

His Excellency Victor Orbán
Prime Minister of Hungary

Your Excellency,

We have taken note of the latest developments in Hungary regarding the legislative initiative related to the tightening of the presence of foreign universities in your country. It is beyond any doubt that the proposed draft legislation directly affects the activity and the existence of the Central European University in Budapest, whose academic community has brought together an impressive number of scholars (teachers, students and researchers) worldwide.

We are writing to express our real concern at proposed legislative changes, which seriously endanger academic freedom.

The Central European University is one of the most prestigious educational and research institutions in South Eastern Europe, which has managed to create a genuine international academic community in this part of the world. Through the constant concern for quality education, science and innovation and the continuous efforts of the teaching and research staff, the Central European University has succeeded in bringing together students and researchers from 117 countries. Moreover, the University represents a strong reference point for international scholars, being from this perspective an exceptional ambassador for Hungary.

After the fall of Communism, the Central European University has genuinely represented a milestone for the development of democracy in the former Soviet Bloc. If there has been a real revolution in the reinventing of social sciences and humanities, this is largely the effect of the existence of the Central European University, a reference point for academic knowledge and democratic values.

The University of Bucharest considers that academic freedom and freedom of thought are the core values of any true academic life and democracy. The abrupt dismissal of this 25 year long history of educational and scholarly achievements represents an assault on all the aforementioned values of democracy.

We convey our deep appreciation and gratitude for the intellectual legacy of the Central European University, and we express our solidarity with its academic community.

We respectfully urge you to reflect on the opportunity of the proposed bill of law, whose damaging effects will affect the international academic community, and to consider withdrawing it. We kindly ask you to preserve academic integrity, freedom of thought and expression, and to continue to support the development of scientific research and thinking.



President of the Senate,
Professor Marian Preda



Rector,
Professor Mircea Dumitru