

Statement by the Management Board of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)

3 April 2017

Response by Eötvös Loránd University in connection with the Central European University.

The various faculties and research groups at Eötvös Loránd University have been working closely with academics at the Central European University for over 10 years. Many of our colleagues have taught or continue to teach at both universities, and a large number of our academics completed PhDs at the CEU. The CEU Medieval Studies Library is housed in ELTE's Faculty of Philosophy building, and the CEU Central Library is open to our academics in turn. In a similar manner, we are pleased to make ELTE University Library available to students and academics from the CEU. Academics from both universities have collaborated on a wide range of projects and proposals, allowing close contact to develop in numerous domains of study and research. The two institutions recently renewed a cooperative framework agreement.

In short, the CEU has become an integral part of us. Founded on reciprocity, impartiality and the tradition of unrestricted academic collaboration, our relationship is personal, cooperative and long-term, or so we hope.

For us, the events of the last few days are cause for great concern. We are convinced, and indeed our experience shows, that the CEU has integrated very well into the Hungarian university system. It has become an indispensable member of the academic community and must remain so – here in Budapest. Political and ideological conflicts should have nothing to do with the world of universities, that is with the principles of academic excellence, independent teaching and the sacrosanct tradition of autonomous research, which dates back hundreds of years.

We sincerely hope to engage in a dialogue based on reasoned argumentation and facts, in order to pursue legal certainty and competitive neutrality in the academic sphere: naturally, we will participate in this dialogue unconditionally.

Authorised by the Eötvös Loránd University Management Board Conference on 3 April 2017. This statement is supported by the self-governing body of doctoral students at ELTE.