

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

**President**

Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
Department of Social  
Anthropology  
University of Oslo  
<http://www.easaonline.org>

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;  
Office of the Prime Minister;  
Central European University

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Dear Minister Balog,

It was with great concern and disappointment that EASA (the European Association of Social Anthropologists) recently learned that CEU (Central European University) in Budapest is at risk, owing to proposed legislative changes which would, if passed, make it impossible for the CEU to continue its activities in Hungary.

The Central European University is a young institution founded only 25 years ago. In this short period, it has rapidly established itself as a major regional centre for research and higher education in the humanities and social sciences. Its anthropology programme, which is the special concern of EASA, is brilliant and has produced outstanding young scholars, many of whom now hold academic positions in excellent universities. The CEU complies with all the relevant Hungarian laws, and its programmes have been certified by Hungarian authorities.

Scientific research is by definition international, and the CEU is a shining example of this, in that its students come from more than a hundred countries, its academic staff from about 40 countries. The CEU is a major actor in the European and global conversation about society and humanity, and it is a source of pride in the Hungarian intellectual and academic communities.

We strongly feel that it would be a mistake to force the CEU to terminate its activities in Hungary. The international academic community would suffer, but more importantly, we would lose a lively centre for research and teaching in the heart of Central Europe. On behalf of EASA, I respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation in order that the important scientific research and teaching taking place at CEU can continue.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
University of Oslo  
President, EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists)