

# **CENTRE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES of HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

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## **Chapter One**

### **Achievements of research and science organisation affecting the Research Centre as a whole in 2016**

A deputy director general was appointed from June 2016. He is an external member of the MTA, and he has just moved to Hungary from the Netherlands in order to perform this task. Inter alia, he is responsible for strengthening the Research Centre's international presence.

The benchmark system, which is in operation since 2013, has been reformed: the proportion of active elements (like publications) has been increased while the weight of passive elements (like citations) has been reduced.

We developed the transparent framework and rules for further cooperation with emeritus professors and retired colleagues for their post-retirement years. Our goal is to allow their further scientific presence, and their contribution to the work of TK.

The internal funds of the Research Centre are operating on a competitive base, and evaluated via professional standards, were also successful in 2015 and contributed to the preparation of international publications. The International Mobility Fund of the Centre has promoted participation in an international conference, including the presentation of the paper as well as preparing its foreign publication, favouring junior researchers. The Fund has allocated assistance to 47 participations in conferences in 2016. The TK Publication Fund has offered support to the preparation of high standard international publications in proper quality by supporting the language revision of 29 papers last year.

The promoting the proper foundation of the EU applications of researchers is funded by International Consortium-building Fund, supported by the EUHUNKPT tender of the Academy. The fund provides financial support for international networking activities necessary to successful engagement of our researchers and research groups in international research projects and tenders, and to the preparation of well-prepared proposals. It also supports the preparation of the administration in order to provide appropriate background for project administration and functioning of awarded projects. In 2016, 19 researchers and administrative colleagues travelled to proposal preparatory meetings and 2 international workshops were organised.

We regularly monitor the international tender and publication efforts of the researchers.

The authors of prominent international publications receive a cash prize automatically.

A H2020 proposal, "Algorithmic Societies", with a budget 5 million euros was prepared (and submitted in 2017). The MTA TK is the Consortium Leader, and the members of the

Consortium are famous institutions as University College London and the Fondation Nationale de Sciences Politiques Paris. Researchers from several institutions of MTA TK are involved in the proposal.

ESS is an European-level survey covering 21 countries. The results of ESS data have special importance because the questionnaire is based on strictly validated and continuously monitored methodology, providing an objective mirror to the country. Hungary participates in this outstanding international research cooperation since its beginning. The research in Hungary is led by researchers of the TK; the participation is supported by Hungarian Academy of Sciences and National Research, Development and Innovation Office. The latest outcomes of the research were presented and evaluated in international and Hungarian context by the researchers of TK at a conference and media event in November 2016.

The starting event of inter-institute research group, *'The explanation and enforcement of right to a healthy environment in Central and Eastern Europe – legal and political framework'* funded by the TK Incubator program c. held its starting event at Czech Academy of Sciences.

The writing of chapters of a large volume dealing with the status of right to the healthy environment in the region has begun. The *Answers of identity policy to social conflicts in the context of European, national and local levels* project ended in the autumn with an international workshop which received publicity in science and wider media.

*The Development of Electoral Laws and Party Systems in East-Central Europe* Incubator project ended with the publication of a monography, which examined inter alia the evolution of electoral law, the prominent party systems of the region since 1989, the legal, institutional and social frameworks, and the characteristics of the ethnic minority politics.

The research focused on central and eastern European countries (Visegrad countries and Hungary's prominent neighbours).

Researchers from several institutions participate in projects funded by and National Research, Development and Innovation Office (former Hungarian Scientific Research Fund). For example *Legal Culture in Hungary - Theory and empirical research* project, in which researchers of Institute for Legal Studies and Institute for Political Science are involved. Similarly, in project *"Integrative and Disintegrative Processes in the Hungarian Society"* researchers from Institute of Sociology, Legal Studies and Political Science are working together. The general aim of the research project is mapping the integration processes, with focus on the legal and political aspects.

We have signed a cooperation agreement in April 2016 between Centre for Social Sciences and Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Within the framework of the cooperation we organized a joint conference on the topic of Big Data, we collaborated in the design and analysis of micro-census year 2016, and HCSO became our consortium partner in the Algorithmic Societies H2020 tender.

For the sake of institutional brand building we regulated and monitored the way of indication of institutional affiliations on publications. In the autumn we began a series of public events which we will continue in the new building. We prepared the publication of book series designed for the domestic lay audience. We invited famous scientist to the editorial board, designed new and innovative distribution channels. To manage these activities we entrusted a communications manager.