

31 March, 2017

*In the attention of:*

Mr. Zoltán Balog

Minister of Human Capacities

1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.

Hungary

Dear Minister Balog,

We are writing to you as individual members of the Sociology Department of the Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca to express our concerns for the future of the Central European University / Közép-európai Egyetem in Budapest.

The Central European University / Közép-európai Egyetem (CEU) was established 25 years ago as a private institution of postgraduate education with focus on social sciences and humanities. CEU provides master and doctoral degrees in English, accredited both in the United States (New York State) and in Hungary, according to the Law LXI/2004. After the 1989 change of political regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, CEU played an important role in the revival of social sciences and humanities in the postsocialist region, given that it offered subsidized postgraduate educational and research programs, and published scientific books with high relevance for the region.

Throughout the years, we had close collaborations with CEU in various academic programs. Some of our colleagues and former graduates completed their master or doctoral studies at CEU. Since 2016, the CEU Global Teaching Fellowship grant has offered the possibility for CEU postdoctoral fellows and doctoral candidates to get involved in teaching and research activities at our Department. Our university signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CEU on the 26th of April 2015.

Michael Ignatieff, the Rector of CEU, explained in a public statement on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 how the recent amendment proposals to the Hungarian Law on Education (Act CCIV/2011)

would result in the impossibility of maintaining the functioning of CEU. Consequently, these amendments would eventually lead to the dissolution of one of most highly ranked universities in the region, which includes centres of excellence in research and public policy.

We express our deep concerns towards this situation and solidarity with our partner institution, the Central European University / Közép-európai Egyetem - Budapest.

We firmly believe in the wisdom of the Hungarian Government to secure the continuity of the functioning of the Central European University / Közép-európai Egyetem in Budapest.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor dr. Mircea Comşa

Professor dr. Irina Culic

Lecturer dr. Florin Faje

Lecturer dr. Sorin Gog

Lecturer dr. Călin Goina

Associate prof. dr. Marius Lazăr

Lecturer dr. Veronica Mateescu

Lecturer dr. Norbert Petrovici

Lecturer dr. Cristian Pop

Associate prof. dr. Gabriel Troc

Lecturer dr. Anca Simionca, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Lecturer dr. Cristina Raţ

Head of the Sociology Department, Babeş-Bolyai University

