



Mr. Zoltán Balog
Minister of Human Capacities
1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.
Hungary

April 3, 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

In the name of the School of Advanced Social Studies in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, I express deep concerns with regard to the proposed legislative change in your country which, in our opinion, represents a grave danger for academic freedom and which would undermine the position of Central European University (CEU) as one of the most prestigious institutions in the field of higher education in this part of Europe.

CEU is a private international university which in the last two and half decades earned reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. Some of its departments rank among the best in Europe. It unites excellent academics that publish in the world leading journals and publishing houses and who received a number of prestigious international rewards for their work. CEU educates talented students from around the world who become equipped with excellent knowledge and competences.

As Erasmus partner, our institution established very good relations with the CEU. Cooperation with colleagues from this esteemed university brought us valuable experiences and meant great enrichment of our teaching and research work.

We believe that cessation of the CEU or its resettlement from the region would cause an irreparable damage not only in Hungary, but in the whole Central Europe. I would mean unimaginable impoverishment of academic life.

Curtailement of academic autonomy and freedom of intellectual endeavor is in stark contradiction with the principles of free and democratic European society. In this respect, we urge the government to refrain from any legislative and other actions that would endanger existence and further development of the CEU as the place of academic excellence.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mateja Rek, Associate Professor
Dean of the School of Advanced Social Studies in Nova Gorica

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;
Office of the Prime Minister;
Central European University.