

**President of the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

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Dear Mr President, dear Prof Lovász, dear colleagues,

the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, namely its Geographical Institute and its Institute for Regional Studies, have been very valuable and reliable research partners to the Leibniz Institute for Regional Studies in the past decades. In our joint projects and publications, the mutual intellectual inspiration at eye level and trustful information have always been priceless assets of our collaboration, striving for international competitiveness. This also holds for our joint education of young researchers with international perspectives.

For such excellent and cutting-edge research endeavours, independence and ideological neutrality, facilitated by financial and scientific autonomy, are fundamental prerequisites. We now see these preconditions endangered through the regulations, which the actual Hungarian government is imposing on the academy. Our concept of science that should contribute to the welfare and well-being of the society, in which it is embedded, is indissolubly connected with the concept of non-interference in regard to research object, methods and results.

We would like to support you on the path of academic freedom, thus facilitating the tradition of a very productive cooperation to our highly esteemed partners from your very reputable and respectable institution.

With my best regards



(Prof. Dr. Sebastian Lentz)