

**Joint position on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Hungarian Rectors
Conference
18 May 2018, Budapest, Hungary**

We, the rectors of the universities and the representatives of the Rectors' Conferences of [Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia; hereinafter: we] met today in Budapest on the occasion of the HRC 30 Jubilee Symposium and discussed the recent developments in our higher education systems.

We express our strong belief in the fundamental values of higher education; academic freedom and integrity, institutional autonomy, and the meaningful participation of students and staff in higher education governance. Furthermore, we consider public responsibility of and for higher education as key elements for its function and development. Therefore, **we hereby confirm our devotion towards the core values of Magna Charta Universitatum**, and will continue to foster and cultivate autonomous teaching and research activity, as well as the democratic interest enforcement of the European higher educational institutions.

Furthermore, we emphasize the contribution of higher education institutions to society, fostering intercultural understanding, equitable access, civic engagement, ethical education, and enhancing social responsibility.

Acknowledging the significance of professional attitude towards higher education, **we also determine ethically sound and independent Research-Development-Innovation (RDI) activities as a vital segment in the European Higher Educational Area to provide relevant scientific achievements in the 21st century. We assume European Commission's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) proposal foreseeing a raise in 2021-2027 budget for research and innovation (FP9 Horizon Europe) and education (Erasmus+) as modest improvement, nevertheless we would like to express our satisfaction and appreciation that the Commission has decided to increase these budgets.**

In the framework of the HRC 30 Jubilee Symposium we intended to provide a platform to increase the establishment of regional collaborations, and we believe that the enforcement of Central European scientific cooperative relations ensures opportunity to exploit the potential in the region's academic intellectual capital.

Budapest, 18 May 2018