

THE CROATIAN SOCIETY FOR ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY
Sveučilišna avenija 4, 51000 Rijeka, Croatia

A letter of support for the Central European University

The members of the Croatian Society for Analytic Philosophy want to express their solidarity with the Central European University and express their concern regarding Bill T/14686 amending Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on April 4, 2017. The Bill renders CEU's continued operations in Budapest virtually impossible and strikes a severe blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish. Furthermore, the Bill raises significant legal and constitutional concerns.

We think that the law should be revoked on the following grounds:

- The law limits the freedom to academic research, studies and education as well as to the right to culture by requiring foreign higher education institutions to operate in Hungary based on a binding international agreement.
- The law further limits the freedom to academic research, studies and education when it requires from foreign higher education institutions having a campus in Hungary to actually provide higher education programs in their country of origin as well.
- It clearly discriminates against CEU when it requires faculty members from OECD member states employed at higher education institutions whose maintainer is a Hungarian foundation to obtain a work permit in Hungary. Since in Hungary only Andrassy University has a Hungarian maintainer, whose faculty is mainly from EU member states, the law is clearly discriminatory against CEU.
- It breaches law-making procedures. The Bill was adopted in an exceptional procedure and without consultation with the affected parties as entitled under law.

In the 25 years since it was founded Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40.

The Department of Philosophy is one of the best, not only in the region, but also in Europe and the world more broadly. Not only does the Department of Philosophy run top-quality master and doctoral programs, but it also organizes summer schools in philosophy and related disciplines which are well-known in the world and popular in terms of visits. In addition, the analytic philosophers also work in the Department of Political Science and they contribute to its ranking among the top 50 universities in the world.

The Croatian Society of Analytic Philosophy is related to CEU mostly through their staff working in the Department of Philosophy. Members of the Department of philosophy mostly do analytic philosophy, the main aim of which is to provide clear and concise arguments in a democratic setting where all ideas, theories, or accounts get their fair opportunity to stand or be disputed by the power of reason, logic, and argument and not by brute force. The analytic philosophers at CEU, given their expertise, publication records, and professional activities are at the forefront of their field. From the Department of Philosophy, we can mention several names, such as Katalin Farkas, Howard Robinson, Tim Crane, and

Hanoch Ben Yami, philosophers who are leading figures in their disciplines, and who make CEU's philosophy program the leading in this part of the world.

Members of the Croatian Society for Analytic Philosophy have been connected to CEU since its beginnings in the early nineties. Many of our members have studied or are still studying at CEU. Some are even employed there. The opportunity for our members to study and work at CEU and to experience life in Budapest has been immensely enriching. Studying at CEU and collaborating with the CEU staff has opened many opportunities to our members. For instance, many of our members after receiving their degrees at CEU went on to make professional careers in philosophy and brought home the knowledge and skills they have acquired at CEU.

Given all the legal and substantive reasons stated, we respectfully urge the relevant authorities to send the Bill to the Constitutional Court of Hungary where the above concerns regarding its legality and constitutionality can be appropriately reviewed to protect the proud tradition of Hungarian academic life and preserve its autonomy and freedom.

THE CROATIAN SOCIETY FOR ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

In Rijeka, April 11, 2017

President Boran Berčić, full professor of philosophy, University of Rijeka

