



ESS Times Hungary

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

What's good for Europe is good for Central Europe

Historically produced unity, political proximity, and economic interdependence: Central Europe is all of these. In terms of the prioritized tasks in the ESFRI Roadmap, future community decisions about large science infrastructure and, it is imperative that the region's rich scientific sector take advantage of its traditionally strong partnerships, which have historically produced excellent results, particularly in the natural sciences.

The European Union's newest principle, calling for the freedom of knowledge, can come to fruition with the execution of the ESS. Science and technology can develop dramatically should this large investment start up. Its scientific and economic effects will stretch beyond borders. Neighboring scientific workshops and universities will develop. Close and daily international cooperation will inspire new discoveries. Seventy percent of investment and operative expenses will directly benefit local economies.

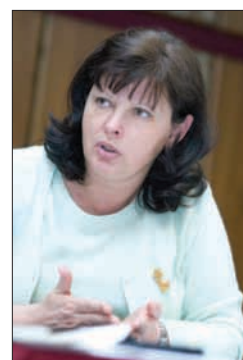
The location of the neutron research centre in the Central European region will provide Europe with a significant advantage in international competition. The Central European tender is by far the most competitive: the 250 million Euros saved can be invested in developments outside of neutron research. This is a necessity for Europe. The competi-



tive knowledge economy called for in the Lisbon Strategy can only move from vision to reality if brain drain is halted, when the best scientific minds can move freely across the entire continent.

EDITORIAL

"No nation has friends, only interests." So said the remarkable Charles de Gaulle at a moment in European history where the romantic urge of solidarity rang loud across the continent. The



pillar of the European Union's existence and strength is acknowledging that beyond common values and coordinated policies there exists common ground in terms of development and goals of member states and Europe as a whole. One can hardly disagree with the colossus of European politics: the only successful and strong Europe possible is one where the efforts of countries can be harmonized, where the principle of "what is good for Europe is good for our nation and region; what is good for us is good for Europe" is put into practice. This holds for nearly all fields, including science and development. If the best characteristics of our countries and regions can be harmonized, if we can create an even type of development that makes use of available resources, then European competitiveness will be safe. The scientific reputation of our Central European region, with its famous researchers – among them several Nobel Prize laureates – hardly needs to be advertised. The scientific results in the region are outstanding, and the world acknowledges our scientific excellence. And it is for this reason that it is difficult to understand why so few European infrastructural large investments are to be found in this region, the countries of which are full members of the EU and equal contributors (in terms of GDP proportion) to European R&D resource pools.

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NEWS

Citations

Five Hungarian scientists – all of whom work in Hungary – are on the list of the six-thousand most cited international researchers. The Hungarians work in brain research, mathematics, information research, and pharmaceutical research. Several Hungarians working outside of their country are also heavily cited, including Péter Somogyi, a neurobiologist working in Oxford, Gábor Gyapay the geneticist, immunologist György Jánossy (a dual citizen of Hungary and the UK), world famous space researcher Sándor Szalay of Johns Hopkins University, and Miklós Ajtai of IBM. In line with international brain drain trends, most Hungarian researchers who leave the country go to the United States. This can weaken the EU's competitive advantage. Of the countries of Central Europe, Hungary has the highest number of top-level scientists working in their home country.

Entropia

This is the title of the controversial installation created by David Černý to mark the occasion of the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union. Hungary features an Atomium made of melons and Hungarian sausages. Sweden is represented as a large Ikea-style furniture box. Spain is covered entirely in concrete, with a concrete mixer in the northeast area.



Hungarian participation in seventeen Nobel Prizes

Researchers and public figures of Hungarian origin have won seventeen Nobel Prizes. Three of these were awarded in physics, while five were awarded in chemistry.

It's worth bringing R&D to Hungary

Outsourcing is a fashionable way to reduce costs. Given the international economic climate, it is a method that is bound to experience dynamic growth. Well-trained labour forces, good infrastructure, low country risk and location in European culture are all factors that increase countries' attractiveness to investors. Such factors are even more important when companies consider locating R&D capacity in foreign centres. At the turn of the century we saw that the role of R&D had grown: of registered R&D expansions, thirteen were connected to suppliers, while only five were directly tied to head companies. Hungary is the fifth most popular target for outsourcing in the IT industry. Despite the fact that wages are slowly catching up to western levels, a skilled R&D engineer in England will still earn more than four times his/her Hungarian counterpart. Large auto manufacturers and companies like Flextronics, National Instruments, TEVA and Solectron have built production lines in Hungary. Further, reputed Scandinavian companies well known for innovation, like Astra Zeneca, Nokia and Lego, have taken advantage of cost-effective R&D opportunities.

What is the cost of a Big Mac in Europe?

According to a recent index in The Economist, an average European Big Mac costs \$4.38. But there are exceptions. A Big Mac will put you out almost \$5 in Denmark or Sweden, nearly \$6 in Norway, but merely \$2.92 in Hungary.



TOP 5

REASONS TO BUILD ESS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Our readers can now decide where the scientific basis for Europe's competitive edge should be built. We will help you decide. Why should ESS move to Central Europe?

■ SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Technology based on Hungarian concept is one of the pillars of the tradition of cooperative, high-level scientific results in the region.

■ THE HIGHEST VALUE

The best quality and most efficient science for Europe at the lowest cost.

■ FULL SUPPORT

All the countries of the Central European region support the project.

■ REGIONAL BALANCE

The European economic area can produce at a maximum level only if its large research facilities strike a balance across regions.

■ ATTRACTIVE

The heart of Europe is a cool place to live, work, and innovate in. Guaranteed high wages will ensure that researchers have a very high standard of living.

EDITORIAL

Continued from page 1

Is there anyone who would argue against the position that the spending of money on research and development should be balanced in order to ensure that given regions can partake of common funds in accordance with their characteristics? This would ensure the best research and economic results. A look at the map of European large research investments shows that most investments are located in a narrow geographic area. But it is in the interest of Europe to make use of what all regions can contribute in terms of scientific excellence. It is a matter of being cost effective all while holding to the principle of regional balance. In this spirit, of the 44 targeted infrastructural investments on the ESFRI list, at least a dozen could be located in the Central European region, including one of the most exciting large European investments of our time, the ESS. As a Hungarian I could be accused of bias, but I take this stand as an objective European politician. The best offer Europe has is ESS Debrecen. There is no questioning the scientific excellence of the region. Scientific cooperation among the region's countries, universities and workshops – strengthened by geographic proximity and common characteristics – is excellent. For Europe this all translates into high effectiveness with a lower investment. This is not a question of friendship and kindness: it is a question of interests, European interests. Charles de Gaulle is right, even today.

*Edit Herczog MEP
President of the ESS National Council*

INTERVIEW

“This region is scientifically significant”

Interview with Professor József Pálincás, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

To what degree are scientific centers in this region willing to cooperate?

We've executed a number of successful projects. We have very good cooperation in the European synchrotron research program, where Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks work at a very high level in a consortium. We have trustworthy partners in the Poles, and the Romanians are outstanding colleagues.

What kind of a role does this region play in European scientific life? What role does regional cooperation play in the Debrecen ESS?

I think that this region is scientifically significant. In Debrecen there is a large research university, and a research institute of our Academy. The Romanians have outstanding atomic and nuclear physics research, and their results in CERN are known worldwide. There are several other examples. The choice of Debrecen as the site for ESS would be perfect from many aspects. The proximity of universities in Kosice, Oradea and Cluj is significant. But Ukraine is close by as well, with the outstanding Uzgorod research institute. These all underscore the scientific importance of the region, and hence the region offers the best possible solution for Europe.

You are of course biased. As President of the Hungarian Academy of Science, you would like to see ESS in Debrecen.

There's more to it than that. Beyond the fact that this program is associated with a



Hungarian scientist – namely Professor Ferenc Mezei – this region offers a kind of added value that other regions can hardly compete with. A vast amount of resources can be accessed by putting ESS in Debrecen. And these resources can be used to fund other European research projects. The economic impact is enormous. The supply needs of ESS go beyond what Hungary can offer domestically, so our Romanian, Slovak, Austrian, Czech and Polish suppliers and partners will have an important role in this program. But there is yet another important aspect. Locating ESS in Debrecen would show that large research investments can be built not just in Western Europe, but in this region as well. In terms of sharing research infrastructure the Debrecen ESS would better serve the interests of Europe. It would open the door to bringing more large European projects into this region, which would in turn strengthen scientific cohesion.

SOCIAL LIFE

Invitation

On April 16-17, 2009, the Ministry for National Development and Economy, in cooperation with the City of Debrecen organises a major regional conference in Debrecen. The event will feature high profile decision makers in the area of R&D and representatives of scientific research institutes and universities from neighbouring countries and Hungary.

Its aim will be to present the unique opportunities offered by the ESS being established in Debrecen, and its implications regarding regional development and cross-border cooperation in Central Europe. All those interested are welcome to attend the conference.

Information: www.esshungary.eu

OPINION

„The twentieth century was made in Budapest.”

*Vaclav Smil, energy expert,
University of Manitoba, CA
Nature 409., 2001*

„Hungarian scientists have had a deep impact on the 20th century. John von Neumann made fundamental contributions to quantum theory as well as the development of the atomic bomb and the high-speed electronic computer. Albert von Szent-Gyorgyi was credited with first isolating vitamin C. For a country of its population (10 million), Hungary has produced an immoderate number of Nobel Prize winners.”

*The New York Times,
March 20, 1998*

„He was a man of brilliant and diverse intellectual energy who discovered the nuclear chain reaction, went on to help develop the atom bomb and then tirelessly campaigned against it.”

*The New York Times
about Leo Szilárd*

„It is only with regions and cities on board that the EU will be able to achieve its goals of boosting economic growth and creating more jobs, especially in these difficult times.”

*Luc Van den Brande, president of
the Committee of the Regions*

„Innovation is the answer”

*Gunther Verheugen,
Commission Vice-President*

„The EU attaches great importance to regional cooperation as this is an important part of the European integration process.”



*José Manuel Barroso
President of the European
Commission*

CULTURE

A cultural vortex in the heart of Europe

Central Europe has thousands of ties to the cultural life of Europe. Grand exhibitions are organized one after the other in museums, classical and jazz masters consistently return to the region's stages as old friends, and popular music festivals bring scores of international stars to perform for young people.

One of the biggest jazz festivals in Central Europe is the Bratislava Jazz Days, organized since 1975. Almost all the important stars of the genre have played here. The Biennale of children's book illustrations has been held every other year since 1967, and is the biggest such graphic event in the world.

In Romania, classical and popular musical offerings are not limited to the country's great city of museums, Bucharest. Of note are the Cluj Johann Straus International Festival – attracting many international stars – and the Cluj TIFF regional film festival. The Callatis and the Romanian-Hungarian co-produced Félziget Festival both attract tens of thousands of visitors. The nearly month-long George Enescu Festival offers a rich cross-section of contemporary classical music and serves as a significant international composers' competition. Fans of winter sports are beginning to discover the Transylvanian mountains. A mere two-hour drive from Debrecen, the ski slopes of Bihar county live up to high European standards.

The Czech Republic has experienced a boom in outdoor festivals in the past few years. Rock For People, the world music Clours of Ostrava and Khamorora are just a few examples. Fans of classical music will enjoy the offerings of the Prague Spring Festival. The town of Karlovy Vary not only attracts over two millions guest per year to its famous spas, but is also host to one of the world's oldest film festivals.

The Slovenian Riviera is a vibrant and modern tourist centre. Portorož is home to the annual Golden Drum competition, an event for advertisers and the creative industry in Europe. Not only is Slovenia a seaside country where one can get a good tan; it is an excellent country for unparalleled mountain hikes and visits to castles. Maribor's outdoor riverside festival lasts for several weeks, with nearly



Giacomo Puccini: Turandot | Open-Air Festival (Szeged, Hungary)

thirty stages offering jazz, world music and theater.

Austria is the European capital of classical music. The Salzburg Festival, the Mozart Weeks and the Vienna Opera Ball are complemented by the Saalfelden Jazz Festival, which attracts fans of more popular fare. The Alps not only attract lovers of skiing, but are also home to numerous wellness spas and village tours that attract those who just want to relax.

The Sziget Festival in Hungary has been held annually for fifteen years and

has become one of Europe's premier music events. Dozens of stages simultaneously host concerts attracting tens of thousands of fans from Western Europe. The current MediaWave event in Győr, which hosts Romania in 2009 is not just one of the biggest multi-art events in the region, but hosts one of the widest international varieties of independent film available. Spring and Autumn Festivals in Budapest, and the Szeged Open-Air Festival, offer fans of classical and cutting-edge popular music weeks of programs.