



**MUNICIPIUL ARAD**

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**Mr. Michael Ignatieff**  
**President and Rector of the Central European University**

Dear Mr. President,

We have learnt, with deep concern, of the challenges the Central European University in Budapest has to face these days and wish to express my solidarity with the prestigious institution you lead, with its professors and students.

We are aware that a large number of Romanians have studied and still study at the Central European University, with the generous support of the scholarships offered by your institution, a landmark institution for the democratic changes in the Central and South-Eastern Europe. The fact that we share today, in this political and geographic space, the same democratic values is largely due, among others, to the academic community you lead. We believe together in freedom, especially in the freedom of thought and of association.

As Mayor of Arad, I know that we are part of a common historical and cultural space. I also know that Central Europe has been often, in the past and even in its recent history, haunted by exaggerations. The responsibility we all have is to watch over it, so it shall not repeat.

Therefore, we have decided that Arad's expression of solidarity has to turn into action: **In the name of the citizens of Arad, I wish to invite the Central European University to relocate in our city.** We are able to provide the necessary infrastructure for your University to continue its academic mission: buildings with a usable area of over 5000 square meters available for the educational activity and over 2000 square meters for accommodation.

I also wish to inform you that, in the near future, we intend to create in the Fortress of Arad, an historical and architectural monument built in Vauban style, modern academic facilities, which combine tradition with the current needs of the society's development. Once this project completed, we will provide facilities for the Central European University, aware that the presence of a university of such prestige would truly transform this area in a new cultural fortress in the heart of Arad.

To strengthen our official invitation, I propose to you, Mr. President, to establish a meeting which would enable us to present in detail our plans of development and the possibilities of collaboration, as well as the advantages our city poses: economic development, cultural tradition, modernised transport infrastructure, generous urban and educational spaces. I believe that a meeting at Budapest between the representatives of the Central European University and the Municipality of Arad, in the near future, would be very useful.

I am looking forward to your answer, with the hopes of a good collaboration on the long term.

Yours sincerely,  
Gheorghe Falcă  
Mayor of Arad