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### Statement of support to Central European University Budapest

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Zagreb, as the leading faculty in humanities and social sciences in Croatia, is profoundly concerned about the recent developments regarding Central European University in Budapest. We fear that the proposed legislative changes might undermine academic freedom essential for the functioning of CEU and lead to the slow demise of the university that had immense impact on Croatian scientists and intellectuals in the last 25 years.

Therefore, we express solidarity with Central European University and endorse the open letter of support of Croatian CEU students, alumni and professors. More than 50 of them are former students and present employees of our Faculty. This is particularly the case with the Department of History - several professors taught at CEU at some point in time, and a number of them are CEU alumni.

Collaboration with Central European University has enabled our scholars and students to get in contact with distinguished lecturers, researchers and colleagues from all over the world, to use rich archival and library resources, and gain the skills, methodology and knowledge that have proven invaluable for their professions. It has also enabled them to regularly communicate with Hungarian colleagues within and outside of CEU, and to conduct research in institutions such as Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár, Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Könyvtár and so on.

Most importantly, it has helped them revive the scholarly and cultural ties stemming from our joint history, which were so unfortunately severed during much of the twentieth century. Finally, it has also promoted interest in studying the Hungarian language, which had been greatly neglected among the Croatian historians after 1918.

For all these reasons, we urge the Hungarian authorities to enter consultations with CEU to the benefit of continued academic freedom and academic collaboration in the region.



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