

”Sunshine after Rain”

The Renewed Mission of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

TAMÁS FREUND

4 November 2025

Situation at the time of the change of leadership (2020)

Separation of the research network

- Dramatic loss of intellectual resources (3,000 researchers)
- Unresolved situation regarding the use of properties (70% of properties are used without any compensation)
- The moral integrity and public standing of the Academy has not suffered

New mission statement adopted by the General Assembly in December 2019

- Focus on the activities of the public association instead of the research network
- Research funding continues

Mission statement (2019)

1. The Academy is a public association that promotes Hungarian science. **It represents the unity of the Hungarian scientific community**, embracing science in Hungary and beyond its borders.
2. The Academy **preserves and cultivates the Hungarian language** and is the guardian of the scientific and cultural heritage of the nation.
3. The Academy **contributes to the creation of an excellent research environment** and **represents the interests of Hungarian scientific research**.
4. The Academy is the **custodian of scientific quality and ethics**. It **safeguards the freedom of scientific research and expression**, free from the influence of external interests.
5. The Academy's mission is **to expand the international relations of Hungarian science**, to present its results and to represent its interests.
6. The Academy is an **advisor to the nation**. The knowledge of its members is at the disposal of the nation and the government of the day.
7. The Academy **communicates the results of scientific research to society**. It fights against pseudoscience and unscientific views by widely disseminating scientific methodology and results.



Legal status

- *"The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is a **public association** with a legal personality operating under the principle of **self-governance**. It **performs public duties** in the field of the cultivation, support, funding and representation of science on a national level."**
- The Constitution (Fundamental Law) protects its scientific freedom.
- Its yearly funding is approved by the Parliament, in a separate chapter of the state budget.
- The chief officials are elected by the General Assembly.
- The properties of the Academy are private (vs. state-owned).

*Article 1(1) of Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences



Public association

*The Academy is a public association that promotes Hungarian science. **It represents the unity of the Hungarian scientific community**, embracing science in Hungary and beyond its borders.*

- 19,000 members with a PhD degree
- 2,600 Doctors of Science
- 365 domestic (corresponding and full) members
- 200 external (Hungarian, living abroad) members
- 190 honorary members



Dual role

1. Learned society (public association of 19,000)

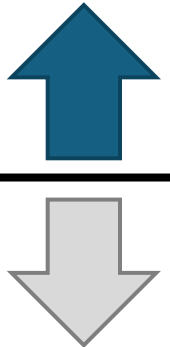
- representation of science (science policy)
- organisation of scientific life
- policy advice (unique multidisciplinary base of experts)
- quality control over academic life (academic titles, research integrity)
- science communication

2. Research funding organisation

- Individual research fellowships (excellence based)
- thematic research programmes in strategic areas

3. Research performing organisation

- in 2019, the research network comprising 15 institutes and 5,000 staff members was separated from the Academy under the name Eötvös Loránd Research Network, now called HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network





Areas of the new strategy for adaptation and renewal

building on the 19,000-member public association

1. Broadening the scope of services for the scientific community
2. Rethinking government relations
3. Opening up towards society
4. Celebration of the 200th anniversary
5. International relations

Services to the scientific community

1825

Funding for excellence in science

- Bolyai János Research Fellowship (post-doctoral)
- Momentum Marie-Sklodowska Curie (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme
- **Lendület (Momentum) Grants (PI-focused research grants for 5 years (~ERC))**
- High-risk research grants (in 2022: post-Covid)
- Support for international mobility, women in science, etc.



National research programmes (2022–)

4 thematic priorities of strategic importance for the society with a total yearly budget of HUF 3 billion:

National Brain Research Programme 3.0
Sustainable Development and Technologies
Science for the Hungarian Language
Ageing

+ Research for the Development of Public Education (already running)

Certification of Scientific Excellence

Individual scientific excellence

- Doctor of Academy
- Member of Academy

Scientific excellence of research institutions

- research **units and institutions in academia**
2 categories: 10-50, 50-250 research staff
- research centres in the **business sector**



Co-operation with early-career researchers

- Co-operation agreement signed with the **Hungarian Young Academy** in 2021, including: financial support by MTA, joint events
- Publication of joint reports, conducting joint studies with the Hungarian Young Academy
(in 2022 "*on the situation of young researchers*")



Survey on the state of Hungarian science

- In co-operation with the Hungarian Young Academy
- Long preparation, sent to all members of the public association and all researchers in Hungary with a publication record
- 5,192 researchers completed the survey, the largest sample for any research done on the opinions and attitudes of scientists in Hungary
- Results will be published on 24 November 2025



Rethinking government relations

2025

Government relations

- Successful budget negotiations to launch new programmes resulting in a 50% increase in state funding for 2022.
- Besides public statements and reports, opening direct communication channels with government ministries to deliver science advice.
- Sales of research institute properties approved by the General Assembly in December 2024, but challenged in court before being cancelled due to the separation of the Social Sciences and Humanities institutes from the rest of the network.



Opening up towards society

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Science communication

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Hungarian Science Festival

- **One-month-long** series of scientific lectures and events
- Organised **in co-operation** with ministries, research institutions, research universities, all over the country and abroad
- Over 400 events yearly, 200,000 visitors and over 100,000 hours of screen time





Alumni Programme

For a science-friendly society with lectures to secondary schools students

- 1,700 members of the public association as lecturers
- 300 secondary schools as hosts
- financial support from the Academy to teachers and schools to organise events

Competition for teams of three

- 2023 climate change and sustainability (700 teams)
- 2025 "Reform Age" of Hungary



Science and Arts

- Reorganisation of the Art Collections
- Re-opening 3rd floor exhibition rooms
- Unique bicentenary exhibitions
- Regular Science and Art evenings co-organised with the Academy Club





Science-friendly Cities

Offering cooperation with the Academy

- Science popularization, communication of scientific results and facts
- Cultivation of the cultural heritage of local science and scientists
- Participation in the 200-year celebrations
- Planting the tree of science in the city
- Communication via a dedicated website

Recognition by the Academy for 5 years

- Based on pre-defined criteria



MTA 200 ÉVES
A MAGYAR
TUDOMÁNYOS
AKADÉMIA

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TUDOMÁNYOS
AKADÉMIA
TUBA
TUDOMÁNYBARÁT TELEPÜLÉS

**„A tudományos kultúra fenntartása nem lehet csak kutatóintézetek dolga
– az iskolákban, könyvtárakban, faluházakban is jelen kell lennie.”**

Freund Tamás, a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia elnöke



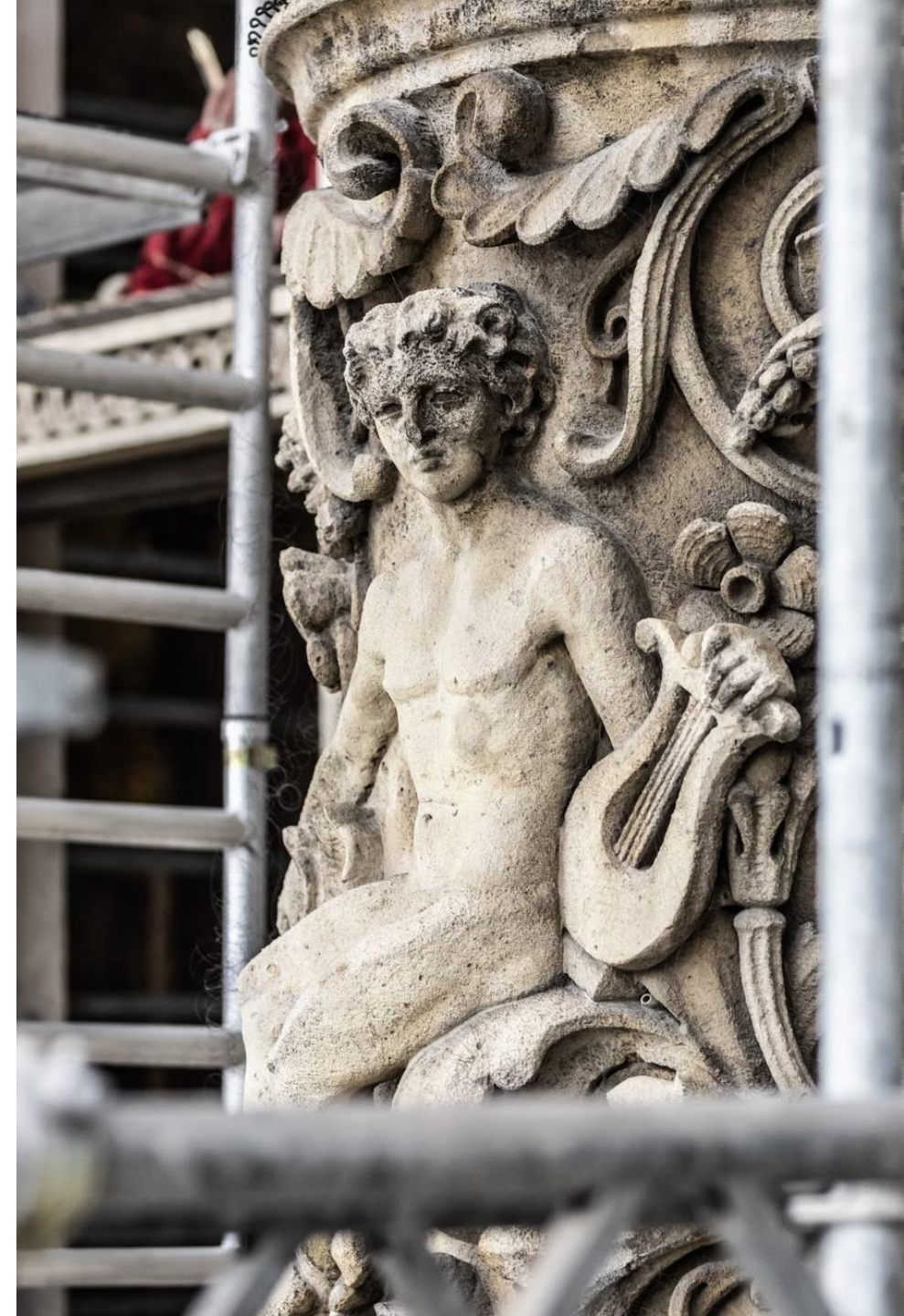
Preparing for the 200th anniversary

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Renovation of the Palace

The first stage of the renovation is still in course, partly completed

- Replacement of the complete roof
- Restoration of the ornamentation of the facade
- Partial replacement of building engineering systems
- Restoration of the Ceremonial Hall
- Restoration of Large and Small Lecture Halls
- Replacement of furniture
- Reopening of third-floor exhibition rooms
- Restoration of windows (ongoing)
- Artistic representation of the "Unfinished History" of the Academy and pavement restoration



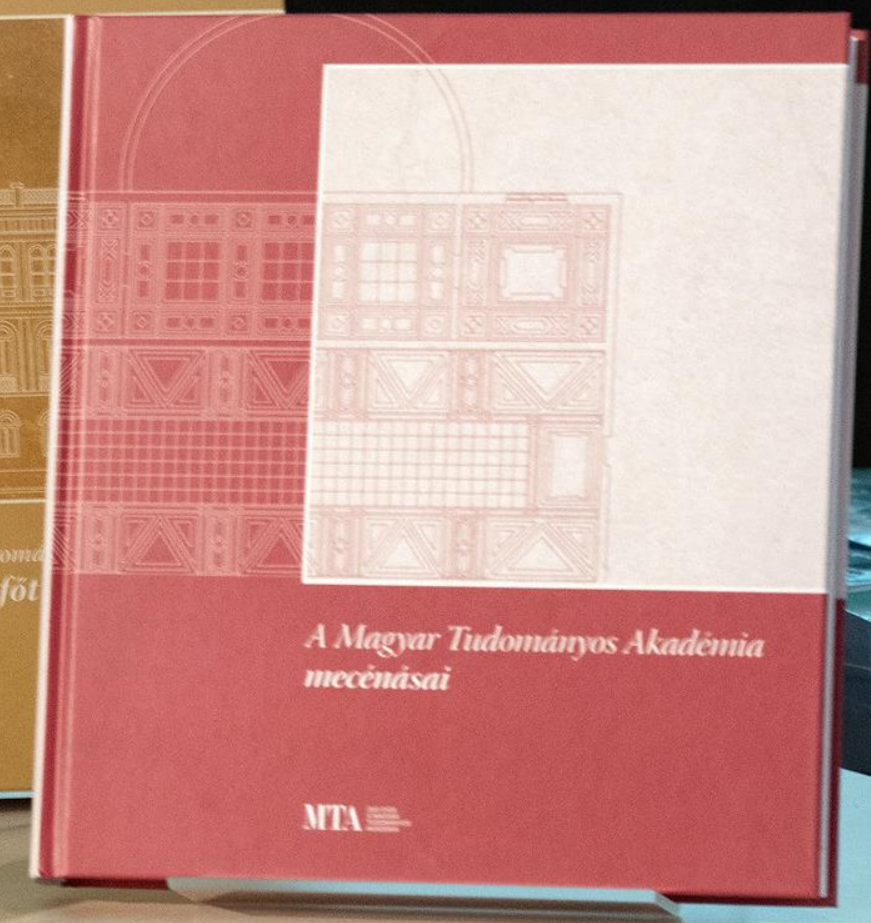
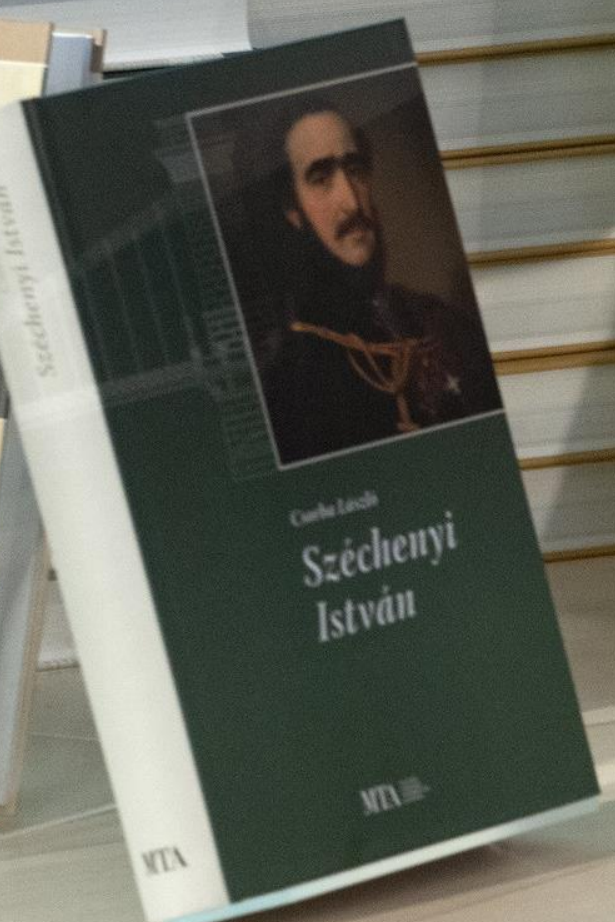
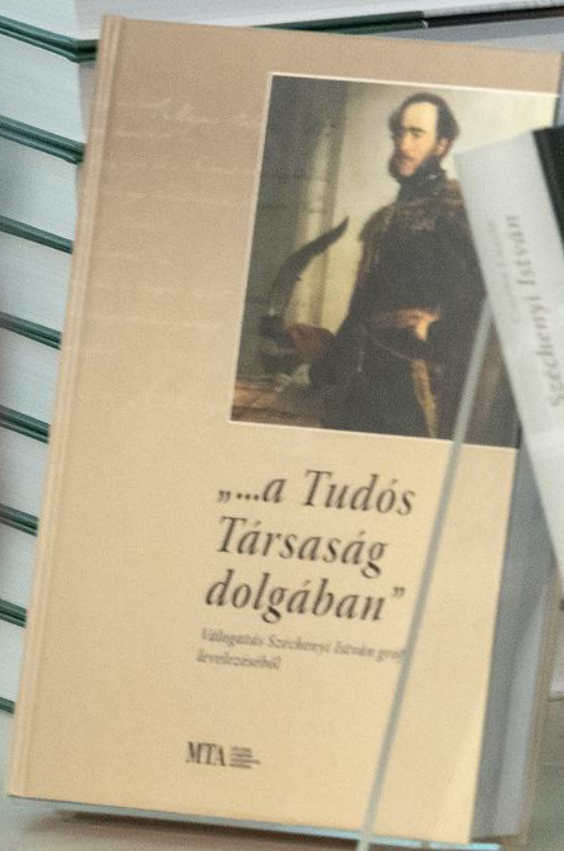




Anniversary celebrations

- 2025–2026 designated as Years of Hungarian Science by the Parliament
- Preparation by a presidential committee since 2021
- Scientific sections, regional committees, external members, Hungarian Young Academy, Library of MTA are all engaged
- Concerts and exhibitions (reopening of the Art Collection)
- Scientific and science history publications
- Science popularization, Alumni competition
- Involvement of various national institutions (National Museum, National Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Bank, National Post, National Theatre, etc.)







THÁN MÓR
Bachányi István



International partnerships

2025

International relations

- **Bilateral agreements** with over 30 academies of science, membership in over 60 **international scientific organisations**
- Founding member of the **World Science Forum (WSF)** in partnership with UNESCO, ISC, AAAS, IAP, EASAC, TWAS, GYA. WSF 2026 Jakarta, *“Science for Global Resilience and Equity”*



MTA

