



Communiqué

The Antall József Knowledge Centre (AJKC) operates as a private foundation, its founder is Mrs Klára Antall and its creator is Péter Antall, who takes part in the work of the organisation as the director. The main objectives of the institution include education, research, and publication, in line with the Antall philosophy.

Since its inception until the end of 2020, AJKC organised 103 (mostly international) [conferences](#), 189 lectures/panel discussions, and 112 talent management and innovation programmes. In 2021, it will realise another 12 conferences, 30 lectures, and 15 talent management and innovation programmes, mostly online. These can be found on AJKC's webpage and its [YouTube Channel](#).

As for [its research activities](#), until the end of 2020 with each language considered separately, AJKC released 107 in-depth analyses, so-called AJRC analyses, 600 research blogs, and 21 issues of the quarterly *In Focus* magazine. In 2021, releasing another 45 analyses, 100 research blogs, 3 issues of the *In Focus* magazine is planned, most of which have already been published. You may read them on [AJKC Digital](#).

Connected to its [publishing activities](#), 78 books have been published, out of which 49 pieces are translated, 25 are original, and 4 are conference publications. Out of the 74 books, 63 were published in Hungarian and 11 in foreign languages (mostly in English), which include 35 professional publications, 18 textbooks, 9 autobiographical books, 7 books sharing views of great thinkers, and 5 books from the *Hungarian Memories* series. In 2021, AJKC will release another 7 books; collecting materials and preparations are well in progress.

Recently released articles that consciously besmirch AJKC and show its financial management and operation in bad light are considered a sad accompanying element of the upcoming Hungarian parliamentary elections campaign. These articles extensively smear the name of the foundation and that of the Antall family, as well as depict its statements and activities in a false light; many times statements by AJKC are distorted, the documentation on its achievements provided by the foundation is consciously left out.

With this communiqué, AJKC wishes to non-exhaustively respond below to statements in articles published on the webpages of Direkt36 and other media outlets:

AJKC has a vast amount of international connections and foreign activities, therefore, researchers and leaders of the Knowledge Centre regularly take part in conferences, professional events, and diplomatic meetings all around the world. AJKC have organised trips abroad strictly related to professional programmes and the institution's foreign policy strategy, always as per the rules of procurement and financial management. When selecting accommodation for delegations and organising programmes, AJKC considered the strict protocol of diplomatic meetings, as well as a secure environment. The 15-20 business trips mentioned in the original article does not only include trips of Péter Antall and the delegation accompanying him, but involves professional trips by AJKC colleagues as well; these trips comprise 5-6 % of the annual AJKC budget. The helicopter trip by Péter Antall and Veronika Antall-Horváth mentioned in the article was a private trip, also involving a tourist group, which was financed from their private money.

When it comes to the Australian edition of the *Hungarian Memories* book series, the partnership building trip was realised in November-December 2019. The pandemic situation brought about by the coronavirus has affected also the book's preparation, including months of worth of data gathering, historic research, photo journalistic work, as well as publishing processes. It is when the pandemic situation is deemed to pass when on-site work will start. As part of the trip mentioned in the article, the delegation, upon suggestion by partners, visited sights which, despite the fact that they have no Hungarian connections, can contribute to the success of the book because of easy identification.



Up until 30 June 2021, Veronika Antall-Horváth was on maternity leave, therefore, no salary from AJKC was transferred to her. Veronika Antall-Horváth is an external member in MOTIVE LP. The company was contracted in January 2021 to fulfil tasks of tender writing and sponsorship building, with no benefits and dividends distributed to Veronika Antall-Horváth from MOTIVE LP. Activities and contacting tasks connected to the company are not realised by Veronika Antall-Horváth. To avoid confusion and unfounded speculation, her quit from the company has already been initiated. At RAZ Consulting LP, Veronika Antall-Horváth is working not as an employee of AJKC, but contributes indirectly to the work of and provides advices to AJKC, primarily regarding think.BDPST. Invoices connected to RAZ Consulting LP have not been compensated for from public money, therefore, they do not qualify as data of public interest. In contrast to what is stated in the article, Veronika Antall-Horvath does not own companies, is not part of the management of any of the companies involved, so contracts are not signed by her and companies are not represented by her. RAZ Consulting LP worked for AJKC on a project basis, which was not financed from the central budget, from public money. As part of the contract signed, colleagues at RAZ Consulting LP shared tasks, personally contributing. To realise its activities and goals, AJKC makes use of the services and asks for the advice of external organisations, companies that can help achieve such goals and implement projects as effectively and on as high standards as possible.

The institution has established a years-old partnership with Presztízs magazine in many areas, including media coverage, communication consultancy. CN-Trend LP has also contributed to this cooperation, with its areas of activity including consultation, market research and public opinion polling, publishing, education, advertising, information services, management consulting. Prior to and following this cooperation, the Foundation had no connection to CN-Trend LP; AJKC has no ties to other activities of the company. The PR articles mentioned in the article were part of a large series of interviews, the price referenced contains the costs of altogether 23 1/1-page advertisements, a bulk of which is related to the programme called Danube Regatta, and so is the sweets called Dunakavics that was purchased as a promotional product.

Mrs Klára Antall is still the founder of AJKC, her rights have not been restricted.

Information that appears on financial management in the article is internal information, therefore, the institution does not wish to comment on it, nor does it wish to comment on HR-related questions. The salary of Péter Antall is aligned with that of state secretaries in national administration; many of the media outlets confused the concepts of “salary” and “allowance,” thereby giving rise to false perceptions. Potential delays in transferring salaries are due to the uniqueness of the support system. As it is true of other institutions, many costs occurring at the foundation are operational costs, which can only be financed from support. As per the support contract, the Foundation cannot build up reserves, so, until the transfer of next year’s support, such costs cannot be financed in advance. The more than 20-year-old estate mentioned in the article was purchased by the Antall family from private resources, partially from inheritance, partially from loan.

AJKC management and employees showed cooperation upon receiving the reporter’s questions preceding the release of the article on the webpage of Direkt36, documents asked for were provided in every case. Before publishing the article, the reporter did not send the finished article for review, despite a request by AJKC—which the reporter would have been bound to as per the Press law. Thus, the foundation, because of the reporter’s malicious procedure, was hindered in its opportunity provided by law to not to consent to the release of the article quoting substantial change or distortion in its statements as a cause. Therefore, the foundation reserves the right to provide information that is true, including this communiqué, upon the release of the original article and any other article, report, or interview having similar topics or content.

The high level and multifaceted professional activities of AJKC, which are omitted in the defamatory campaign are the best proof of the fulfilment of the institution’s mission and goals.

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