

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR COLLEGIUM BUDAPEST AS A UNIVERSITY-BASED INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN HUNGARY

Collegium Budapest was the first internationally recognized Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) to be created in Central and Eastern Europe. Opened almost 20 years ago, at the height of the post communist transformation process in that region of Europe, it has hosted over 700 visiting fellows from all parts of the world, many of them leading scholars in their field.

However, over a number of years the Collegium has been confronted with increasingly serious problems with regard to the funding of its core operations.

The lack of sufficient funding provided the backdrop to a series of meetings by the Collegium Budapest Members' Assembly over the last 12-15 months. At its last meeting on 30 June 2011 and following intense and productive discussions, a plan was approved which will put the institute on a more sustainable footing and enable it to continue to invite 10-20 excellent fellows for periods of up to one year.

Under the plan, Central European University (CEU) will provide the administrative support to guarantee the future operation of the institute under the name Collegium Budapest – CEU Institute for Advanced Study (CB-CEUIAS). This includes continuation of the Visiting Fellowship programmes for the Academic Year 2011/12 which had been already approved by Collegium Budapest's international Academic Advisory Board.

CEU is one of the leading graduate-level research-intensive universities in Hungary and in Europe. CEU has a double legal and academic identity, being at the same time a Hungarian and US-chartered and accredited university. It has strong ties with the Hungarian academic community, an outstanding record of international cooperation, and proven excellence, primarily in social sciences and the humanities. CEU's students come from over 100 countries of the world and its faculty from over 40 countries. Being hosted by CEU will provide Collegium Budapest a unique academic platform for strengthening cooperation with other Hungarian universities, as well as with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Furthermore, the Collegium will become the first IAS from the region to join the rapidly growing global community of University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study.

An Advisory Board with members coming from Hungarian and European universities and research institutions will have the key role in determining the strategic orientation of the reorganized Collegium and its relationship with Hungarian institutions as well as overseeing its operation.

CEU will appoint the Collegium's Academic Director, while the continued excellence and rigorous selection of fellows will be ensured by an independent, high-level Academic Committee. The Collegium's principal location will be its Raoul Wallenberg Guesthouse, while seminar and other facilities will be made available at the CEU main campus in the historic downtown of Budapest.

Having announced his intention to leave in the summer, the Collegium's present Rector, Andrew Sors, has agreed to the Assembly's request to remain in post during the transition until the end of August.