

## **Statement of solidarity with Central European University**

We, undersigned members of the Center for Economic and Regional Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (CERS HAS), express our solidarity with Central European University (CEU) in the wake of a proposed amendment to Hungary's higher education law, which threatens the future existence of CEU in Budapest. Several members of the CERS HAS community received their M.A. and/or PhD degrees in economics, sociology and history at CEU. Many of our colleagues have taught or teach at CEU, have participated in joint research activities and have published works together with members of CEU's academic community. All member institutes of CERS - the Institute for Economics, the Institute for Regional Studies and the Institute of World Economics – are in regular contact with various institutes of CEU, such as the Center for European Neighborhood Studies, the Centre for Policy Studies, the Department of Economics and the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

We believe CEU is an integral part of the Hungarian higher education system and academic research life. CEU's contribution to academic research at CERS's institutes and in Hungary's academic community is indispensable with respect to joint research activities, access to CEU's outstanding library collection and the recruitment of junior staff of high academic excellence.

We believe that the draft amendment is one of several interventions in Hungarian academic life and the education system that had been realised without the prudent assessment of consequences. Based on the above facts and our shared values, we support CEU's leadership, faculty and students in their efforts to have the proposed amendment withdrawn.

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