



CROATIAN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

KLASA: [REDACTED]

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Zagreb, 21 February 2019

Prof. László Lovász, president,
Hungarian Academy of Sciences

**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT THE
HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

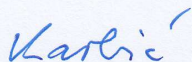
The researchers of the Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb are watching the current events around the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) with a deep concern. The results of intellectual work of its research institutes are highly estimated in the Croatian academic circles. As scholars in the humanities field we are proud of our cooperation with the Research Centre for the Humanities of HAS. Since 2002, Croatian Institute of History and the Institute of History of the Research Centre for the Humanities of HAS have organized several bilateral conferences and published joint contributions on the most important issues of the Hungarian and Croatian history (for example, on the occasion of the anniversary of the years of 1102, 1848, 1868 or the big conference *Milestones in the Coexistence of the Croats and the Hungarians* held in Budapest in 2014). Our institutes were partners in the COURAGE project on the cultural heritage of dissent in the former socialist countries that has been funded by Horizon 2020. The Croatian historiography greatly benefits from the results of this cooperation, as well as from the results of several projects conducted at the research centers of HAS. We find scholarly publications of HAS, both in Hungarian and in other languages, indispensable for our work. Furthermore, a number of our researchers had the privilege to be hosted by the Centre for the Humanities of HAS during their research fellowships in Hungary, thus receiving valuable knowledge and guidance from the HAS scholars.

We hear that since the beginning of 2019 HAS, along with its internationally renowned research institute network, has lost the status of a separate budget organization, which is necessary for the long-term planning of academic research and for the institutional funds. It is our firm conviction that academic life should stay independent of any political agenda and that this is the way for building the foundations of scientific excellence. As scholars we truly believe that no short-term scientific project either on the international or the national scale could have relevant results without a fundamental research. We strongly support independent and unbiased evaluation of scientific results taking into account its contribution to science and benefit for the general public. For us, the research that leads to the long-term progress in understanding and accepting the history could only flourish when academic community is protected from the short-term interests of politics. The control of academic research either

through the political or financial instruments could lead only to the decline and international isolation of scientific institutions.

The Croatian Institute of History thus expresses its solidarity with HAS, its research institutes and the whole academic community in Hungary. We sincerely hope that HAS will maintain stable funding sources for the long-term fundamental research and that academic freedom in Hungary will be secured. We very much hope to continue our cooperation with the HAS research institutes in the near future as well.

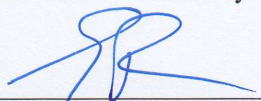
President of Scientific Council of
Croatian Institute of History:



Marija Karbić, PhD



Director of
Croatian Institute of History:



Gordan Ravančić, PhD