

Prof. László Lovász
President of the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences



IPSE | UNITÉ DE RECHERCHE
IDENTITÉS. POLITIQUES,
SOCIÉTÉS, ESPACES

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□ FACULTÉ DES LETTRES, DES SCIENCES HUMAINES, DES ARTS ET DES SCIENCES DE L'ÉDUCATION

Letter of support to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS)

Dear Prof. Lovász,

It is with growing concerns that we have followed the evolution of the situation of research and higher education in Hungary within the past months. The latest developments on the "Theme-Area Excellence programme" demonstrate the seriousness of the situation. This is the rationale for this letter in support to your action for maintaining the independence of HAS.

In Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Europe as a whole, HAS is a symbol of the leading contribution academia can make in supporting the establishment of a democratic and open society. HAS has greatly contributed to academia as a whole and the development of European research more particularly. As we collaborate with researchers from HAS in the framework of an ongoing H2020 project and in writing a proposal for the same programme, we hereby want to emphasise the leading role played by our esteemed colleagues. Their contribution is not only exemplary to research; it makes a crucial contribution to analyse and ultimately serve the Hungarian society.

We are convinced that science can best contribute to society when it is produced in an independent manner. Financial and managerial autonomy are indispensable for securing high quality research. We hereby want to reiterate our support to you, Prof. Lovász, to our colleagues and to HAS as a whole, in your pursuit for scientific enquiry and independent research.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning

Dr. Estelle Evrard

Dr. Cyril Blondel

Prof. Dr. Birte Nienaber

Prof. Dr. Christian Schulz