

The statement of the workers of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS)

The staff meeting of the academic research institutes convened by the labour union branches of the HAS Research Centre for Humanities, HAS Centre for Social Sciences, and HAS Centre for Economic and Regional Studies on the 24th of January 2019 expresses serious concerns about the current organisational and financial conditions of the research institutes as well as about the future of their workers. The current changes, which have been holding almost 5000 researchers and non-researcher staff in existential and professional uncertainty, threatens the future of the Hungarian scientific community as a whole.

Therefore, we demand the following:

- 1) The unity and independence of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and its research institutes must be respected; the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as a public entity should be entitled to determine its organizational structure and budget distribution!
- 2) The financing system for academic institutes, including normative state funding dedicated to maintenance costs, should be sustained! It is not possible to operate the research institute network by short-term tender funding schemes. Therefore, we reject these plans. Tender funding cannot replace normative state funding, only complement it.
- 3) A comprehensive science, technology and innovation policy strategy, which details the role, the tasks, the performance assessment system and the funding methods of publically funded research institutes, should be developed in consultation with the scientific community. Until this strategy becomes effective, the HAS research institutes should operate within the organizational frameworks as of 2018 and should receive their complete budgetary funding.
- 4) The academic institutional network should remain intact! The national and international values of the Academy can only be guaranteed by maintaining its historically formed unity which has been verified by many scientific achievements.
- 5) Professional oversight over the academic institutional network must remain at the Academy! Research performance should only be assessed by the performance assessment systems developed by the research centres and institutes following international scientific standards.
- 6) Employment rights should remain at the research centres and research institutes! The public servant status of the employees as well as their research contracts must be sustained.
- 7) The public servant status and the university pay scale should only be changed to the benefit of the workers.
- 8) Internationally competitive scientific work serving the public good effectively can only be achieved by restoring the stability of the workplaces and providing competitive wages in a European comparison for the researchers and the admin staff.

We expect a response to these demands and warrants from the government and its Ministry for Innovation and Technology by the 7th of February. If our demands are not considered, we are prepared to take further steps in national and international forums.