

## **EURASHE statement on the legislative changes to the Hungarian National Higher Education Act**

Due to the recent amendment of the Hungarian National Higher Education Act CCIV of 2011, which introduces changes to the status of institutions registered in non-EU countries, the status and continuation of the Central European University are in jeopardy. The main reason for this is the new amendment, which obliges non-EU institutions, such as the Central European University, to have an agreement between the states related to institutions running a degree programme.

The Central European University was established in Budapest, Hungary in 1991 as a private international university with a vision to promote academic excellence and capacity of the new European democracies for the benefit of a wider region, reaching far beyond the national borders. It has since then fulfilled its potential and gained a global reputation in teaching and research within the social sciences and humanities. After 25 years of academic activity it is an internationally renowned institution, which educates students from 117 countries. In addition to the diversity of students, it has brought together academic faculty members from 40 countries. During this time it has been accredited by the appropriate Hungarian authorities and has been complying with the national legislation.

EURASHE is the main representative of professional higher education within Europe. We believe in the diversity of higher education, which accommodates for both research-intensive institutions, as well as those serving other priorities and missions. Still, within such a diversity, autonomy and academic freedom are of crucial importance for the long-term development and fulfilment of the respective mission.

EURASHE is strongly concerned about the current legislative changes for higher education in Hungary and would like to express its solidarity with the Central European University under the new circumstances. EURASHE would like to urge the Hungarian government to take into consideration the eminent academic role of the Central European University within the region. The both parties should endeavour to find a flexible and suitable way to reach an amicable decision through mutual consultation, which would preserve the richness and diversity of the higher education institutions and guarantee the prerequisites for the future continuing operation of the Central European University in accordance to the Hungarian accreditation and legislation.

Brussels, April 12, 2017