

atlatszo.hu – Watchdog NGO and Center For Investigative Journalism

ATLATSZO.HU


3710 ELŐFIZETŐ
KOZTUK VAGY?

1% 3345 FELAJÁNLÓ
KOZTUK VAGY?

adományával Ön is járuljon hozzá ehhez a küzdelemhez, és támogassa a ~~Fideszt~~ ^{z Átlátszót}

2018. január 9. kedd
 Térképre tettük, hogy mely ingatlanokra jegyeztethet be a kormány elővásárlási jogot

Keresés atlatszo.hu



Nyolc világörökségi vagy természeti örökségi helyszín több mint nyolcvanezer ingatlanját böngészheti interaktív térképünkön. Ezeknek egy részére – egy tavalyi kormányrendelet értelmében – a "világörökségi védelem

jegyében" a magyar állam elővásárlási jogot jegyeztet be. Az innen letölthető, több mint 80 ... [Folytatás](#)

SZIVÁROGTASS!



MAGYARLEAKS

ÁTLÁTSZÓ BLOGOK

English 2018. 01. 10.
Private security guards told to protect government offices from journalists

Világterkép 2018. 01. 10.
Tizenéves szőke kamaszlány a palesztin ellenállás új arca

Átlátszó Oktatás 2018. 01. 10.
2017 a CEU-ról és a szélsőjobbról szólt az Átlátszó Oktatásnál

Átlátszó blog 2018. 01. 10.
Garanciai cége dolgozik Orbánék

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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1. The first nonprofit center for investigative journalism in Hungary

[Atlatszo.hu](http://atlatszo.hu) is a watchdog NGO and a center for investigative journalism endeavoring to promote transparency, accountability, and freedom of information in Hungary. Established in 2011, atlatszo.hu – ‘atlatszo’ means ‘transparent’ in Hungarian – produces investigative reports, accepts information from whistleblowers, files freedom of information requests and commences freedom of information lawsuits in cases where its requests are refused. Atlatszo.hu operates a Tor-based anonymous whistleblowing platform, a freedom of information request generator for the general public, a crowdsourced platform to report everyday corruption anonymously and an independent blogging platform for other NGOs and independent journalists and experts. Atlatszo.hu staff are mostly journalists, supported by subcontracted and volunteer video journalists, legal and IT experts.

Atlatszo.hu is evolving into a popular online news outlet with growing readership and a significant impact on the Hungarian public sphere - our articles were referred to more than 3100 times in 2017 by other Hungarian media outlets. The site covers corruption, campaign financing, financial abuse in public procurement procedures, infrastructure projects and EU funding, environmental abuse and human rights violations. It profiles individuals in public life, mainly politicians and businessmen. [English abstracts](#) of our most important stories are regularly published on our website. The aim of atlatszo.hu is not only to shed light on scandalous misuse of political and economic power and influence; we want something to happen as a result of our work. Follow-up is at the core of our strategy. We make public participation very easy by linking to online social networks and creating tools to help the public express their views to the authorities and to politicians, as well as to hold public officials accountable. Some of our cases develop into official investigations and court cases. The typical reader is a middle class citizen who would like to see a higher standard of life and public discourse in Hungary.



2. Audience and impact

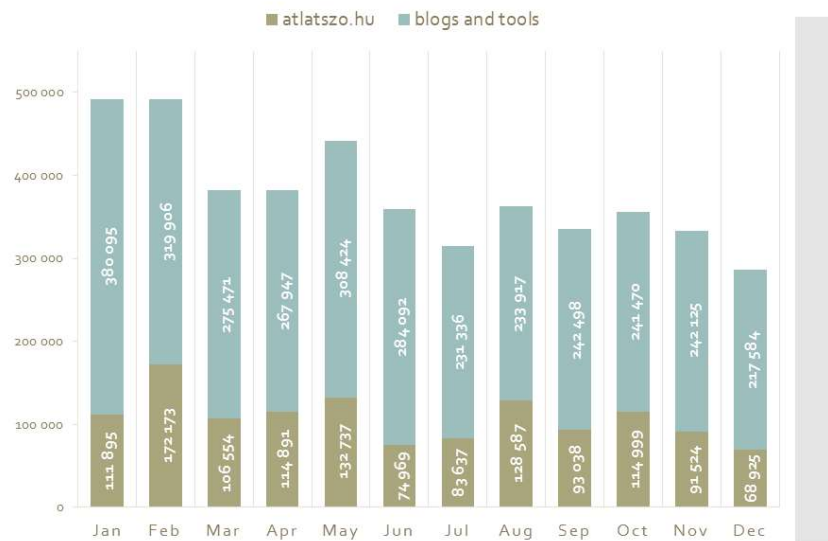
2.1 Audience

In 2017, our websites reached a regular readership of 300,000-500,000 unique visitors monthly (Google Analytics), or 10% of the total Hungarian population at least once a week (Medián Research). Our [Facebook page](#) reached more than 90,000 followers by the end of the year.

Atlatszo.hu and blogs/tools* overview (unique user)

Atlatszo.hu monthly average: 107 827

Atlatszo.hu + blogs/tools monthly average: 378 232



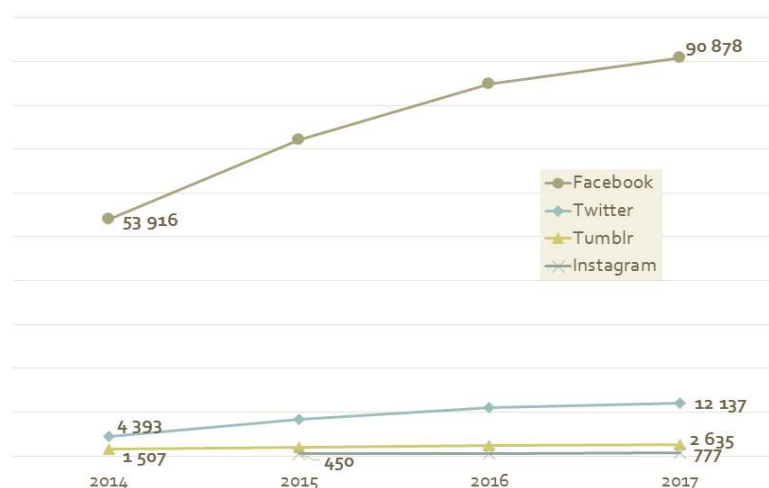
Source: Google Analytics

*Tools: Online applications e.g. KiMitTud

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Atlatszo followers in social media

2014–2017

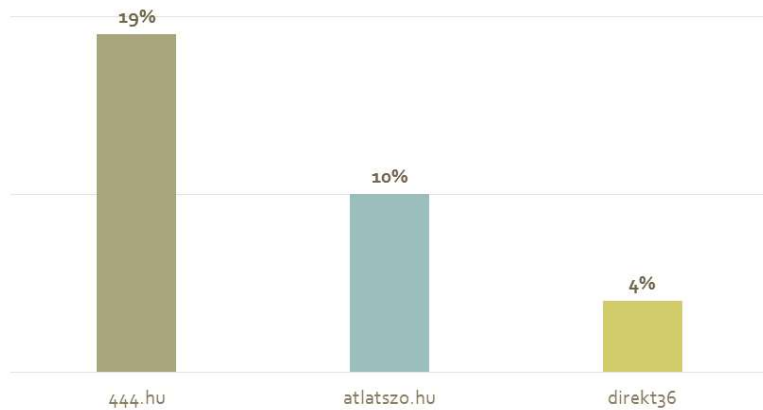


ATLATZSO.HU

Readership of investigative media

Base: total adult population

Source: Medián-Omnibusz, Oct. 2017

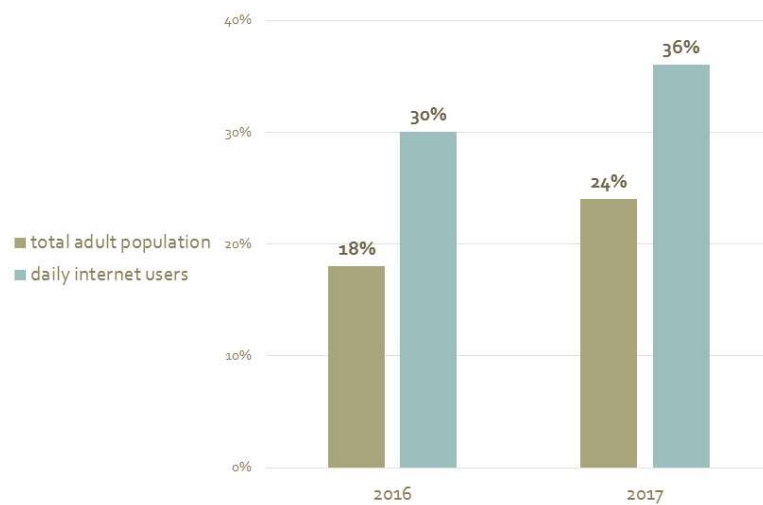


ATLATZSO.HU

Awareness of atlatszo.hu

Direct question: Do you know atlatszo.hu?

Source: Medián-Omnibusz, Oct. 2016/2017



ATLATZSO.HU

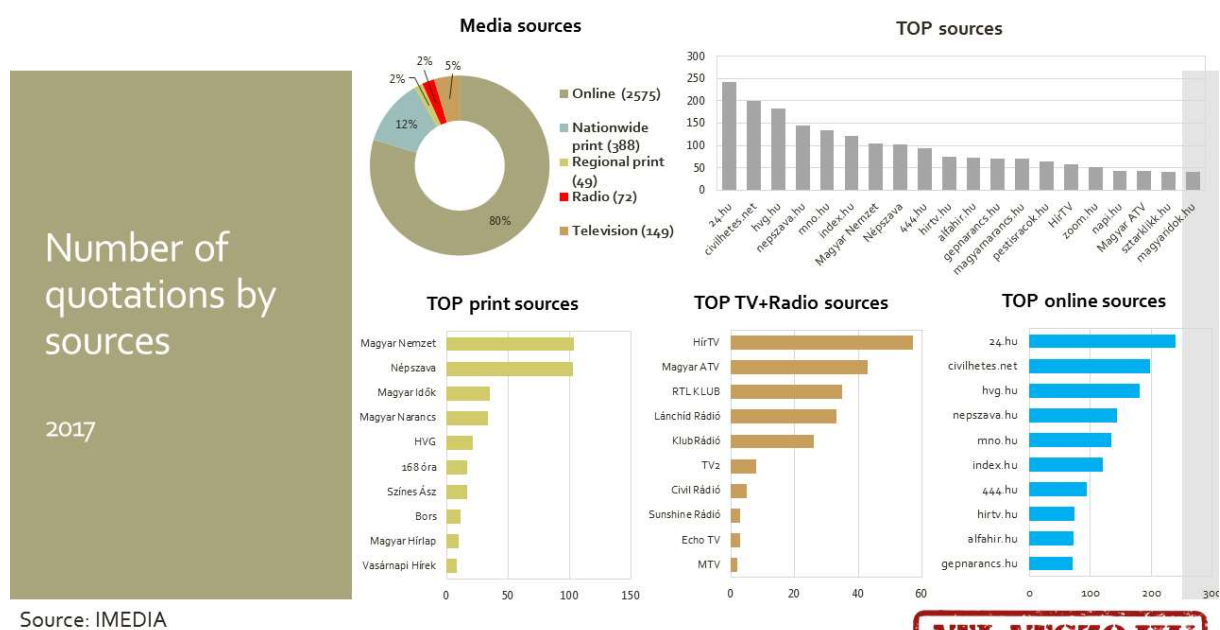
2.2 Impact

Newsworthy stories published by atlatszo.hu get picked up by other media, print and online publications, as well as radio and television, including prime time news broadcasts. Starting in January, 2016, we subcontracted a media monitoring company, IMEDIA to precisely and independently measure the impact and newsworthiness of atlatszo.hu articles.

Atlatszo.hu was quoted, referred to via its publications or was mentioned 3,233 times in 2017 in online, print and electronic sources, analysis of IMEDIA shows. The quotation rate of atlatszo.hu was 10% lower than it was in the previous year (3,636). It is estimated that news pieces that mention atlatszo.hu in 2017 have reached over 520 million viewers and generated an AVE figure of 992 million HUF. Almost 200 items mentioned atlatszo.hu in a negative context in the pro-government media, which continued to criticise atlatszo.hu for accepting financial support from the foundations of György Soros.

The media analysis prepared by IMEDIA reports that Átlátszó was present in the Hungarian media through more than 600 current or past topics in 2017. The brand was mentioned a total of 437 times in the print media and 221 times in radio and television programs. The most print newspapers most active in mentioning Átlátszó included Magyar Nemzet and Népszava, while the radio and television channels showing the most interest were Klub Rádió, HírTV, ATV and RTL Klub.

Quarterly media monitoring reports proved that in terms of impact referring to newsworthy atlatszo.hu stories is not only popular with traditionally left-leaning and liberal media outlets such as Népszava, Klub Rádió or ATV. In fact, the right-leaning channels and papers of former pro-government oligarch and Fidesz party treasurer, Lajos Simicska (Hír TV, Lánchíd Rádió, Magyar Nemzet) are among the most frequent to reference atlatszo.hu articles. At the same time, media outlets created, controlled by or supporting the government rarely refer to atlatszo.hu at all. If they do, they are doing so in a negative, condemnatory way, for example by denouncing OSF sponsorship or accusing atlatszo.hu of ‘serving foreign interests’.



3. Investigations and important topics covered

3.1 Exposing state capture and corruption in public spending

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán takes good care of his supporters. This is clear from the huge amount of state funding that went to loyal corporations via biased tenders during recent years. In 2017, atlatszo.hu continued to expose the state capture which results in public funds channeled to loyalists of the governing party, to government politicians and even to members of the Orbán family. Important stories from 2017:

[Hungarian PM's favorite oligarch wealthier than last century's aristocrats](#)

[Faces of Victims of Corruption: No regrets – András Horváth](#)

[Businessmen with ties to the government own bars in the Budapest ruin bar scene](#)

[Court decision: state-owned electricity company has to publish documents about donation to Orbán's favorite NGO](#)

[PM Orbán's son-in-law bought a luxury estate in Budapest](#)

[High-ranking town hall official allowed to rent apartment owned by the city for fraction of market price](#)

[Foundation close to the prime minister's wife gets EUR 1,6 million from state funds](#)

[State-owned beauty spot sold for bargain price to buyer in Orbán's circle](#)

[Government's favorite security company gets another huge state contract](#)

[Orbán's enigmatic Swiss friend becomes president of Habsburg Otto Foundation](#)

[FINA championships got more expensive two days after closing ceremony](#)

[Billions of state funds spent on traditional Chinese medicine](#)

[Huge donation from state coffers for the government's favorite NGO](#)

[Well-positioned businessman gets away with everything](#)

[Atlatszo.hu tracks oligarchs in the sky](#)

[Hungary behind record property purchase in Serbia](#)

[Turkish billionaire Adnan Polat visited PM Viktor Orbán in Fejérvár](#)

[Premier Orbán and Interior Minister Pintér accused of taking mob payouts in the 1990s](#)

[Government circles use state-owned Eximbank as payout spot for friends](#)

[Costs of relocating government offices to Buda Castle set to soar further](#)

3.2 Investigating irregularities, fraud and corruption with EU funds

Hungary is one of the biggest beneficiaries of European solidarity; our country is a net receiver of European Union funds, which cover most of its development budget. Irregularities, fraud and corruption are frequently present in EU-funded projects in Hungary, ranging from construction of useless buildings and creative accounting to big time political corruption on public tenders. Atlatszo.hu investigated dozens of cases in recent years, some of which ended up being investigated by the EU's anti-fraud unit OLAF as a consequence. Some 2017 highlights:

[Another 5,5 million euros to PM Orbán's friend and his business partner from EU funds](#)

[Hungarian MEP pressing charges for irregularities connected to €1,35 billion mega-tender](#)

[Company promising free energy source awarded €1,6 million from EU funds](#)

[OLAF sparked dozens of investigations in Hungary](#)

[Atlatszo.hu exposes bluff behind road cartel crackdown](#)

[Government prominent gives stables facelift from EU funding](#)

[Passenger numbers at showcase train line kept a secret](#)

[Hungary set to lose major sums from embattled metro venture](#)

[Atlatzso.hu sued government for withholding corruption investigation records](#)
[Residents get goop for massively expensive water-cleaning project](#)

3.3 Exposing local wrongdoings in municipalities and rural areas

Corruption and nepotism are widespread in Hungarian municipalities and rural areas. In 2017, we continued to investigate individual cases of the ‘local state capture situation’ in Hungarian municipalities, uncovering conflicts of interest and cases of wrongdoing. Important stories:

[Atlatzso launches project supporting press freedom in rural Hungary](#)
[Thousands of trees cut and left to die in Budapest](#)
[Company dumps debris at illegal site despite having been paid €13 million for demolition project](#)
[Citizens losing fight against unbearable noise from Budapest Airport](#)
[Budapest council approves dam without risk assessment or contingency plan](#)
[Ownership struggle rages at prestigious porcelain maker](#)
[Small town hands development money to friends](#)

3.4 Investigating government propaganda and media spending

In 2017, the Hungarian government ramped up its propaganda efforts and media spending in order to create a government-friendly media landscape. Atlatzso filed dozens of FOI requests to shed light on the tens of millions of euros of taxpayer money spent on government propaganda and subordinated media outlets. Important stories:

[Russian RT channel renting filming space in Hungary ‘on an ad hoc basis’](#)
[Government propaganda newspaper distributed at renowned Budapest university](#)
[The Hungarian government spent €16.5 million on propaganda in three months](#)
[This is how government-friendly news outlets dominate the Hungarian media](#)
[Government spending €21 million from EU funds on another propaganda campaign](#)
[Hungarian government spent €23 million on anti-Soros and anti-EU campaign](#)
[Atlatzso is suing the foreign intelligence agency for documents it compiled about ‘Soros-funded NGOs’](#)
[Hungarian PM met anti-Soros DC lobbyists](#)
[Political takeover turns prestigious weekly inside out](#)
[Ten million euros spent on ‘Stronger Hungary’ campaign](#)
[Fake news: Vladimir’s Best Disciples](#)
[Shady investors eye ownership in government-friendly media outlet](#)

3.5 Exposing Hungarian ties of the Azerbaijani Laundromat

The [Azerbaijani Laundromat uncovered by the OCCRP](#) was a money-laundering scheme and slush fund used by Azerbaijani elites to disguise the origin of billions of dollars, purchase goods and services and make secret payments to companies and individuals in the European Union. It was also used to directly enrich powerful, well-connected Azerbaijani politicians. This is aptly illustrated by the case of Yaqub Eyyubov – one of the country’s most powerful officials – and his family. Atlatzso contributed to the story by researching the Hungarian connections of an offshore company owned by the son of Yaqub Eyyubov which received a series of payments totalling over \$9 million to a Hungarian bank account in 2012.

[Atlatszo is joining forces with Hungarian MEP to urge a comprehensive inquiry into the Azerbaijani Laundromat](#)
[Azerbaijani slush fund transferred millions of dollars to Hungary in 2012](#)

3.6 Investigating hidden research on a tectonic fault line below a planned nuclear plant

A tectonic fault line runs under the site of the planned Paks II nuclear power plant in Hungary. Moreover, a geologist found traces of earthquakes that happened less than ten thousand years ago and reached the surface right next to the site of the nuclear plant. This means that the site of the nuclear plant and its planned expansion do not comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) seismic safety recommendations. The detailed results of the latest geological inspection of the site assessing earthquake risks were kept hidden until Atlatszo uncovered and published them.

[Paks II. NPP site should be moved because it sits right at tectonic fault line, says expert](#)
[Paks II. NPP site does not comply with IAEA seismic safety recommendations](#)
[Geologist says substantial information were lost or neglected by Paks2 NPP site geological studies](#)

3.7 Investigating organized crime cases

Hungarians involved in an international money-laundering operation, suspected self-burglary at a politically well-connected residency bond firm, mob-era accusations against the interior minister, fraudulent investment company with good political connections, strongmen helping out the governing party - 2017 was an eventful year for organized crime in Hungary. Stories we covered:

[U.S. asking for the extradition of six Hungarians in money-laundering case](#)
[The in-house anti-corruption police unit is watching the Arton Capital burglary investigation](#)
[Self-burglary suspected in case of EUR 1,9 million stolen from residency bond company](#)
[Strongmen blocking opposition referendum found to have criminal records](#)
[Minister tied to scene of mob-era assassination attempt](#)
[Hungarian bank tied to international money-laundering scheme](#)
[Vultures circle bounty of massive broker theft](#)
[Assets of fraudulent investment firm targeted by oligarchy](#)
[Police slow to crack down on fraudulent investment firm](#)

3.8 Shedding light on how MEPs spend their allowances

The investigation into the MEPs' national offices was conducted over several months by a group of 48 journalists, representing all 28 EU member states, with financial support from [Journalismfund.eu](#). Hungary was represented by Atlatszo. In 2015, the group formally asked the European Parliament for access to documents showing how MEPs conduct their public spending. The requests were denied. The journalist then brought the case to the European Court of Justice, where it is still pending.

[Hungarian MEPs from the governing party silent about office rent](#)
[European Parliament under pressure for spending taxpayer money on 'ghost offices'](#)

4. Innovation in storytelling and data journalism

4.1 Innovation in visual storytelling

4.1.1 Camera drone project

Thanks to a successful donation rally, Atlatzso.hu managed to acquire a camera drone in 2016 which has since been used in many of our investigations, while other journalists and members of civil society have also discovered the opportunities that this technology presents. Hungarians could get a far broader, aerial view of key stories, such as anti-government protests, the march of immigrants and clashes with the asylum-seekers at the border, which would have been left with a much more limited perspective relying only on what could be seen at ground level.



4.1.2 Facebook Live project

Facebook Live is a valuable new addition to the social network, which lets you record video and broadcast it live to your followers. Whereas previously videos had to be recorded and uploaded to the app or website after the fact, Facebook Live makes it possible to share those moments as they're happening. We started to experiment with FB Live in 2017, broadcasting political protests as they were happening.



A gyorskocsi utcában százak nagyságrendű tömeg maradt
6.3K views · April 11, 2017



A gyorskocsi utcában
62K views · April 11, 2017



Tüntetés Gulyás Márton mellett.
A Nyomozóügyszég előtt...
22K views · April 11, 2017



A Sándor palota előtt a belvárosba vonultak a CEU...
9.8K views · April 11, 2017

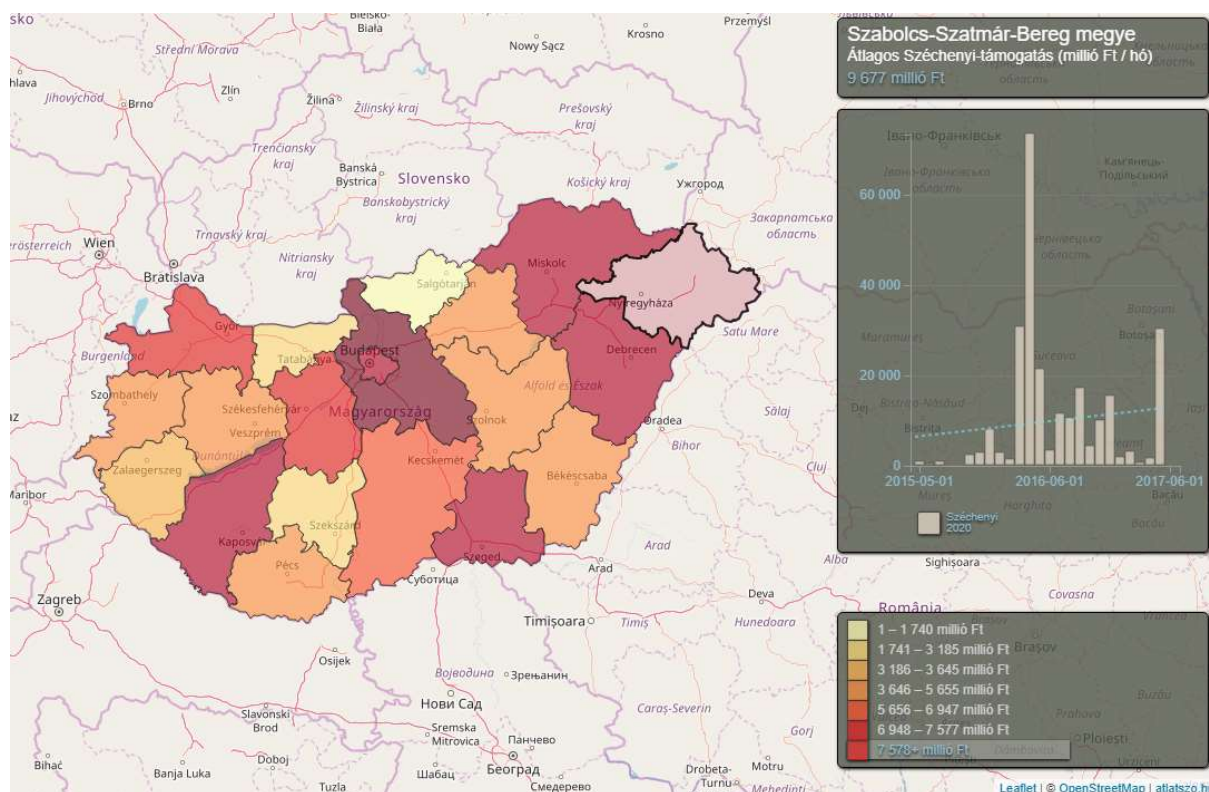
4.2 Data journalism and data visualisation

Data journalism and data visualisation are on the rise in journalism globally, therefore Atlatzso is producing more and more data journalism and data visualisation projects itself. We launched a blog for the genre ([Adatújságírás](#)) and also produced a number of data features during the year 2017. Some of the highlights can be seen below.

4.2.1 Database of EU-funded projects

In June of 2017, Atlatzso released its second interactive map showing how the Hungarian government is spending European Union funds. The latest interactive map visualizes projects and payments of the Széchenyi 2020 programme, between 2015 and 2017. Every week, up until the end of the programme, we update the map with the latest payments. Anyone can browse through the data, look up their own town or village and see who received EU funds for what purpose in the region. More details:

[Data visualization: this is how the Hungarian government is spending EU funds in the Széchenyi 2020 Programme](#)



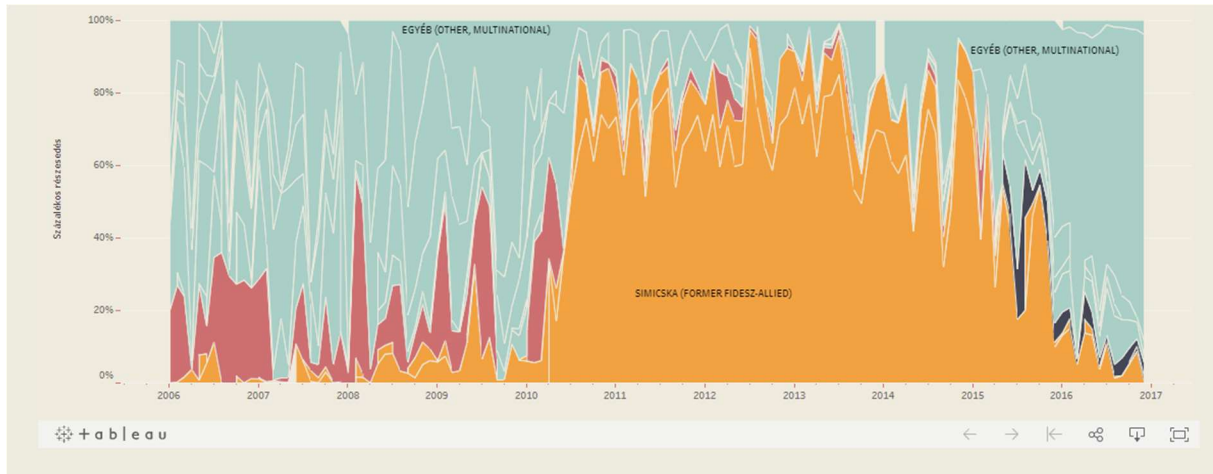
4.2.2 HÖK Monitor

Using the feature released in March 2017, [you can take a look](#) inside the pockets of Hungarian student unions. In our student blog Átlatszó Oktatás's biggest project yet, we collected information on the finances of the largest Hungarian universities in an easy-to-access database of more than 57.000 entries. More details:

[Átlatszó Oktatás launches website to monitor Hungarian student unions](#)

4.2.3 State advertising

The distribution of state advertising sources has always been a useful tool of political favouritism based on political sympathy, loyalty or business interests. With this practice one government can influence the media market or, in special cases, it can dangerously distort it. [Mérték Média Monitor's project](#) on state advertising has been gathering the data and visualising trends in state advertising since 2006.



4.2.4 Farmland privatization

The Hungarian government auctioned off an incredible amount of state-owned land in 2015 and 2016. The state put up 290,000 hectares for sale and managed to sell two-thirds of that. Atlatszo.hu spent months mapping this enormous sale of land and we presented our findings in [different maps and infographics here](#). Read more: [Data visualization: mapping the results of state land auctions](#)



4.2.5 Income inequalities

This joint project of Atlatszo and the Fiscal Responsibility Institute gives users the opportunity to check where they stand on the income distribution scale in Hungary. The data is based on the 2015 income tax data of Hungarian citizens, data obtained from the Hungarian Tax Authority (NAV). [The website](#) is quite simple but shocking for many. Users use two scales: on the first scale they set how much money they make in a month and then on the second scale they guess where that places them among Hungarian taxpayers. Then they submit the data and find out where they actually are, that is, how many of their countrymen make less or more money than they do.

5. Legal strategy and results

Our legal strategy is based on the perception that public data is often withheld by state institutions in Hungary and by those using public funds. Therefore, freedom of information requests are not sufficient alone and court procedures must be initiated in order to obtain documents of sensitive nature. In the past years we filed more than 120 court applications of this nature. Our aim is to impact individual cases and to force authorities to react.

Atlatzso.hu has won more than 60 percent of the FOI lawsuits we have initiated, while in some cases the fact of the court application was enough to obtain the public information in question and the case was dropped. In fact, we have been so successful in the courtrooms that, in 2013, the governing majority introduced a bill to curtail FOI legislation which was dubbed 'Lex Átlátszó' by the Hungarian press.

The case which received the most impressive media coverage of the year 2017 was regarding a 508 million HUF subsidy by state-owned electricity company MVM given to an NGO closely allied with the government named CÖF. The existence and the amount of the contract were revealed by the company in response to our FOI request. We successfully sued MVM for details on said cooperation and also sued CÖF for data on their other subsidies, winning both cases at the Budapest Court. Both of the procedures are awaiting second instance decisions scheduled for the following months.

Some government ministries denied us court wins: three of our 2017 cases ended when the ministries voluntarily gave us the requested data right after we initiated the respective lawsuits. As a result, we received the detailed media spending breakdown of governmental propaganda campaigns, the complete documentation of the EU funding of the Felcsút railway project and an internal report on a corruption case involving a Fidesz MP.

Regarding legal activities before domestic legal fora, among our most important results worth mention would be winning a case against the professional organisation of independent debt collection officers working for the judiciary. As a result, they had to publish data about their spending. We also won FOI trials against various state-owned firms and higher education institutions. Most of our university trials were in connection to the Atlatzso Education blog that managed to set up a comprehensive database on the payments received by student representatives participating in the leaderships of these universities.

Cooperating with other journalists from every EU member state, in 2017 we sued the European Parliament to make the spending of Members of European Parliament more transparent. We participated in a pan-european effort with journalists joining from each member state to compel the bloc's decision-making body to disclose the details of how it administers the expense allowances it gives to its members on top of their salaries.

Besides using courts, our primary choice for legal remedy became the National Freedom of Information and Data Protection Authority (NAIH), which is faster, and also cheaper, than courts. In 2017, we submitted 20 complaints to NAIH. Almost all of the cases were decided in favour of atlatzso.hu acting as the complainant.

In 2017, atlatzso.hu made significant efforts to challenge the practice of public authorities and public bodies in overcharging those who file FOI requests for access to data, the aim being to block access to the data. We counterattacked with launching court procedures, NAIH

complaints and legal aid to fellow FOI request submitters. As a result, fees were abolished or significantly lowered. The largest claim for a fee in our practice also came in 2017 for a request to provide detailed data on the subsidies for Hungarians living abroad. The fee of 31 million HUF that was demanded is currently under review by NAIH.

The primary mission of atlatszo.hu is to investigate corruption, write about our findings and to enhance transparency. However, the apparent lack of capacity for quality work among law enforcement authorities (or the lack of political will for push for high level investigations) forced us to submit a report to the law enforcement in what we considered an evident corruption crime case.

We submitted all the documents our journalists had investigated which were relevant to the Azerbaijan Laundromat case to the Chief Public Prosecutor in the Hungarian chapter. While this report was already partially rejected on the basis of the absence of a criminal act, we also began to develop a public database incorporating all the publicly known crime reports by any actors (politicians, NGO's, public figures) with their outcomes.

In 2017, we were sued several times for corrections or for alleged violation of inherent rights. Our legal team fended off legal attacks by municipalities, as well as by politicians and businessmen closely related to the government.

The legal team of atlatszo.hu also supported dozens of ordinary citizens who filed freedom of information requests on various topics via our public online freedom of information request generator service. Our lawyers also held trainings and presentations on freedom of information and media law both in Hungary and abroad.



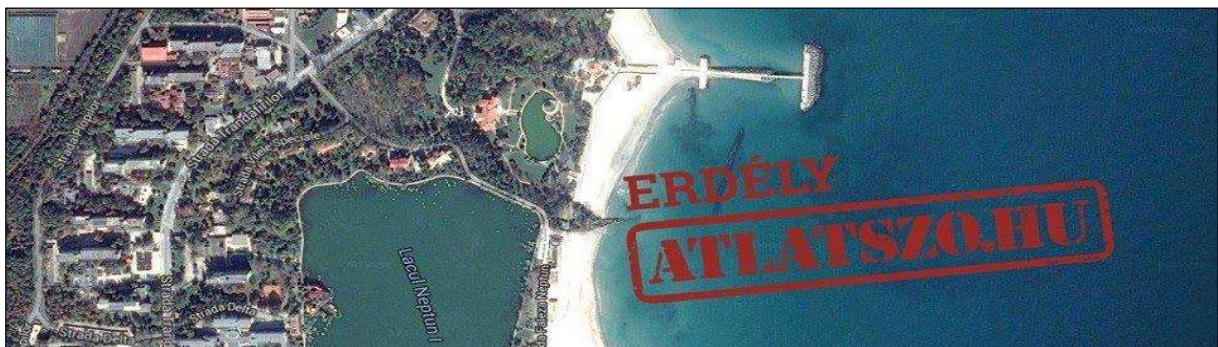
6. Online services

6.1 Independent blogging platform

In 2014, we launched a multisite Wordpress blogging platform and started a handful of our own blogs as well as inviting others to blog with us. Running a blogging platform allows us to boost our visitor numbers and provide a publishing space for other independent media, experts and NGOs. Until now, atlatszo.hu has started 9 blogs of its own and attracted another 14 quality guest blogs, among them [Átlátszó Oktatás](#) and [Átlátszó Erdély](#), the student and the Transylvanian watchdog blogs inspired by the atlatszo.hu project.

In 2017, we started a new blog under the name [Vidéki csajok](#) to put an emphasis on the issues faced by women in politics, business and culture. It is incredibly important to cover such topics in Hungary where the current government includes only men and where the number of female members of parliament is extremely low (about 10 percent). Posts published on this blog have already covered topics such as the special challenges faced by female politicians, the policies of the Hungarian government towards working mothers, sexual harassment in public life, the #metoo movement and a controversial dating website in Hungary for 'sugar daddies' looking for young women.

In 2017, we also launched a special blog for rural watchdog content, [Országszerte](#), which covers controversial topics outside the capital. The reason is that by the beginning of the year, the structure of rural media had become distorted to an extent unparalleled since the fall of the Kádár regime since the majority of local and regional media had been bought by pro-government oligarchs and frontmen. Local television stations, news portals and print papers have become the message boards of powerful local politicians. By opening this channel, we wish to provide a platform for regional issues that would not reach the national media otherwise and to supply a regular income to journalists outside Budapest. We offer them trainings by sharing basic knowledge of media law and journalism as well as provide them with an opportunity to publish.



6.2 FOI request generator (kimittud.org)

[Kimittud](#) is an easy-to-handle online tool for citizens who wish to obtain information from government departments, agencies and state owned companies. It is everyone's right under the freedom of information laws of Hungary to request information from any public body who are then legally obliged to respond. Therefore, we translated and created a Hungarian version of alaveteli.org's freedom of information request generator. It's a simple concept: citizens use the website to request information and the replies are recorded on the website for all to see.

Historical requests, along with any resulting correspondence, are archived publicly online. Since its launch in 2012, Kimittud has enabled more than 10,100 freedom of information requests and more and more citizens are discovering its power.



powered by atlatszo.hu

Bejelentkezés vagy regisztráció

ÚJ IGÉNYLÉS ADATIGÉNYLÉSEK ADATGAZDÁK SÚGÓ

„ A KIMITTud weboldal megújult, az új verzió jelenleg teszt üzemmódban működik. Ha bármi furcsaságot tapasztalnak, **írják meg nekünk**, mi pedig gyorsan kijavítjuk. „

10 195 adatigénylés és 5 146 adatgazda között böngészhet pillanatnyilag a rendszerünkben.

Keresés

6.3 Crowdsourced bribe tracker (fizettem.hu)

We translated and created a Hungarian version of the an online tool for citizens to anonymously report their experiences of everyday corruption. Using this platform users can report on the nature, number, pattern, type, location, frequency and value of actual corrupt acts. Reports submitted to Fizettem.hu provide a snapshot of bribes and other instances of corruption occurring across the country.

6.4 Discussion and voting platform (evoks.hu)

DemocracyOS is an online platform for deliberation and voting on political proposals. It is a platform designed for a more open and participatory government. The open source software developed in Brazil aims to stimulate better discourse. Atlatszo.hu translated and translated and created a Hungarian version of the platform in 2015 and has launched dozens of threads since.



6.5 Fake news hunter educational tool (alhirvadasz.hu)

Atlatzso launched this project together with the Association of Hungarian Content Providers to help high school students learn how to differentiate credible news stories from misinformation. The interactive game uses real-life examples, that is, stories actually published by the media. While the players click through the questions, the explanations teach them the most important tools for judging a news story they see. For example, questioning whether the source quoted credible and if the story cites well-known propaganda outlets. The Fake News Hunter, however, not only concentrates on political news; it also shows the users how certain popular websites spread false healthcare information and provides them with the best practices for using social media to find and share news. The game has four levels, each more and more complicated, called Beginner, Intern, Editor and Investigative Reporter.



6.6 Secure leaking platform (magyarleaks.hu)

Cooperation with anonymous sources and the protection of whistleblowers is very important to us; therefore, we implemented a secure submission platform, [MagyarLeaks](https://magyarleaks.hu), for whistleblowers using software developed by GlobaLeaks, secured by the Tor network to protect the identity of anonymous sources. In 2017, we received 3-4 submissions a week on average, every 10th disclosure being worthy of further journalistic scrutiny.

GLOBALEAKS

7. Workshops and trainings offered to journalists and activists

7.1 Freedom of Information

Our half-day workshop offers a brief introduction to the Freedom of Information Act and international examples of online tools that help citizens send FOI requests. During the lecture, participants learn about what public data means and how to use of atlatszo.hu's free, public online FOI request generator system, KiMitTud. A member of our legal team provides a glimpse of the legal aspects of filing a freedom of information request: listing the information that falls under the FOIA, steps to be taken if a request is denied, as well as authorities and NGOs that provide legal assistance in case one decides to file a lawsuit to obtain the requested information. In addition, our FOI workshop includes a hands-on guide to filing FOI requests: participants register on KiMitTud, send requests with the help of our staff member who is experienced in framing the text of a request and who answers participants' questions about how to obtain certain information. By the end of the training, participants obtain skills in how to acquire data of public interest, such as finding the data owner, framing the text of a request and taking legal steps until they receive the requested information.



7.2 Investigative Journalism Techniques

Our next workshop topic is investigative journalism techniques, as explained by atlatszo.hu's investigative journalists who share basic knowledge on journalism and the production of blog posts based on information obtained from whistleblowers and "legal leaks" (i.e. responses to FOIA requests). Elaborating on the methodology followed by journalists when producing credible blog posts, journalists walk participants through the procedure, from getting information to writing a post, using examples from their own work. They learn about the importance of fact-checking, useful interview techniques, using public databases (e.g. company database, procurement database, etc.), finding local sources, using traditional print sources in general (e.g. newspapers, libraries, and archives) and, above all, how to plan an in-depth investigative story from beginning to end. Our trainers highlight the importance of protecting not only their source but themselves by requesting a legal check from experts before publishing to avoid lawsuits. By the end of the workshop, participants acquire skills in the use of public databases, finding and using local sources, interview techniques, basic knowledge of media law and planning investigative work from collecting data to posting an article. Bloggers and journalist learn basic journalism and editing techniques, including how to classify/organize the information they obtained and tell a story in a way that is both informative and digestible to a wide audience.

7.3 Data Journalism and Data Visualization

Atlatszo.hu's journalists are regular users of off-the-shelf data visualisation tools like infogr.am, or VIS, a data visualization platform designed to assist investigative journalists in mapping complex business or crime networks. By using data visualisation our goal is to help the audience understand corruption, organized crime and other wrongdoings, as well as to translate complex narratives into simple, universal visual language. During our one-day workshop, participants learn what data is, what kind of data journalist use and where they can find it, what sort of theoretical and practical problems arise when dealing with data and what makes a good data design. In the second part of our workshop, our lecturer provides hands-on experience with new tools in data journalism and data visualization. Participants practice data conversion using PDFTables, Tabula, and Import.io, are shown simple tricks with Excel, visualize data with Infogram and more complex data with Tableau, learn to use Carto and Tableau to visualize maps and more. By the end of the workshop, journalist and bloggers are able to procure data, convert it into a usable form and gain the skills to visualize the data by making graphs and more complex visuals, including maps.

7.4 Online Security

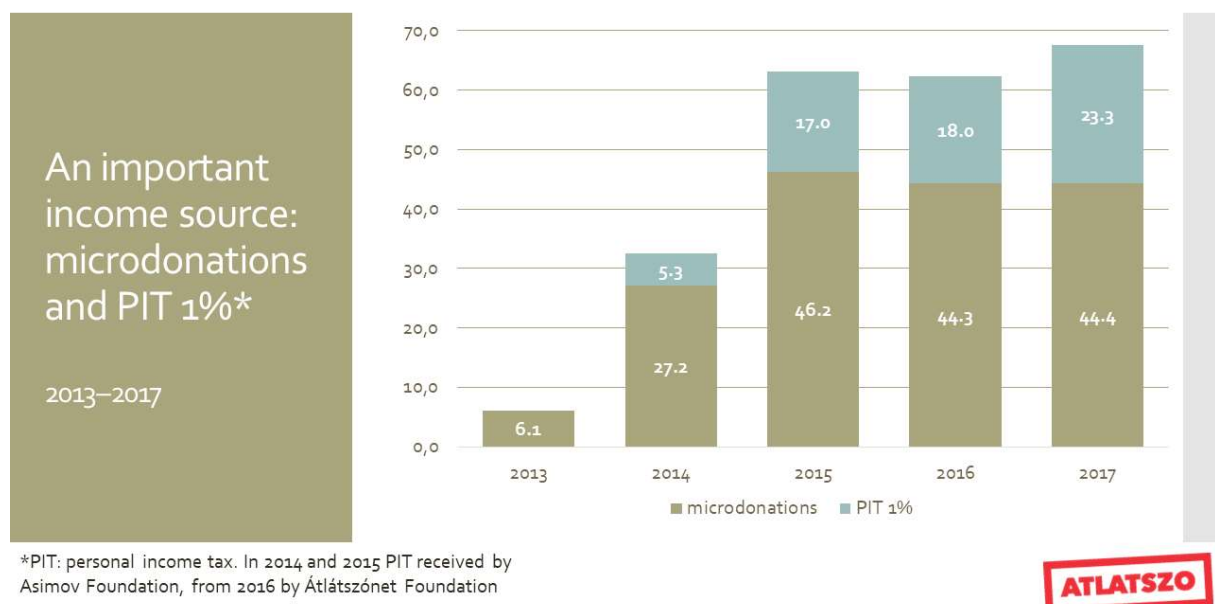
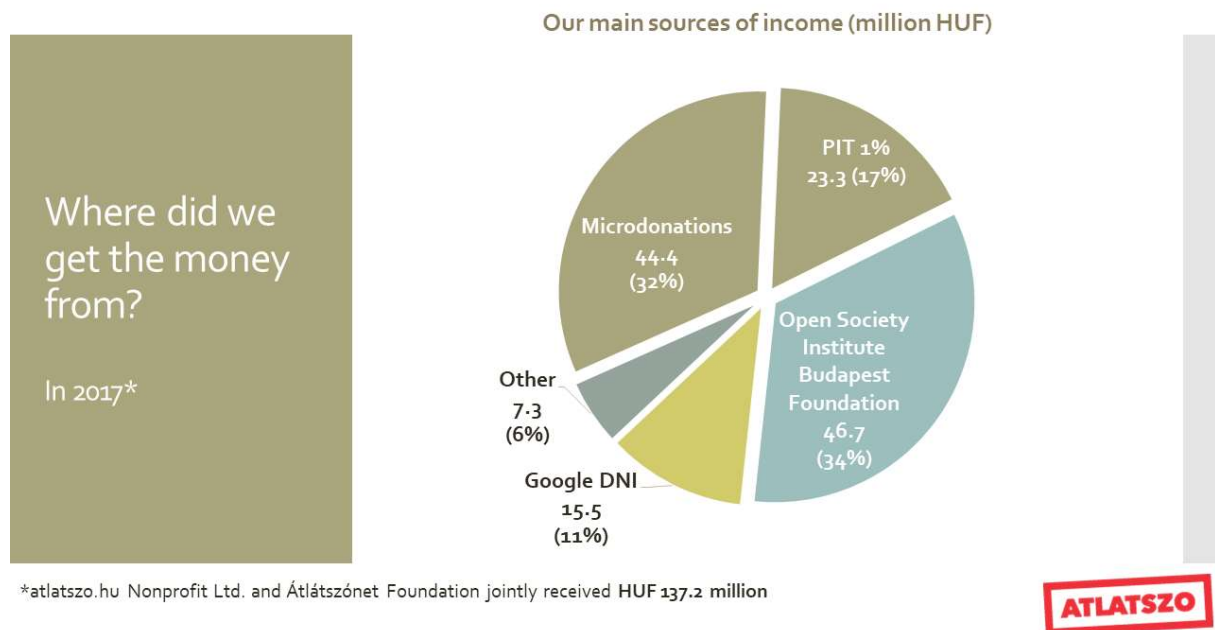
This half-day workshop is intended to raise awareness of information security risks for journalists and activists. Through case studies, participants become familiar with topics including wiretapping, PC monitoring, email hacking, social media attacks, stealing or confiscation of digital equipment, verbal threats online or by phone and different types of cyber attacks. By the end of our workshop, journalists learn about useful tools and techniques to minimize the risk of cyber security breaches. Participants learn about endpoint protection, online account protection via good passwords and two-factor authentication and the encryption of their locally-stored data, as well as about applications which employ encryption tools to protect their data in transit and are already built into the operating system.

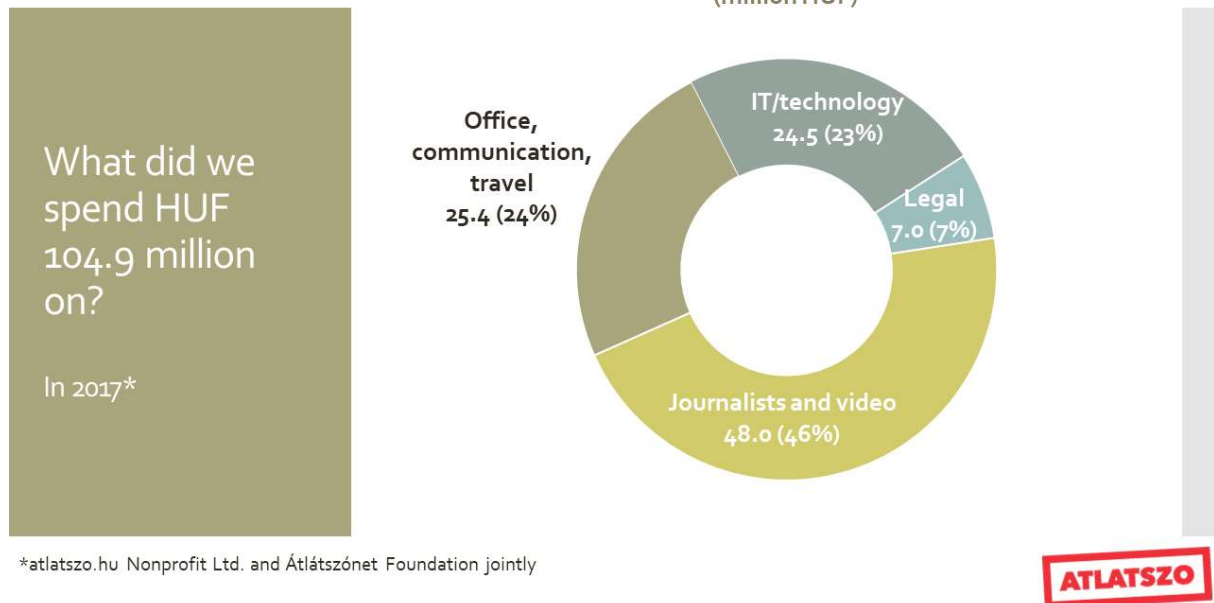
7.5 Fake news

Atlatszo.hu has recently launched an online quiz called "Be a Fake News Hunter!", targeting secondary school students, and is developing a workshop for teachers on how to utilize this online tool in schools. Our project was prompted by the realization that the recognition of fake news and disinformation is becoming ever more difficult as they are now part of our everyday news stream as well as the mainstream media. One weapon in hand is education, starting from the upper classes of elementary school and secondary school. FakeNewsHunter is a playful test showing users how fake news, disinformation, exaggeration behind tabloid stories and conspiracy theories can be identified. In addition to our online quiz a useful vocabulary, various tools and reading materials can be found on a constantly expanding website. There are four levels in the game, and completed levels can be shared on Facebook and Twitter which makes the quiz more attractive for young users. The online tool also offers help for users through short explanations. A workshop for teachers on how to utilize this online tool in schools is currently under development to complement our quiz. Meanwhile, Atlatszo.hu journalists bring the test to schools and present FakeNewsHunter in 45 minutes in social studies or media classes. During these workshops, students get familiar with the meaning of "fake news" and tricks used by those spreading fake news. They also learn how to recognize exaggeration behind tabloid stories. Students are urged to use their smartphones to aid them in classes. Workshops are recommended to students aged 10-14 and 14-18 years.

8. Funding

The NGO is financed by nonpartisan and non-governmental sources; we do not accept money from Hungarian state institutions, political parties and affiliates. Individual donors – more than 3,000 private citizens – have contributed significantly. Crowdfunding is very important to us, we regularly campaign our readership to donate. Micronations and income tax 1 percents offered accounted more than 50% in the 2017 budget. Institutional donors include various programs of the *Open Society Foundations*, a grant from the *Google Digital News Initiative* and *Visegrad Fund* projects. The total income of 2017 was 137 million HUF (cca. 442,000 EUR or 527,000 USD).





9. Recent Prizes and Awards

European Press Prize 2017, shortlisted for “The Innovation Award”

Over recent years, Hungary has received huge amounts of funding from the European Union. Now, thanks to an interactive map developed by Atlatszo.hu, anyone can learn how and where the money is spent and see whether specific political affiliation is an advantage when applying for EU funds here in Hungary. The preparatory committee on Monitoring EU Funded Projects in Hungary said: ‘Extremely well-researched and well written! Interesting investigation of misuse of EU funds in Hungary.’

SozialMarie 2016

[KiMitTud](#), the online tool implemented by Atlatszo.hu to provide easier access to important public information, has been internationally acknowledged. The system received Austria’s €10,000 Sozial Marie award in recognition of the initiative’s innovative nature, as well as its social impact.

Hungarian Pulitzer Memorial Award 2016

Atlatszo.hu was honored to receive the prestigious Pulitzer Memorial Award, the Hungarian prize for quality journalism named after Hungarian-born journalist Joseph Pulitzer. The Hungarian Pulitzer is the only such award outside the United States. Lajos Sipos, head of the foundation responsible for selecting award recipients, commented at the presentation ceremony that the main criterion for the award is to choose outlets and professionals which observe Pulitzer’s guiding principle: that the truth is more important than political loyalties.

Hégető Honorka Video Award 2015

Atlatszo.hu received the 2015 Hégető Honorka Video Award founded and curated by the RTL-KLUB television for an investigative video feature on land lease controversies in the Hortobagy region of Hungary, where the governmental redistribution of farmland leases has crippled the livelihoods of established farmers, alongside what appear to be generous pay outs to political allies.

Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Award 2015

“Hungarian journalist Tamás Bodoky founded the investigative news website Atlatszo.hu to promote a free press in Hungary, a country where journalists and news organisations face recently-introduced media taxes, a proposed internet tax for citizens, smear campaigns and police-run office raids. Bodoky has brought together a range of crowd-sourced approaches to empower citizens in the face of this deterioration of human rights, including tools to allow for anonymous reporting of corruption and to help investigate freedom of information requests (and refusals), as well as MagyarLeaks, a Tor-based whistleblowing service.”

Earlier awards: **Breaking Borders Award** – 2012, Global Voices and Google; **European Citizen Prize** – 2014, European Parliament; **Theodor Heuss Medaille** – 2015, Theodor-Heuss-Stiftung (DE)



10. Organisational structure

10.1 Board of supervisors



Andrea Pelle is a lawyer and attorney. She graduated from the ELTE Law School in 1986 and has been active in human rights and civil liberties movements since 1988. In the 1990's, she provided legal support at the Independent Legal Support Service for psychiatric patients and defendants in court cases regarding drug abuse. During the same time, she also took part in the police, jail and prison monitoring program of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. In 1994, she was a founding member of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU). For over two decades, the HCLU has monitored legislation, pursued strategic litigation, conducted public education and launched awareness-raising media campaigns. Pelle worked with the HCLU until 2013, when she left the Union and became a founding member of Szuverén Civil Society where she provides pro bono legal representation for defendants who are prosecuted for acts of civil disobedience.



Attila Mong is an investigative journalist and reporter currently based in Berlin, Germany. Until April of 2012, he was editor at Origo.hu, the biggest Hungarian news site. Before that, he worked for the Hungarian Public Radio as the host of the daily 3-hour morning show. Between 2000 and 2009, he was the host of a daily evening political talk show at private newsradio Inforadio. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Manager Magazin, a Spiegel-owned business monthly (2005-2007) and also worked for various broadcast and print outlets in Hungary. He was senior editor at Figyelo, a business weekly (1999-2004), co-founder of Figyelonet.hu, a business portal (2000-2001) and an editor-reporter at Hungarian Public Radio (1995-98) and Hungarian Public TV (1997-2000). Attila Mong is the author of a prize-winning book on one of Hungary's greatest banking scandals and has received various investigative journalism prizes (Pulitzer Memorial Prize 2004, Göbolyös Soma prize 2003).



Gábor Polyák is associate professor at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Law, Department for ITC Law. He graduated in law and media sciences at the University of Pécs, Hungary. He completed an LL.M. degree at the University of Vienna on ITC law. His PhD was completed at the University of Pécs. He is the chief editor of the Hungarian professional journal 'Infokommunikáció és Jog' ('Infocommunications and Law'). He is author of numerous publications and expert papers in media law, informatics law and telecommunications law. Polyák is the professional leader of the Mérték Media Monitor, a think tank and watchdog organisation focussed on the Hungarian media sector. Based on legal, journalistic, sociological and economic expertise, Mertek evaluates media policy measures and lays out its own policy proposals.

10.2 Management



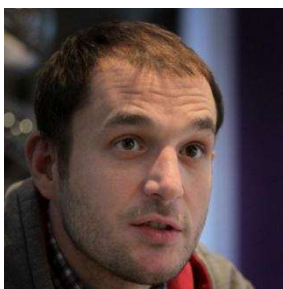
Tamás Bodoky (*Executive Director*) is an investigative journalist, editor and nonprofit manager based in Budapest, Hungary. Bodoky has been a journalist since 1996. Before founding atlatszo.hu, he worked at Magyar Narancs weekly newspaper for five years as a science and technology writer and Index.hu online news provider for nine years in different journalistic and editorial positions. Bodoky won the Gőbölös Soma Prize for his articles on Hungary's 2006 unrest and police brutality. Bodoky has won the Iustitia Regnorum Fundamentum and the Hungarian Pulitzer Memorial Prize for his investigative articles and FOI lawsuits on corruption cases. Bodoky holds an MSc degree in Agricultural Sciences (Gödöllő University, 1995) and a PhD degree in Communication (University of Pécs, 2010). Bodoky is a member of the international investigative journalism networks “Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project” and “The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.”



Krisztina Zala (*Finances, Administration and Project Management*) has an MA in Psychology from the Eötvös Loránd University and more than 15 years experience in content development projects. She worked as strategic director at Geomédia Publishing and iMTM Media, Secretary General at the Association of Hungarian Content Providers, Editor-in-Chief at Mindentudás Egyeteme Kht., project manager at National Audiovisual Archive of Hungary and as project manager at various other companies including Invitel and Elmű. She has been working with atlatszo as volunteer project manager since 2012, has been responsible for financial management of the organisation since January of 2013 and also for fundraising project management since January, 2014.



Ákos Maróty (*Technology*) is a member and founder of several non-profit and commercial initiatives, spanning commercial-grade and open source software engineering, artificial life and emergent systems research, media- and bio-art projects and community radio stations. Maróty is a founder and CTO of EU Edge LLC, an outsourced software development company catering mainly to US customers from Budapest, Hungary, and Scarab Research, a company working with Artificial Intelligence methods to provide smart, personalized product recommendations for e-commerce sites. He is a member of the doubleNegatives Architecture (dNA) group of Tokyo, Japan, with whom he is working on the generative architecture project Corpora. Maróty is a founder and former organizer of the Budapest New Technology Meetup, a monthly gathering of new-tech enthusiasts in Budapest, Hungary, and founder and vice president of the Open Standards Alliance, an organization that aims to promote interoperability in the IT industry.



Dr. Csaba Tordai (*Attorney at Law*) is a constitutional lawyer. After graduating from the ELTE Law School in 2003, he worked at the Ministry of Justice, becoming head of the Department of Constitutional Law in 2005. He drafted the new Hungarian anti-discrimination law (2003), the act on electronic freedom of expression (2005), the amendment to establish the Independent Police Complaints Board (2006) and the act establishing the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations (2007). Between 2007 and 2010, he was state secretary, and then senior state secretary, on legal and administrative affairs at the Prime Minister's Office. Since October of 2010, he has been a practising attorney-at-law.

10.3 Staff

Journalists

Anita Kőműves (*Investigative Journalist*) Kőműves has MA degrees in journalism and English literature. She covered international news (specializing in U.S. politics) at the daily newspaper Népszabadság for 11 years, until 2016. She was awarded the Humphrey/Fulbright Fellowship in 2015 and studied investigative and data journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park for two semesters; during this time she did a six-month internship at The Washington Post. She writes in both English and Hungarian. Her stories have been published in, among others, Quartz, Transitions Online, Bloomberg Businessweek Online, OCCRP.org and The Wall Street Journal. She joined atlatszo.hu in June, 2017 and has been concentrating on cross-border journalism projects since then.

Attila Bátorfy (*Data Journalist*) Bátorfy is a journalist and media expert working for Átlátszó and Central European University. Previously he worked at Kreatív, a professional b2b magazine about media and advertising, and Vs.hu, where he was head of data projects. He is a research fellow at Central European University's Center for Media, Data and Society and an editorial staff member of Médiakutató journal. He also teaches journalism methods and data journalism at Eötvös Loránd Science University and Metropolitan University of Budapest. He runs several data and media literacy-related projects with NGOs like Transparency International, Center for Independent Journalism, Mérték Media Monitor, Association of Hungarian Content Providers and Media Department of Vienna University. He is the founder of Databánya, a community of data journalism and data visualisation enthusiasts. For his journalistic work he has received the Award for Quality Journalism, Eörsi János Memorial Award and Prima Junior. He is currently working on a handbook of data journalism.

Antónia Rádi (*Senior Investigative Journalist*) Rádi studied journalism at Bálint György Academy of Journalism and law at the University of Szeged. She has been working as a journalist and news editor since 1993. She worked at policial daily Népszabadság (1993-2000) and at economic news magazine HVG (2000-2015). She has been working at Átlátszó since 2015. She won the Pulitzer Memorial Prize (1999), the Award for Quality Journalism (2004), the Paul Lendvai Prize of Journalism (2015), the Bossányi Katalin Award for Journalism (2015) and the Tarnói Gizella Award (2016). She also works as a lecturer at Metropolitan University of Budapest.

András Becker (*Senior Investigative Journalist*) Becker is the editor of two of Atlatszo's blogs: *Országszerte* (Countryside) and *Szocio* (Social policy). He has an MA in Hungarian literature (ELTE, 1986). Later, he worked as a high school teacher, then managed his own companies.

He joined the staff of weekly news magazine Magyar Narancs in 2009. He has been working for Atlatzso since 2012. In 2011, he won the Award for Quality Journalism. In 2013, he won Origo's Ozone Network Prize for an investigative series that he co-reported with an Atlatzso colleague. At Átlátszó he is covering tax fraud, state capture in Hungary and corruption in public procurement.

Babett Oroszi (*Investigative Journalist and Television Reporter*) Oroszi studied at University of Pécs. She has been working as a journalist since 2004. She worked at TV channel RTL Klub and Hír TV. She has been working for Átlátszó since 2012. She won the Szegő Tamás Prize (2013), the Göbölös Soma Prize for investigative journalism (2014) and the Prima Junior Prize (2014).

Katalin Erdélyi (*Investigative Journalist*) Erdélyi started writing about politics as a hobby in 2008. She joined Atlatzso's staff in 2012 where she covers corruption in public procurement and the government's advertising campaigns. She is also the editor of political commentary blog *Vastagbőr* ('Thick Skin') and a popular Facebook page which monitors the quality of meals served in Hungarian hospitals.

Brigitta Csikász (*Crime Reporter*) Csikász has an MA in history and communication from the University of Szeged. She started her career as a communications specialist at the Police College. Later, she went on to become an investigative journalist covering crime, police and law enforcement issues. Prior to joining atlatzso.hu she worked at weekly news magazine HVG where she was awarded a prize for quality journalism.

Video journalists and graphic artists

Áron Halász (*Video Journalist & Graphic Artist*) Halász graduated from the film and media department of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Before atlatzso.hu he worked for daily newspaper Népszabadság' online edition as a video journalist and for independent student magazine MOHA as a journalist, editor and videographer. Halász has been active in the Budapest bicycle movement since 2005. He is known for founding local advocacy groups and introducing new and internationally acknowledged practices to promote urban cycling.

Gergely Áron Pápai (*Video Journalist*) Pápai is a cultural anthropologist, documentary filmmaker and video journalist. His interest lies in issues specific to Eastern Europe, such as local poverty, hate speech and segregation. He works as a freelance cameraman in a number of broadcast and documentary projects as well as on feature documentary films with a number of directors including Gyula Gulyás, János Domokos and Barbara Spitzer.

Zsófi Rick (*Graphic & Video Artist, Journalist*) Rick is a freelance videographer who creates videos on her own, acting as the cameraman, editor, sound designer and animator. She creates graphic art, animations and videos for Atlatzso. Previously, she worked for theaters and theatrical news sites creating teasers, video interviews and footage of rehearsals, as well as working at civil demonstrations.

Lawyers, attorneys

Dr. Tibor Sepsi (*Attorney at Law and Constitutional Lawyer*) After graduating from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest in 2000, Sepsi started working for the Ministry of Justice, where he served in leading regulatory drafting positions and held primary responsibility for several public law codification projects. He moved to the Prime Minister's Office in 2007, where he was the head of the Office of the Cabinet, the delivery unit of the government from 2008 to 2010. His areas of expertise are regulation procedure and drafting of regulatory texts in general, data protection, freedom of information and anti-corruption policies. Since December 2010, he has been a practising attorney-at-law.

Balázs Tóth, PhD (*Attorney at Law*) Tóth is a human rights lawyer and a practicing attorney. After graduating from the Faculty of Law of the University of Miskolc, he began his PhD studies, then worked for the Ministry of Education in 2004. Since November of 2004, he has been working for the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, one of the best known human rights organizations in the country. At the Committee he has been responsible for projects dealing with law enforcement, policing, detention, anti-discrimination and rule of law issues for more than a decade. Since 2016, he has been working for the Committee as an attorney. Between February 2008 and February 2013 he has also worked as assistant professor for the Department of Legal Theory and Sociology at University of Miskolc. He obtained his PhD degree in 2012. Since 2015, he has been working as a legal journalist for atlatszo.hu as well. He is the author of more than 30 academic articles and the co-author of the first comprehensive Hungarian book on ethnic profiling.

10.4 Partnerships

Atlatszo.hu cooperates with other NGOs and independent media both in Hungary and internationally. Atlatszo.hu is a member of the [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#) of similar investigative nonprofit news outlets all around the world.

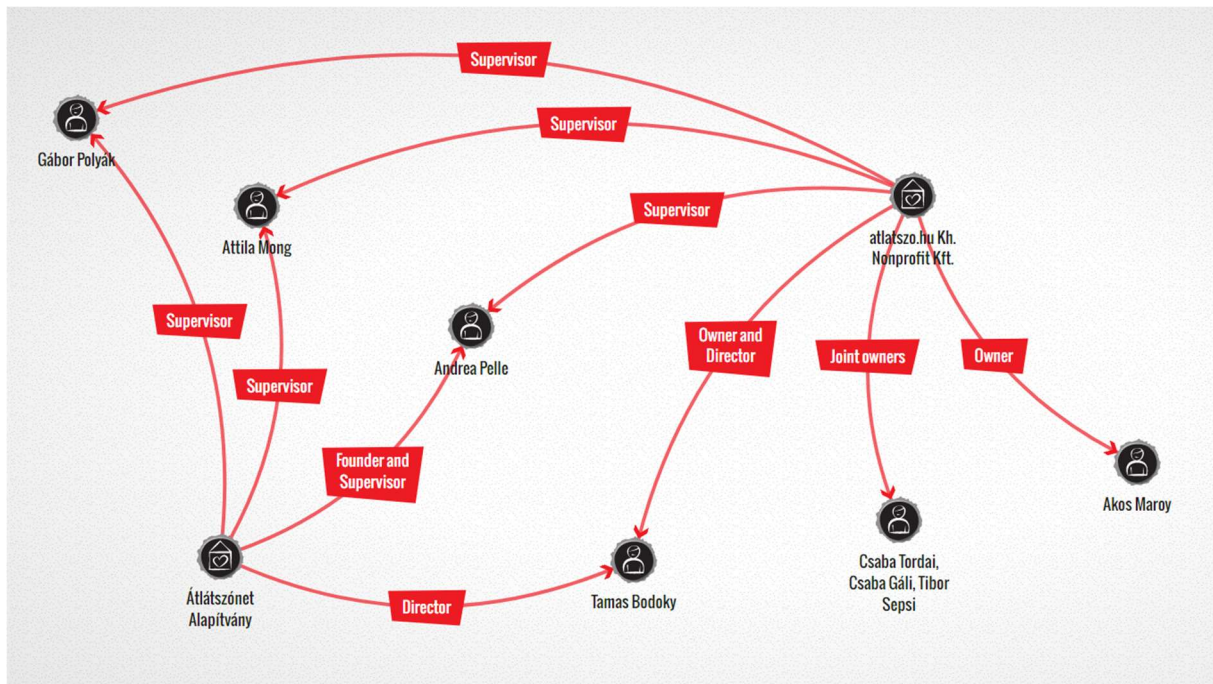
Hungarian Partners: [Asimov Alapítvány](#), [Krétakör Alapítvány](#), [Tilos Rádió](#), [Klubrádió](#), [Védegylet](#), [Transparency International Magyarország](#), [K-Monitor Közhasznú Egyesület](#), [Political Capital](#), [Társaság a Szabadságjogokért](#), [Levegő Munkacsoport](#), [Civil Rádió](#), [Magyar Helsinki Bizottság](#)

International Partners: [Global Voices Advocacy](#), [Legal Leaks](#), [Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project](#), [International Consortium of Investigative Journalists](#), [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#), [Riseproject](#), [Dossier](#), [Front Line Defenders](#), [Human Rights First](#), [Restarting the Future](#), [Index on Censorship](#), [Tactical Technology Collective](#)

10.5 Legal Entities

Atlatszo.hu Nonprofit Ltd. (HU): Atlatszo.hu Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft., Cg. 01-09-963846
Átlátszónet Foundation (HU): Átlátszónet Alapítvány, Fővárosi Törvényszék, 10715

10.6 Ownership structure



10.7 Contact

Our email address is info@atlatszo.hu, and our postal address is *Atlatszo.hu Kh. Nonprofit Kft., Déri Miksa u. 10., Budapest 1084, Hungary, Europe*. Web: atlatszo.hu; Facebook: facebook.com/atlatszo.hu/; Twitter: twitter.com/atlatszo

