ELTE | EDÖK
DOKTORANDUSZ ÖNKORMÁNYZAT

University Doctoral Students Union of Eötvös Loránd University
Report of EDÖK President András Gombás



I respectfully welcome you at the beginning of the 392nd academic year of Eötvös Loránd University on behalf of the University Doctoral Students Union (EDÖK). **The mission of the doctoral student union is to provide advocacy, guidance, and community for all doctoral students of the university.**

Introduction to the Doctoral Students Union

Adapting to the specificities of the various disciplines and the university's faculty organizational structure, the University Doctoral Students Union (EDÖK) operates with faculty sub-unions, i.e., **Faculty DÖKs, whose task is to organize advocacy at the doctoral school and faculty level**. Within this framework, the Faculty DÖKs delegate doctoral student members to the councils of doctoral schools, institute councils, the faculty council, the faculty disciplinary doctoral council, and other faculty bodies. The university-level EDÖK is built from the delegates of the Faculty DÖKs, which in turn delegates doctoral student members to the Senate, the University Doctoral Council, and other university bodies.

In addition to providing voting representation for doctoral students in university councils and committees, **the union's activities also manifest in doctoral school, faculty, university, and national-level projects and programs**, ranging from organizing informational forums and professional events to cooperating with other university, student, and youth organizations, all the way to ministry-level negotiations.

Election of Representatives

The organizational operation, advocacy rights, and infrastructural background of the doctoral student union can provide an appropriate foundation for carrying out the union's tasks effectively, transparently, and with democratic legitimacy, according to real student needs. However, **it is up to us, the doctoral students, to fill these frameworks with meaningful content using our own experiences and abilities** to support each other and to ensure and improve the quality of our doctoral training.

In the changing political, economic, professional sectoral management, and public communication environment of the 2026/27 academic year, we must place perhaps even greater emphasis than before on strengthening our advocacy opportunities, movements, and organizations; rethinking their core values, strategic directions, and system of tasks and goals, organizing them along real needs.

Apply to be a faculty doctoral student representative!

If you consider it important that decisions relevant to you are not made over your head, but rather by channeling your experiences, needs, and feedback; if you feel you have an opinion, experience, or critique regarding the doctoral training system, the situation of doctoral students, or the operation of the doctoral student union, **please join the work of the doctoral student union as a faculty doctoral student representative!**

The Faculty DÖK General Assembly, consisting of Faculty DÖK representatives, decides on the election and accountability of the Faculty DÖK President and its delegates. Thus, formally as a faculty representative, if the faculty doctoral students entrust you with this through a direct election based on your candidate introduction, you will **receive a mandate to participate as a voting member in the faculty general assembly, which typically meets once or twice a semester**, where these decisions are made. Your obligation is therefore merely to participate in the meetings and decision-making, but at the same time, you will have the opportunity to actively contribute to the union's activities and projects, or even to launch and implement your own project.

To do this, you can submit your representative application now, during the application period of the regular autumn faculty representative elections, at the edok.elte.hu/election website, where you can also learn about the election process and review the call for elections.

Summary of the 2025/26 Academic Year

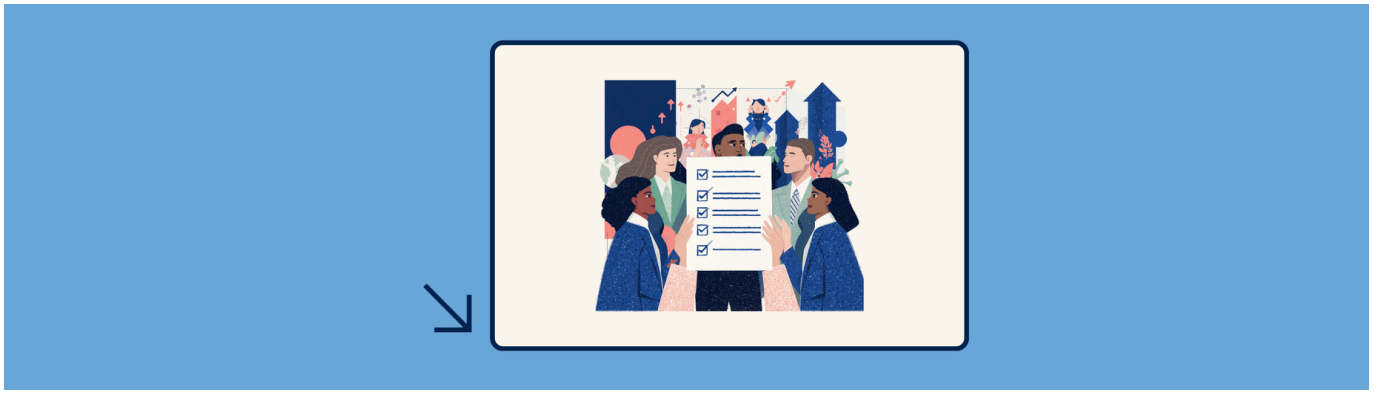
Featured News

Together with EHÖK for effective advocacy



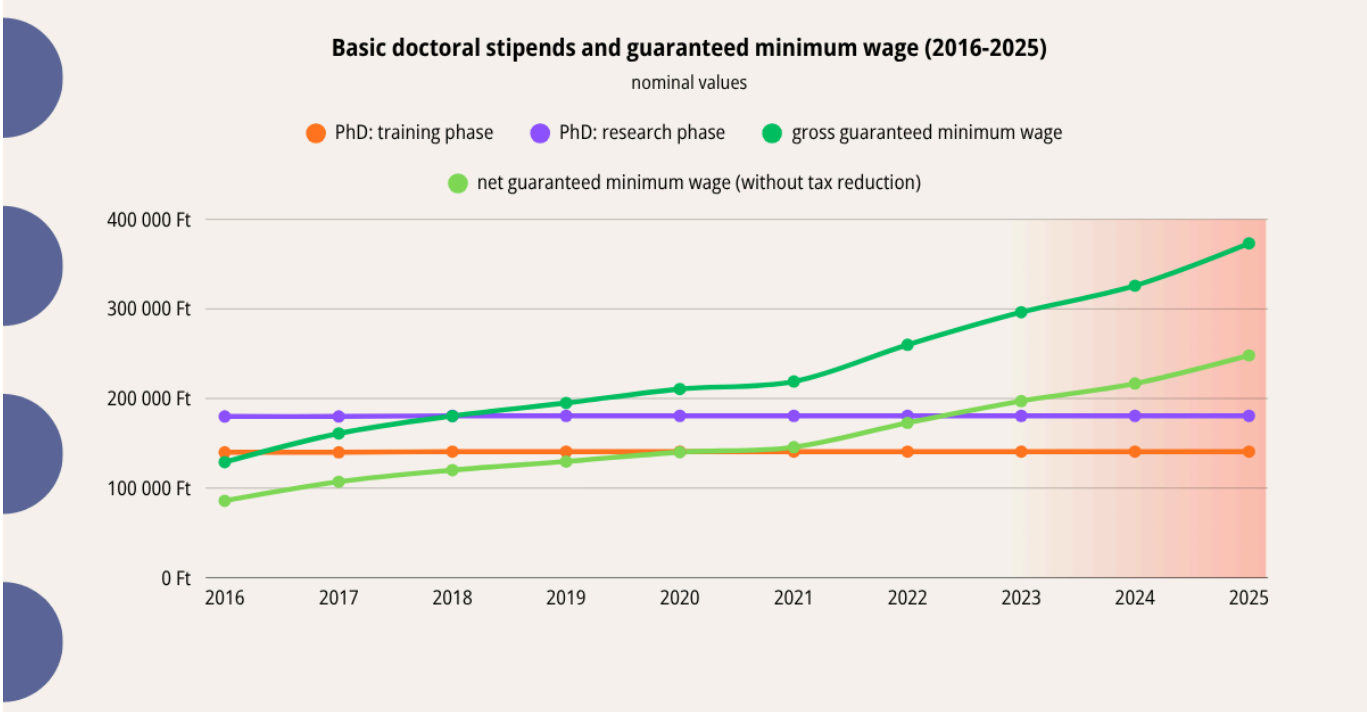
We are pleased to report that the Eötvös Loránd University Doctoral Students Union (EDÖK) and the Student Union (EHÖK) have strengthened their cooperation over the past six months. We jointly believe that the renewal of higher education and effective advocacy can only be successful if the voices of graduate and doctoral students appear unified across all levels of education in our common causes. The recent statement of EHÖK proposes the creation of a comprehensive overview of issues. We have good news: EDÖK has already launched the strategy development process that can serve as the foundation for this!

Petition launched for raising doctoral basic stipends



The current most important task of ELTE EDÖK is to guarantee the existential security of the university's current and future doctoral students. The foundation of this must be **an immediate and substantial adjustment of doctoral stipends**. At its meeting at the end of May, the General Assembly decided to support the petition of the self-organizing Dokháló platform. Their open letter proposes fixing basic stipends at the level of the gross guaranteed wage minimum. We would like to draw the attention of the student community, the public, and sectoral management to the fact that doctoral basic stipends at our university have remained practically unchanged since 2016 and have fallen behind the guaranteed wage minimum.

Sign the petition!



Dialogue initiated with sector management

András Gombás, President of ELTE EDÖK, also participated as a delegate of DOSZ (National Association of Doctoral Students) in the consultation organized by the Ministry of Education and Child Affairs with student representatives on June 14, 2026. We are pleased that the ministry also views student representations as partners in the decision-preparation processes.

The DOSZ General Assembly requests the Government to raise doctoral basic stipends as soon as possible

The General Assembly of the National Association of Doctoral Students unanimously adopted its resolution on the necessity of increasing the doctoral basic stipend at its meeting held on June 30, 2026, where our university was also represented by EDÖK President András Gombás with voting rights.

"The DOSZ General Assembly considers it justified that the increase should be of a magnitude that substantially contributes to strengthening the livelihood security of those participating in doctoral training, reducing dropout and degree completion risks arising from forced employment, as well as recognizing the social and scientific significance of doctoral training. As a goal for a multi-year catch-up process, it is justified to fix that ***by the end of the government cycle****, the net value of doctoral basic benefits should represent a competitive income for young researchers,* ***reaching at least three times the current amount****. The General Assembly further requests the development of a long-term financing mechanism that* ***ensures the stability of the value of the doctoral basic stipend*** *and prevents its repeated loss of real value, e.g., by pegging the amount to the minimum wage or the guaranteed wage minimum." (Excerpt from the DOSZ General Assembly statement)*

Milestones

We have established the practice of transparent and accountable operations.

We have publicly published the amounts of the monthly public life stipends of the doctoral union's officials and presidential commissioners on the EDÖK website.

Position	Official Stipend	Budget
EDÖK President	200,000 HUF/month	EHÖK ISZTK
EDÖK Vice President (currently vacant)	70,000 HUF/month	EHÖK ISZTK
Chair of the EDÖK Supervisory Committee	50,000 HUF/month	EHÖK ISZTK
EDÖK Faculty Presidents	100,000 HUF/month	Faculty ISZTK
EDÖK Presidential Commissioner for International Integration	max. 50,000 HUF/month	EHÖK ISZTK
EDÖK Presidential Commissioner for Strategic Affairs	max. 50,000 HUF/month	EHÖK ISZTK

We have introduced a monthly reporting system for officials; the reports are also published publicly in both Hungarian and English on the EDÖK website. Representatives of the EDÖK General Assembly can provide feedback on the officials' work via vote every month; in case of a rejected report, no stipend is paid for the given period.

András Gombás, EDÖK President's application and reports
June 2026 report
May 2026 report
April 2026 report
March 2026 report
February 2026 report
January 2026 report
Presidential application

We launched an internationalization program.

As the doctoral union represents both domestic and international doctoral students of our university, with the appointment of the presidential appointee for international integration, we have extended our advocacy, information, and community-organizing activities to international doctoral students as well. International students participate in the work of general assemblies at both the faculty and university levels, and we publish our external and internal working materials in both Hungarian and English.

Join our WhatsApp group!

We modernized and activated our external communication channels.

We keep all relevant information and data regarding the operation of the union up-to-date on the EDÖK website, including invitations, materials, and minutes of board meetings, doctoral delegates of university bodies, and contact information. We publish calls for active involvement in the union's work and strategic news about our advocacy work. We have activated our existing Facebook page, linked an Instagram page to it, and created dedicated sites for international students in addition to WhatsApp group-based communication.

Our communication channels
Visit our website!
Follow our Facebook page!

Our communication channels

Follow our Instagram page!

Subscribe to our public interest mailing list!

We exercised our legal advocacy rights during the introduction of the new cooperative doctoral training.

We participated in the work of the ad hoc regulatory committee. By tying our consent required for the adoption of the regulation to a five-point conjunctive set of conditions, we achieved, among other things, that in case of statistical failure, the normative refund affecting the university cannot be passed on to the students, and that the student status does not cease immediately upon the termination of the necessary employment, but rather a new employment can be established with a 30-day grace period, allowing the training to continue uninterrupted.

We directly represented the interests of ELTE doctoral students in ministerial-level consultations, alongside student unions.

We have strengthened our cooperation with the ELTE Student Union (EHÖK), so in the spring semester, we put together a joint proposal package regarding primarily financing issues affecting our university's students and doctoral candidates. We have also established an active working relationship with the National Association of Doctoral Students (DOSZ), so we had the opportunity to participate in direct negotiations with both the previous and the newly formed Government's ministry responsible for higher education and its secretariat.

We undertook a mediating role between the self-organizing Dokháló initiative and institutional advocacy.

Recognizing the significance of grassroots, movement-style interest advocacy and awareness-raising methods, the EDÖK General Assembly made a supportive decision for the Dokháló petition, which proposes fixing doctoral basic stipends at the level of the gross guaranteed wage minimum. Furthermore, we consider it important to maintain a working method that constructively reinforces each other while also providing critical evaluation, thus we take an active role in creating connections between DOSZ and Dokháló.

Thank you for reading our report! Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have!

Budapest, September 21, 2026.

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