

Prof. László Lovász,
President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
P.O. Box 1000
H-1245, Budapest
Hungary

Statement of Support

Dear Professor Lovász,

Permit me to contact you on the subject of the current developments in the academic sphere in Hungary. For several decades, our Institute has had important professional relations with different institutes and experts of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. We highly value the work of the Academy as a well-established, internationally renowned institution. At the present time, we are following the situation of the Academy with concern.

In our view, “the program of excellence” launched by the Hungarian Ministry for Innovation and Technology on January 31, 2019, according to which the research institutes and centers of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences have to apply for their basic funding, creates a situation where the further functioning of the Academy seems to be very complicated and even impossible. We understand that the full project-based funding for research institutions cannot offer a sufficient material backing for the maintenance of the institutional frameworks and for covering basic costs, including the salaries of the institution’s administrative staff and auxiliary personnel, which can hardly be fully covered from individual competitive research grants.

We firmly believe that the freedom and independence of academic life and research remains essential for the functioning of a democratic society and corresponds fully with the public interest. Therefore, we would like to express – together with Professor Eva Zažímalová, President of the Czech Academy of Sciences, who issued her own statement on this situation recently – our full support for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and to our Hungarian colleagues. We trust that the integrity of this important and respected research institution will be preserved, as well as the autonomy of scientific research in Hungary.

Yours respectfully,

Prague, February 11, 2019

PhDr. Tatána Petrasová, CSc.,
Vice-Director of the Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Sciences

