

Facebook is free only for those who do not use it

30 November 2021, Budapest – At the recent panel discussion of the Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC), András TÓTH, Vice President of the Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) and President of the Competition Council discussed the problems of data monopolies and certain competition issues of online platforms with his interlocutors and the members of the MCC.

The GVH has long focused on both expanding the social knowledge about competition and improving professional public life. Expanding knowledge on these fields can make a major contribution to protecting competition and increasing social acceptance.

András TÓTH, Vice President of the GVH and President of the Competition Council, pointed out with respect to the competition authority Facebook case during the roundtable discussion titled ‘Humans, data, platforms, and technologies - Legal challenges of the near future’ organised by the Public Law Workshop of the law school of the Mathias Corvinus Collegium: the question is not whether users know that they have to tolerate advertisements in exchange for using the platform or that the targeted advertisements are not harmful but whether they are aware of the real value of their data provided in exchange for the service and whether the vigilance of users with regard to data transfer is dulled by the false appearance of the service being free.

András TÓTH’s panel partners were Endre Győző SZABÓ, Vice President of the Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (NAIH), Professor Zoltán CSÉFALVAY, Head of the Technological Futures Workshop of the MCC, Márton SULYOK, Head of the Public Law Workshop of the MCC, and Márton DOMONKOS, attorney-at-law.

GVH Press Office