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Hungarian Rectors' Conference and their role in development of HEIs in Hungary

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Hungarian Rectors' Conference

- Founded in 1988 – 34 years ago
- In this form: from 2006

Registered by the court and the Educational Authority

- Founded in act on national higher education
- Public body – non-profit and public benefit organization by law
- „an independent, consultant public corporation with legal personality, entitled to represent higher education institutions and to protect their interests, cooperating in performance of state tasks”

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HRC's organizational structure

- Regulated by the Statues
- Plenary – members consist of **63** HEI's rectors
- Presidency – 12 members
- 4 sections: State-financed, Religious, Private, Model-changing institutions
- Committees and working groups – based on academic fields and specific functions (such as International Committee)



Structure of plenary

4 Sections (founded by the plenary):

- State-financed institutions (6)
 - Religious institutions (26)
 - Private institutions (10)
 - Model-changing institutions (21) (founded in 2021)
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- MERSZ - Chair of Rectors of Art Universities (5: 2 state, 3 model-changing)

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Structure of presidency 12 members:

- Elected by the plenary for 2 years
 - President
 - Co-president
 - 2 Vice-president
(One of them should be rector of university of applied sciences)
- Elected by the 4 section for 2 years:
 - 4 president of the 4 sections
 - 1 delegate by the Model-changing Section and 1 delegate of the Religious Section
- Chair of Rectors of Art Universities
- Honorary president (the most recent outgoing president regardless of whether he/she is still rector) (no voting rights)



Structure of presidency

- 2 other people are invited (no voting rights)
- regulated by the statutes:
- President of the committee of Cross-border Higher Education Institution
- Chair of the Supervisory Board

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Committees

[\(http://mrk.hu/en/organisation/\)](http://mrk.hu/en/organisation/)

- 13 committees on each training field (The rector of concerned HEI can delegate members)
- 9 functional committees (all rectors can delegate):
 - Cross-border Higher Education Institution
 - Legal-Administrative Experts
 - Library Directors
 - Fostering Young Talents
 - Infocommunicaton
 - International Affairs
 - Professional Higher Education
 - Research and Innovation
 - National defence training (sport activity)



Benefits of the members

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- Delegates are members of committees
- Being member of all reform
- Protect their interest
- Represent the Hungarian HE worldwide (EAIE, NAFSA, APAIE..)
- Daily press observatory
- Weekly press release based on the university presswatch
- Mailing list



HRC's National Role

- Participation in legislative procedures
- Reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation changes
- Communicating the collective opinion of Hungarian HEIs on national matters related to HE
- Projects and initiatives to improve and internationalise Hungarian HE
- Reviewing issues with credit mobility, plagiarism, learning outcomes, LLL



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Secretariat

- Secretary general
- 7 employees – 2 lawyers, 3 international affairs' experts, 1 financial expert, 1 logistics specialist
- 3 new staff members (part time) for the national project
- Responsible for proceeding in the issues of HRC





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Secretariat

- management of daily tasks of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, decision-making in matters falling within the scope of competence of the management;
- preparation of reports and presentation of these to the Plenary;
- preparation of the annual budget and its presentation to the Plenary;
- management of property of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, making decisions on issues related to the use of property and investments not falling within the scope of the Plenary, and these enforcement;
- preparation of election of executive officers of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference;
- convene the Plenary Sessions of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, notification of members;
- determination of agenda of the Plenary Sessions convened by the President;
- participation on Plenary Sessions and answering questions imposed related to the Hungarian Rectors' Conference;
- maintenance of the register of membership;
- maintenance of resolutions, operational documents and other books of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference;
- keeping records of the documents related to operation of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference.



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Decision making procedure

- Plenary (budget, report) twice a year
- President (legal representative)
- Presidency (approval of the president and co-president of committees, strategic issues...) 6 times a year
- Secretary general (daily business, financial affairs)






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Financial background

- Membership fee (10 categories) from universities
- From 375 EUR – 7500 EUR
- Weighted voting rights -10 categories – 1-10
- Other income:
 - targeted support from ministries (conferences)
 - EU financed projects in cooperation with other organizations such EUA, EURASHE, EFEE – involved Hungarian HEI experts from universities
 - Private sector (photocopier)





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New project (planned RRF)

„Sectoral modernisation of
higher education training”

In strong cooperation and consortia with:

- Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee
- Educational Authority

Coordinated by the ministry

1,5 year (until 31st December, 2023)

Working with more than 20 higher education experts (13 delegates from the committees on training fields)






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Main partners:

- Ministry responsible for HE
- The National Union of Students in Hungary (HÖÖK)
- Association of Hungarian PhD and DLA Students (DOSZ)
- Hungarian Doctoral Council (ODT)
- Higher Education Planning Body (FTT)
- Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB)
- Trade Union of Employees in Higher Education (FDSZ)






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Main role in development of HEIs in Hungary

- Bologna-revision
- To review the admission requirements by committees each year
- Hungarian Higher Educational Roundtable
- Giving an opinion on legislation
- High level consultation on HE issues
- Internationalization



Main role in internationalisation

- Promoting Hungarian HE worldwide
- Participation in international organisations
 - HRC's international connections – participation in European and international organizations, EURASHE, IAU, EUA
- Cooperation in shaping EU policies
- Participation in EU funded projects such as UASiMAP, PROCSEE
- EURASHE 2019 conference in Budapest



Possibilities for cooperation

- **Conferences and higher education forums**

- Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Morocco, V4 countries (rectors' forum)
- Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities Annual Conference in Budapest
- Science Without Borders Brazilian scholarship program participation
- Japanese thematic summer university courses organized in Hungary
- Good relationship with Chinese agency iStudy in student recruitment





Possibilities for cooperation

- Study tours and university visits
- Cooperation in exchange programs, summer or winter university courses

Shift to Foundation-based governance model



"Model-changing universities" in Hungary

- Foundation-based governance model
- Government objective
 - Produce significant results in RD&I that can become advantages in the market
 - Increase academic and scientific ventures
 - Strong relations with national and international stakeholders and companies

Shift to Foundation-based governance model

- **Organization structure:**

- Foundation
- Curatorium/Board – board members are academics, industry experts and regional stakeholders
- Rector



LONG-TERM BENEFITS:

ENSURES ACADEMIC FREEDOM

**FLEXIBLE ADMINISTRATION IDEAL
FOR COOPERATION WITH INTERNAL
AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**SUPPORT INNOVATION AND
START-UP ECOSYSTEMS**

**QUICK ADAPTATION TO LABOR
MARKET TRENDS**

**MORE FREEDOM IN ACCOUNTING,
ESPECIALLY IN SALARY PACKAGING
AND EMPLOYEMENT BENEFITS**

FINANCING OF THE UNIVERSITIES FROM 2022

- Government support doubled
- Related to very strict indicators and criteria
- Less financial burden on the institutions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Stay in touch with us via mrk@mrk.hu
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