




**#Istand
withCEU
#aCEUval
vagyok**

Central European University's
Campaign for Academic Freedom



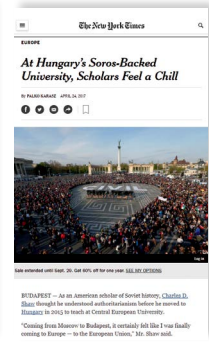
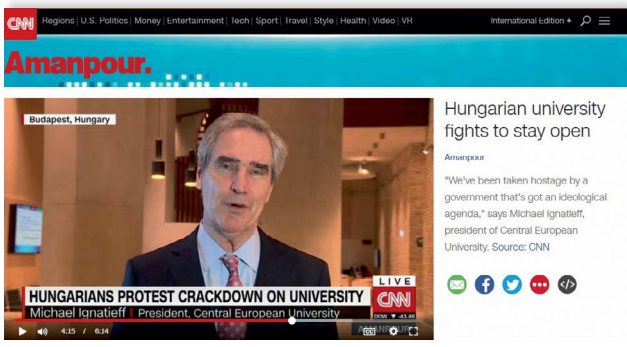
“CEU itself released a series of [detailed responses](#) in rapid fashion, while doing an exemplary job of disseminating their views in two languages (Hungarian and English) in a highly sophisticated, professional, and honest way. As a close observer of how universities communicate amidst crises, I think CEU has now set the crisis ‘comms’ standard universities worldwide should strive to match - it will be difficult, I assure you!”

KRIS OLDS [_Inside Higher Ed](#)

CEU in the international media

Exponential increase in coverage according to Meltwater's data. On the peak day, April 4 - the day Parliament passed lex CEU - 2,000 articles appeared, versus 1 article on the same day in 2016.

COVERAGE IN MAJOR MEDIA OUTLETS: NYT (*front page*) • Financial Times • Wall Street Journal • NPR • Washington Post • BBC live • CNN live • Fox News • Bloomberg • AP • Reuters • The Economist • Euronews • Al-Jazeera • The Guardian • Huffington Post • Christian Science Monitor • Times Higher Education • Chronicle of Higher Ed • The Globe & Mail • CBC • Le Monde • Deutsche Welle • ZDF • Süddeutsche Zeitung • Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung • Der Spiegel • Die Presse • De Standaard • NRC Handelsblad and major media in Poland • Czech Republic • Slovakia • Romania • Croatia • Italy • Spain • Australia • Sweden • Argentina • and Japan.



CEU in the Hungarian media

- Zsolt Enyedi and Eva Fodor, pro-rectors of CEU gave interviews on evening television news shows on a daily basis at the height of the crisis
- In April and May, coverage of CEU rose by more than 1000%
- Major news channels RTLklub, HirTV and ATV dedicated half-hour programs to describing CEU and the situation.



A case study in refutation

CEU was attacked by Hungarian daily Magyar Idok, questioning the legality of university's employment contracts, tax payments, and research funding. CEU reacted with a detailed response refuting all claims of the article.



magyar idők BELFÖLD KÜLFÖLD GAZDASÁG A HELYZET

BELFÖLD

2017. MÁJUS 5. PÉNTEK 06:05 2017.05.04. 23:25

JOGTALANUL JUTHATOTT UNIÓS PÉNZEKHEZ A CEU

A TÁRCÁNÁL VIZSGÁLJÁK AZ OKTATÓK MUNKASZERZŐDÉSEIT

Magyar Idők

Ajánlat Megosztás 685 ember kedveli. Az ismerősök közül te lehetsz az első.

Elképzelhető, hogy jogtalanul használt fel az Európai Uniótól elnyert forrásokat a CEU, tudta meg lapunk az Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériumához közel álló forrásoktól. Valószínűleg ez is az oka annak, hogy munkacsoport vizsgálja a Magyarországon működő külföldi felsőoktatási intézmények alkalmazottainak tartózkodási és munkavállalási engedélyeit.

A Soros-egyetem esetében ugyanis arról van szó, hogy egy amerikai jogi személy a CEU, Magyarországon két jogi személyen keresztül tevékenykedik. Ez részben a Közép-európai Egyetem, részben egy nonprofit kft. Lehetett volna a magyar Közép-európai Egyetemet amerikai egyetemenként akkreditáltatni, de nem ezt tették. A két magyar szervezetre azért van szükség, hogy hozzáférhessenek az Európai Uniótól kutatásokra elnyerhető forrásokhoz, mivel egy amerikai szervezet nem jogosult hozzájutni ezekhez a több milliárd forintot kitevő kutatási pénzekhez. Az amerikai egyetemre pedig azért van szükség, mert ha valaki Amerikában alapít egy egyetemet, az alapítás költségeit le tudja írni az adójából, de ehhez amerikai jogi személyre van szüksége.



Fotó: MTI

Nem lehet tudni, milyen zászló égisze alatt tevékenykednek a felsőoktatási intézmény dolgozói

CEU Refutes Allegations Regarding Research Funding, Employment, And Taxes May 5, 2017

Budapest, May 5, 2017 – Central European University (CEU) strongly refutes the false allegations published today in an article of a speculative and deceptive nature in Magyar Idok regarding the legality of university employment contracts, tax payments, and research funding. This is another scurrilous attack against a university that is proud to have complied with the Hungarian law for over 20 years and contributed significant amounts in taxes to the Hungarian state. This is extremely low-level journalism, with no factual basis. In reality, the facts are as follows:

- All CEU employees working in Hungary, including Americans, have Hungarian employment contracts.
- CEU has 600 employees, according to its 2015 report, in contrast to Magyar Idok's allegations
- All CEU employees, including Americans, pay taxes as regulated by Hungarian law
- CEU is audited regularly by an international auditing firm, which has always found CEU's financial statements in order. The Hungarian tax authorities also regularly audit the university's tax returns and related financial reports.
- European Union-funded research projects are audited separately as regulated by the European Union and all reviewed projects at CEU have been found to comply fully with European Union as well as Hungarian regulations
- CEU pays taxes and employment-related contributions (such as health and pension payments) after its employees as regulated by Hungarian law, at present, of over 5 billion forint per annum.

Informing the community and supporters

CEU made sure that it was the faculty, staff, and students who received the latest updates first. When possible, community forums were also held before international press conferences.

CEU also reached out to alumni and supporters as well as its own community with regular weekly updates in email and video messages. [Videos of press conferences](#) and [community forums](#) were also made available on YouTube. CEU also sent out hundreds of thank-you cards to its supporters, with a picture of the CEU community holding up the *#istandwithCEU* banners printed out, thanking all for their dedication.



CREDIT: CEU / Stefan Roch



CREDIT: CEU / Daniel Veigel

Social media results

- Twitter followers doubled
- Potential reach of Tweets rose by 2000%
- Gained influencers such as Human Rights Watch, with 3.4 million followers
- #IstandwithCEU trended on Facebook and Twitter
- According to research conducted by Milan Janosov, doctoral student in Network Science, and Professor Balazs Vedres, the CEU-related hashtags #IstandwithCEU, #aCEUvalvagyok and #LexCEU had a potential reach of 140 million
- Thunderclap campaign calling for EU leaders' support had a reach of 3,081,575 on Facebook and Twitter

THUNDERCLAP HOW IT WORKS DISCOVER PRICING **START**

Academic Freedom and CEU

by Central European University category: Cause

“I call on European leaders to defend academic freedom & autonomy, now under threat in #Hungary. #IstandwithCEU <http://thndr.me/vs42fP>”

#IstandwithCEU #aCEUvalvagyok Central European University FOLLOWING ORGANIZER EMBED

SUPPORTERS
1,396 of 500
 279% of goal supported

SOCIAL REACH
3,081,575
 People

TIME LEFT
Complete

Central European University
 Published by Aranka Szabo [?] · April 3 · 🌐

Central European University has 1,500 students from 116 countries. Almost a quarter of our students are Hungarian. They express their solidarity with CEU. / A Közép-európai Egyetemen 116 ország 1500 hallgatója tanul. Diákjaink negyede magyar. Kiállnak a CEU-ért.

If you'd like to express your solidarity with Central European University, here's what you can do to help: <https://www.ceu.edu/category/istandwithceu>
 Thank you!

Ha szeretné támogatni a CEU-t, így tud segíteni:
<https://www.ceu.edu/aCEUvalvagyok> Köszönjük!

#IstandwithCEU - #aCEUvalvagyok

#IstandwithCEU #aCEUvalvagyok

02:36

68,366 People Reached

25,447 Video Views

1,569 Reactions, Comments & Shares

1,195 Like	410 On Post	785 On Shares
74 Love	41 On Post	33 On Shares
1 Haha	0 On Post	1 On Shares
1 Wow	0 On Post	1 On Shares
7 Sad	0 On Post	7 On Shares
1 Angry	0 On Post	1 On Shares
33	4	29

#IstandwithCEU campaign

Using the *#IstandwithCEU* / *#aCEUvalvagyok* logo, profile picture, badges, and tattoos created by CEU and designed by graphic designer Ildiko Petrok have become a form of protest. People wore the badges at the independently organized demonstrations including the one on April 8, where close to 80,000 people participated.

Based on the idea of photographer Daniel Vegel, CEU asked its community to pose with an *#IstandwithCEU* card, to show their determination and support. The resulting gallery is also available on [Instagram](#).



CREDIT: CEU / Daniel Vegel



CREDIT: CEU / Daniel Vegel



#IstandwithCEU

"The United States is very concerned about the legislation proposed by the Hungarian Government yesterday that would severely impact the operations of the Central European University in Budapest."

David Kostelancik, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., U.S. Embassy in Budapest

 **US Embassy Budapest** 
@usembbudapest

 Follow

Statement by Chargé Kostelancik about @ceuhungary. Read the full text here: ow.ly/QNGX30amEMC #IstandwithCEU

2:26 PM - Mar 29, 2017

 6  129  93

International mobilization

CEU created sample letters, and urged all supporters of CEU to write to their members of parliament, Hungarian officials, members of the European Parliament, European Commissioners, and members of the US government. The result was a stream of support letters from all over the world, from 19 Nobel laureates, the president of Germany, the presidents of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Oxford, thousands of researchers and professional organizations worldwide, as well as the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Relevant letters of support were shared with the Hungarian and international media. A special section on ceu.edu/istandwithceu showcases the incoming letters.


Academic and Educational Institutions

#Istand withCEU

#aCEUval vagyok

- ▼ Statements of Support
 - Academic and Educational Institutions
 - Scholarly Associations, Societies, Groups
 - Alumni and Friends
 - NGOs / Non-profit organizations
 - Elected / Government Officials
 - Public Figures and Other Supporters
 - Political Advocacy Groups / Parties
 - Other Groups
- Statements of Support - A to Z List
- Statements of Support - [Közértesítő](#)


Note: sorted alphabetically by title. Use the search bar (top right) to find individual letters.



A Corvinus Egyetem Szociológia Doktori Iskolája a CEU mellett

A budapesti székhelyű CEU nemcsak nemzetközi viszonylatban jelentős intézmény, hanem a magyar tudományos életnek is fontos műhelye, tevékenysége a magyar társadalomra is nyitott és annak javát is s


[Read more](#)




A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia elnöke és osztályai / The President and Scientific Sections of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Support CEU

Lovász: A CEU nagyon jelentős tudományos centrum, nemzetközi oktatási intézmény. Jó, hogy Budapesten működik.

[Read more](#)



Academics at the University of Manchester

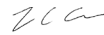


Corpus Christi College Oxford

Dr Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Budapest, Hungary

Recent legislation, hurried through the Hungarian Parliament in unconsidered haste; would jeopardize the continuing operation of the Central European University and most certainly endanger its independence. We - the Fellows of Corpus Christi College Oxford - write to express our support for the Central European University. We also wish to register our deep concern at the Hungarian government's attack on academic freedom and excellence. CEU is one of the most distinguished independent cultural institutions in Hungary, and the most prominent and prestigious university in all of East-Central Europe - it must not be suppressed.

On behalf of the Fellows of Corpus Christi College



Professor Steven Cowley, President

Professor Steven Cowley, MA, PhD Princeton, FRSE, HonFIEET, FAPS, FIOP, President

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

31st March 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

As Chair of the Oxford University's Philosophy Faculty Board, I am writing to express solidarity with Central European University and to express my and the Faculty's concern at certain proposed legislative changes which will, I am reliably assured, affect CEU's status and thereby endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Hungary.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. From my own personal experience and from that of my colleagues I am aware of the outstanding quality of research produced in its Philosophy department, and of the calibre of its students, which include some former students of my own at Oxford.

CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter CEU's statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries. It would also needlessly damage an institution which, in its present state, is a brilliant advertisement on the international stage for Hungary and for what can be achieved there.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Edward Harcourt
Chair of the Philosophy Faculty Board

CC:

HRK German Rectors' Conference

The Voice of the Universities

The President

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Alvinstraße 39, D-53175 Bonn

Professor Michael Ignatieff
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Europe

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Reference:

CA5336

10 April 2017

Dear President Ignatieff, dear colleague,

The German Rectors' Conference closely watches the changes within the Law on Higher Education in Hungary in general and their impact on the Central European University in particular. We are deeply concerned about the fact that this legal act could lead to the closure of the operation of Central European University, a globally recognized academic institution which has been operating successfully in Hungary for more than 25 years.

In our opinion, this action is more than the discrimination of a single institution - it is an attack on academic freedom. The German Rectors' Conference and its member institutions are determined to defend the values of free research and teaching and learning within the European Union and beyond.

Be assured of our solidarity and support of all your efforts to keep the Central European University a free and autonomous institution and a member of the Hungarian and European academic community.

Yours sincerely



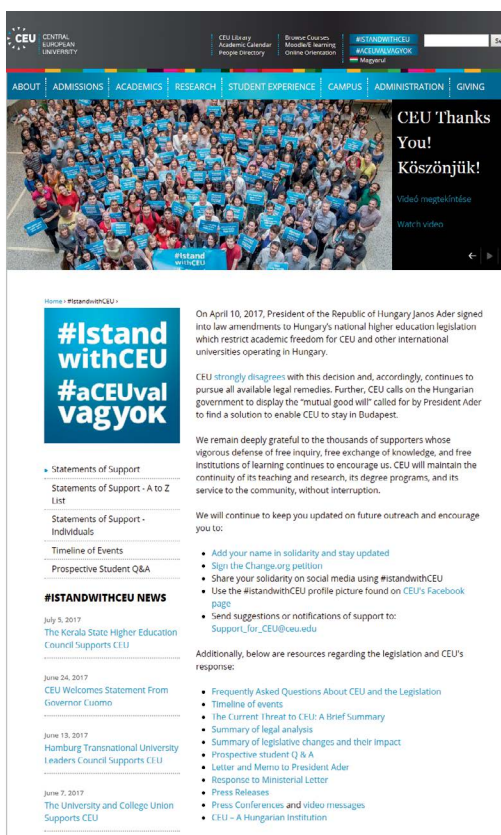
Professor Dr Horst Hippler

Information and action hub: ceu.edu/istandwithCEU

CEU created a special section on ceu.edu, dedicated to its fight for academic freedom. It provided the community and supporters with up-to-date information on the situation, and gave them detailed instructions on how and where letters of support should be sent.

The page enabled users to quickly access information about:

- Frequently Asked Questions About CEU and the Legislation
- Timeline of events
- The Current Threat to CEU: A Brief Summary
- Summary of legal analysis
- Summary of legislative changes and their impact
- Prospective student Q & A
- Letter and Memo to President Ader
- Response to Ministerial Letter
- Press Releases
- Press Conferences and video messages
- CEU – A Hungarian Institution



The screenshot shows the CEU website's 'IstandwithCEU' hub page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, ADMISSIONS, ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, STUDENT EXPERIENCE, CAMPUS, ADMINISTRATION, and GIVING. Below the menu is a large photo of a crowd of people holding blue signs that say '#IstandwithCEU'. To the right of the photo is a section titled 'CEU Thanks You! Köszönjük!' with a video player. The main content area features a large blue and white graphic with the text '#IstandwithCEU #aCEUval vagyok'. Below this graphic is a list of links for 'Statements of Support', 'Timeline of Events', and '#ISTANDWITHCEU NEWS'. The page also includes a section for 'Additional resources regarding the legislation and CEU's response' with a list of links.