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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Third periodic reports submitted by States parties under articles  
16 and 17 of the Covenant

Addendum  
Hungary \* \* \* \* \*

[28 September 2005]

\* The second periodic reports concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 and 10 to 12(E/1984/7/Add.15 and E/1986/4/Add.1) submitted by the Government of Hungary were considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its 1984 and 1986 sessions (see E/1984/WG.1/SR.19 and 21 and E/1986/WG.1/SR.6-7 and 9). The second periodic report concerning rights covered by articles 13 to 15 (E/1990/7/Add.10) was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its seventh session (see E/C.12/1992/SR.9, 12 and 21) in 1992 (Concluding observations E/C.12/1992/2, paras. 133-154).

\*\* The information submitted by Hungary in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.11).

\*\*\* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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644. **Legal regulation:** Art. 70/G of the Constitution stipulates that “( 1) *The Republic of Hungary shall respect and support the freedom of scientific and artistic expression, the freedom to learn and to teach. (2) Only scientists are entitled to decide in questions of scientific truth and to determine the scientific value of research .*”

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## **b) Enjoyment of the benefits of scientific progress and its applications**

751. Hungary has strong traditions in research and sciences. Since 1825, the role of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has been crucial to the promotion of science. A recent initiative under the aegis of the Academy has gained unprecedented success and contributed greatly to raising public awareness of the achievements of scientific research.

752. The **University of All Knowledge** (*Mindentudás Egyeteme*) was started in 2002 by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Magyar Telekom and T-Online as a series of IT-supported lectures on topical issues in all branches of science with the goal of reviving Hungary's high standards of scientific education and raising the profile of leading national scientists. The French programme, *L'Université de tous les savoirs* was an inspiration, but was redesigned to meet Hungarian standards (while the Hungarian name saved its French generosity and universal impetus). In the end, a different programme was created with its own logic, message, fundamental concepts and organization. The concept of *Mindentudás Egyeteme* / ENCOMPASS was supported by prominent figures in the Academy as an opportunity to develop the internet-based/medialized management of scientific knowledge; to develop the organization, research, and presentation of science in Hungary. The initiative, which operates through a combination of on-line components and collaboration with television and radio networks, as well as newspapers, incorporates the long and respected heritage of international and Hungarian public science, while diverting from traditional forms of teaching and learning. It was created under the aegis of public and private partnership with the academic supervision of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and sponsorship from the corporate social responsibility programmes of telecommunications companies Magyar Telekom and T-Online. Within the collaboration, the latter provide project management and info-communication know-how, infrastructure and significant financial support. The three principles laid out by the founders were making the position of science competitive in the media world, popularising Hungarian scientists and enriching Hungarian language culture on a value basis. *Mindentudás Egyeteme* has also found a new name for the promotion of its programmes abroad: ENCOMPASS (ENCyclopedic knOwledge Made a Popular ASset) and has launched its new, foreign language website. The name 'ENCOMPASS' truly describes the content-creation process at *Mindentudás Egyeteme* whereby ideas and subjects of potential interest are taken from the lofty world of science and shared with the general public with the help of modern-day multimedia, in a manner that should prove as engaging as it is informative.

753. The project aims at raising public awareness and facilitating dialogue between science and society. ENCOMPASS incorporates a live lecture, television programme, radio broadcast, newspaper, book and a website with interactive elements stimulating participation. On the social level, therefore, this is the first communication "mix" where the various communication channels are deliberately combined. The media presence of the programme is total by today's standards due to its visibility on at least one TV station on any day of the week. The three public networks air each lecture a total of five times, one of which is aimed specifically at overseas viewers of Duna TV. The lectures are regularly shown on local television stations as well. The Hungarian public radio network

and one of the commercial radio stations also broadcast the programme. Readers of all national newspapers and two-thirds of the regional papers can familiarise themselves with the text version of the lectures and the biographies of the lecturers. Through the newspapers and weeklies this scientific information reaches one and a half million individuals every week. Educational television programmes and discussions address the topics by referencing the lectures and even presenting excerpts of the individual sessions. According to a representative survey, close to one-third of the adult population have heard of ENCOMPASS, two-fifths have seen at least one of the lectures on television, and over 80 percent attribute great importance to dialogue between researchers and those interested in sciences.

754. Development of the scientific and artistic learning of underprivileged groups: The organisers are involving persons with disability, the Roma youth and large families in their continuously expanding programmes. Roma students from the schools of Budapest, as well as physically disabled children from the Peto Institute have participated at club discussions and museum visits held in the Hungarian Natural History Museum. Sponsored by Family Aid Centres, underprivileged families regularly visit museum club events. ENCOMPASS covers the travel expenses of disabled groups and groups travelling from outside of Budapest to the events. In each semester the organisers provide the library of the National Association for the Hungarian Blind and Partially Sighted with the audio versions of the lectures. Students with hearing disabilities from secondary schools regularly visit the lectures where sign language interpreters provide assistance for them.

755. On the role of institutions of higher education in research, see paragraphs 639-642.

## **[Higher education**

### *Accessibility*

629. Higher education institutions perform accredited higher education and vocational higher education financed by the State according to the number of students determined by the Government. The higher education - with the participation of students of Hungarian nationality or foreign students having the same status in line with international agreements or legal regulations – can be carried out in full time courses, in the form of basic training, basic complementary training, in higher vocational training, in specialized extension training and in doctoral training.

630. Every Hungarian citizen in line with Article 83 of Act LXXX of 1993 on Higher Education (See the text of the Act in the Annex) has the right to continue studies in the higher education institution and branch chosen by him/her, and to apply for admission in several higher education institutions by specifying the order of the institutions.

631. Those persons may apply for admission to

- A) graduate education or accredited higher vocational education who possess a final examination certificate or equivalent of a secondary school leaving certificate or a diploma acquired at a higher education institution,
- B) specialized university or college postgraduate education who possess a university or college diploma,
- C) doctoral education who possess a university or equivalent diploma.

#### *Exemption from the tuition fee*

632. According to the Act a student participating in higher education financed by the state is entitled to exemption from the tuition fee, if he / she

- a) participates in the first graduate education or in the first complementary graduate education if she/he completes his/her studies in line with the conditions determined in the Government decree,
- b) pursues the first doctoral studies, in the first two academic years if she/he conducts the educational activity determined in the government decree and in the third academic year,
- c) in other cases determined in the Government decree.

633. The above mentioned students are entitled to tuition fee exemption only in one higher education institution (branch, faculty). On the occasion of enrollment students should declare under criminal and disciplinary responsibility that in which higher education institution they would like to benefit from the tuition fee exemption and that how many started terms they already had within the framework of state financed higher education in other higher education institutions.

#### *Ensuring the freedom of research*

634. According to Article 91 (1) of the Act on Higher Education “a university is entitled to provide doctoral education, and to award the doctoral decree, in those fields and branches of sciences in which its suitability has been recognized by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee.”

#### *Foreign studies by Hungarian citizens*

635. A Hungarian citizen may pursue studies in higher education abroad without official permission. For the pursuing of studies at foreign higher education institutions, state scholarship may be awarded on the basis of competition.

#### *The studies of foreigners in Hungary*

636. For the admission of foreigners, for their legal standing, and for their studies in Hungarian higher education institutions, the provisions of the Act on Higher Education should be applied, unless the law or an international agreement provides otherwise. The detailed regulations concerning foreign student are determined by the higher education

institution in its regulations. Foreign students, if law or international agreement does not order differently, shall pay the tuition fee, expenses and other fees in accordance with section 31 of the Act on Higher Education.

#### *The recognition of foreign studies in Hungary*

637. A foreign higher education institution may conduct regular graduate education, specialized postgraduate education (independently, within the framework of another organization, or in co-operation with one), and may issue foreign degrees if

- a) in the country where it is based, the institution is officially recognized as a higher education institution, and the degree issued is recognized as a higher education degree, and it can prove this convincingly,
- b) the Minister of Education, considering the viewpoint of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee, has authorized such operation of the higher education institution.

638. A Hungarian higher education institution may conduct joint graduate, specialized post-graduate, and doctoral education with a foreign higher education institution insofar as the co-operating foreign higher education institution satisfies the conditions mentioned above. Such co-operation must be reported to the Minister of Education.

#### *Scientific research*

639. Higher education institutions in line with the provisions of the Act on Higher Education ensure the freedom of activity of academic worth for its teaching staff, the researchers, and the students and support the implementation of the appropriate conditions for this. Higher education institutions create a stock of resources necessary for scientific research, they establish and maintain libraries and a stock of equipment, and ensure the accessibility of these.

640. Higher education institutions assist the implementation of the above mentioned provision by the launching and financing of individual, group, and institutional programs; by organizing scientific events, by building up and maintaining scientific contacts at home and abroad, by providing doctoral education (in the case of universities), through the publication of scientific works, and in other ways.

641. A higher education institution decides in its regulations concerning the use, and conditions for use of the equipment intended for scientific purposes and other equipment of the institution and/or of the teaching or scientific research organizational unit. A higher education institution, independently or in co-operation with other institutions, may conduct scientific research, or may establish institutes, industrial parks, and professional advisory enterprises, for the purpose of its developmental targets.

642. Fifty percent of the amount serving to support the scientific (artistic) activity of higher education institutions is divided among the higher education institutions based on

the performance indicators of the institutions' research and developmental activities. The remaining share, based on competition, may be won to support researches and developments promising exceptional scientific results, and their early introduction in practice, based on the strategic standpoints determined by the Higher Education and Research Council.]