

Statement by the Hungarian Young Academy and its Alumni on the situation of the National Academy of Scientist Education

The current situation affecting the operation of the National Academy of Scientist Education (NTA) – namely, the termination of the previous funding structure and the uncertainty surrounding the establishment of new operational and funding frameworks – highlights that the training of the next generation of scientists, as well as the education and research system, is not merely a matter of principle or professional expertise, but rather a vulnerable area of national strategic importance. The situation arising in the wake of the changes announced also underscores the uncertainty surrounding the operational and funding frameworks, which directly affects the programme's future sustainability.

For more than a decade, the National Academy of Scientist Education has been implementing a unique, multi-generational model that has provided real and tangible opportunities for thousands of young people for embarking on a scientific career. A particular value of the programme is that it creates access to high-level knowledge not only for talents from major urban centres but also for those coming from rural, small-region, and cross-border environments, thereby contributing to the promotion of genuine social mobility. In the case of a programme that has been operating successfully over a long period of time, it is particularly important to maintain operational stability and the continuity of the established professional structure.

In our view, a country's long-term competitiveness is determined not only by economic indicators, but also by its ability to identify, support, and retain its own talent. Education and research play a key role in this process.

The continuity and stability of the operations of the National Academy of Scientist Education are therefore of paramount importance. It is our conviction that the programme contributes effectively to:

- supporting Hungarian young people in embarking on a scientific career,
- ensuring the next generation of researchers for Hungarian universities and research networks,
- improving the status of secondary-school and university teachers and professors,
- as well as to developing the Hungarian healthcare, economy and society in the long run.

All these results and synergies become particularly valuable when the programme's operating conditions and future framework come to be shaken.

The significance of the current situation goes beyond the issue of funding; ensuring professional autonomy, transparent operations, and a predictable institutional environment is of fundamental importance. In the lack of such prerequisites, no sustainable and internationally competitive science system can be established. Therefore, it is particularly important that these principles remain intact during any changes in structure or management and that the preservation of established professional operating models would be ensured.

Numerous members of the Hungarian Young Academy, working at various research institutes and universities across the country, have participated in the NTA programme as Szent-Györgyi Mentors. The secondary-school and college students they mentored have achieved outstanding

success within the programme, as evidenced by a series of publications, award-winning presentations, and brilliant performances at the National Student Research Conference (OTDK).

In line with the mission statement of the Hungarian Young Academy, the NTA programme instills an exemplary mindset in the youngest generation and is committed to improving the status of female researchers and retaining young researchers in their careers.

The broad support of the scientific and educational community for the NTA is tangible and evident. This professional consensus highlights that preserving and strengthening an efficient system is a shared national priority. Therefore, we firmly suggest that the decision-making bodies of the country at all times take into consideration the institutionalization of the NTA, which would lay the foundation for the long-term, balanced operation of a unique organization of national significance.

Budapest, 27 April 2026

Signatories:

1. Abonyi, András
2. Bagoly, Zsuzsa
3. Bajusz, Dávid
4. Balla, Esztella
5. Barta, Veronika
6. Beke-Somfai, Tamás
7. Béni, Szabolcs
8. Buvár, Ágnes
9. Csongrádi, Gyöngyi
10. Csupor, Dezső
11. Dékány, Éva
12. Dévai, Kata
13. Ercsey-Ravasz, Mária
14. Feigl, Gábor
15. G.-Tóth, Boglárka,
16. Gselmann, Eszter
17. Haranginé Lukács, Réka
18. Hartmann, Bálint
19. Hatvani, István Gábor
20. Havasi, Dávid
21. Hegyi, Eszter
22. Kaló, Zsuzsa
23. Katona, Gábor
24. Kecskés, Gábor
25. Kelemen, Zsolt
26. Kiss, Gábor Gyula
27. Kolbert, Zsuzsanna
28. Koltai, Júlia
29. Koók, László

30. Kóspál, Ágnes
31. Kovács, Karolina Eszter
32. Kun, Bernadette
33. Kutus, Bence
34. Lencsés, Ákos
35. Lendvai, László
36. Lengyel, Balázs
37. Lipták, Katalin
38. Máté, Ágnes
39. Micskei, Zoltán
40. Modrián-Horváth, Bernadett
41. Mohr, Emőke
42. Mráz, Attila
43. Orbán, Endre
44. Pach, Péter Pál
45. Ruppert, Tamás
46. Schlosser, Gitta
47. Sódorné Bognár, Zsófia
48. Solymosi, Katalin
49. Szabó, Éva
50. Szalma, Ivett
51. Szentgáli-Tóth, Boldizsár
52. Toldy, Andrea
53. Tóth, György
54. Török, Gergely
55. Török, Péter
56. Vad, Csaba
57. Venglovecz, Viktória,
58. Veszélka, Szilvia
59. Virág, Attila
60. Wilhelm, Imola
61. Zsidó, András Norbert
62. Zsila, Ágnes