of *DE Tudományegyetemi Karok* [University Faculties of UD]. He has been Vice Rector for Education since 2013.

During the course of his academic research career, he has produced internationally acknowledged findings and results in the fields of folklore studies, folk belief research and the research of religion. Apart from traditional Hungarian culture and the ethnography of Hungarians, his areas of interest include the peoples of Central Europe and the Balkan Peninsula as well as the exploration of the inter-ethnic and inter-cultural connections between the eastern and western regions of Europe. He has played an outstanding part for decades in the exploration and preservation of the sacral culture of the Carpathian Basin. The number of his publications exceeds three hundred. As part of his academic and public activities, he has been the editor of *Ethnographia*, the leading periodical of Hungarian ethnography and ethnology, the Vice President of *Magyar Vallástudományi Társaság* [Hungarian Association for the Study of Religion], the chair of the *Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Néprajztudományi Bizottság* [Committee on Ethnography of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences] and the editor of numerous other ethnographical and academic journals as well as a member of several international academic bodies.

During the course of his teaching career, he has taught almost all fields of ethnology and folklore studies, and his chief subjects and areas of interest have been the following: folklore text research, folk tales, folk ballads, proverbs, customs and beliefs, ethnography of religion, anthropology of religion and Finno-Ugric and Balkan studies in ethnography. As a guest professor, he has taught courses at foreign universities on the ethnography of Central Europe and Hungary. Several of his students have acquired academic degrees and work at universities and in research institutes, museums and cultural/educational institutions. One of his chief achievements in teaching ethnography has been the preparation and establishment of a teacher of ethnography BA program, launched first in Debrecen and taught since as *hon- és népismeret tanárszak* [teacher of ethnography major] at other universities.

He has received numerous official and professional prizes, awards and decorations for his academic and cultural achievements and efforts in public life. In 2004, he was elected an honorary member of *Kalevalaseura*, Finland; in 1989, he received the award *Jankó János-díj* in ethnography; in 2021 the award *István Györffy-díj* from *Magyar Néprajzi Társaság* [Hungarian Ethnographic Society]. In 2014, the City of Debrecen awarded him a *Csokonai-díj* and, in 2021, a Pro Urbe-díj. In the same year, he was the recipient of a *Hajdú-Bihar megyei Príma Díj* for his educational activities. In 2021, for his overall achievements in education, management, academic and international affairs, he also received an Officer’s Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.