

# atlatszo.hu – Watchdog NGO and Center For Investigative Journalism



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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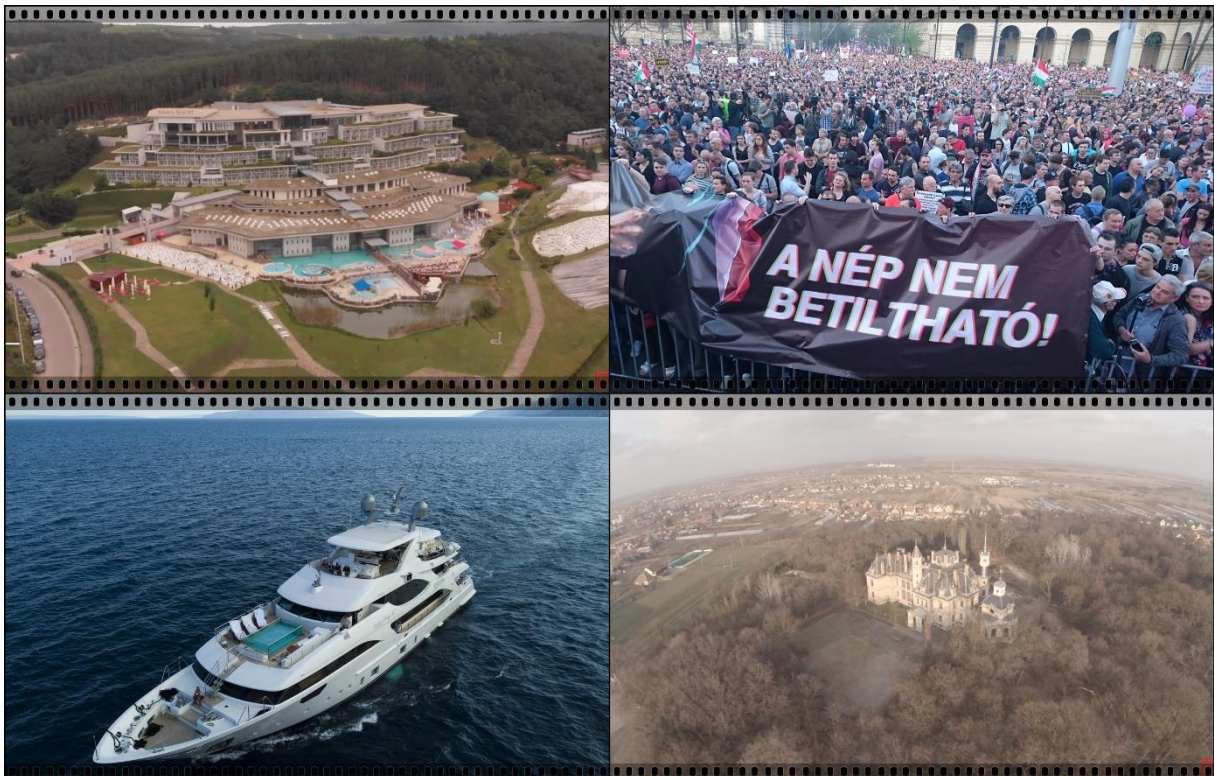
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## 1. The first nonprofit center for investigative journalism in Hungary

[Atlatzso.hu](http://atlatzso.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, [atlatzso.hu](http://atlatzso.hu) – ‘atlatzso’ 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. Atlatzso.hu operates a Tor-based anonymous whistleblowing platform, a freedom of information request generator for the general public, and an independent blogging platform for other NGOs and independent journalists and experts. Atlatzso.hu staff are mostly journalists, supported by subcontracted and volunteer video journalists, legal and IT-experts.

Atlatzso.hu is among the top 10 most popular online news sites of Hungary with growing readership and a significant impact on the Hungarian public sphere - our articles were referred to more than 3536 times in 2018 by other Hungarian media outlets. The site covers political 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 [atlatzso.hu](http://atlatzso.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 2018 our websites reached a regular readership of 400,000-900,000 unique page views monthly (Google Analytics), or 4% of the total Hungarian population (400,000 visitors) at least once a week (Medián Research). Our [Facebook page](#) reached more than 96,000 followers by the end of the year.

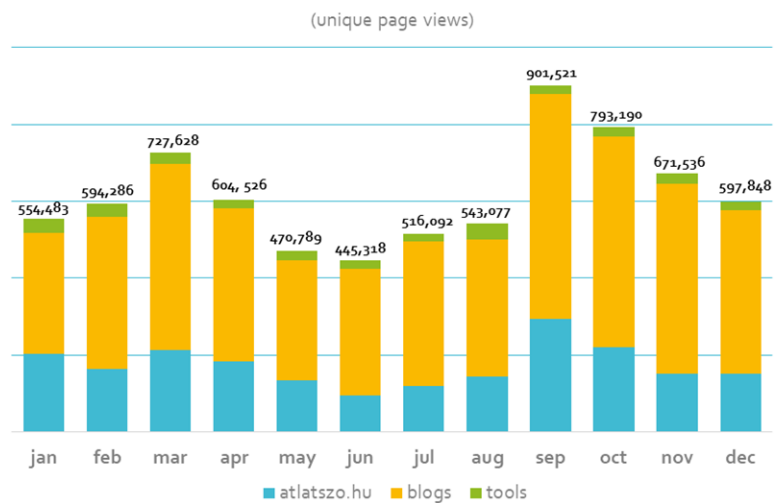
#### Atlatszo.hu, blogs and tools overview 2018

Atlatszo.hu monthly  
average: 172,436

Atlatszo.hu + blogs  
+ tools monthly  
average: 618,358

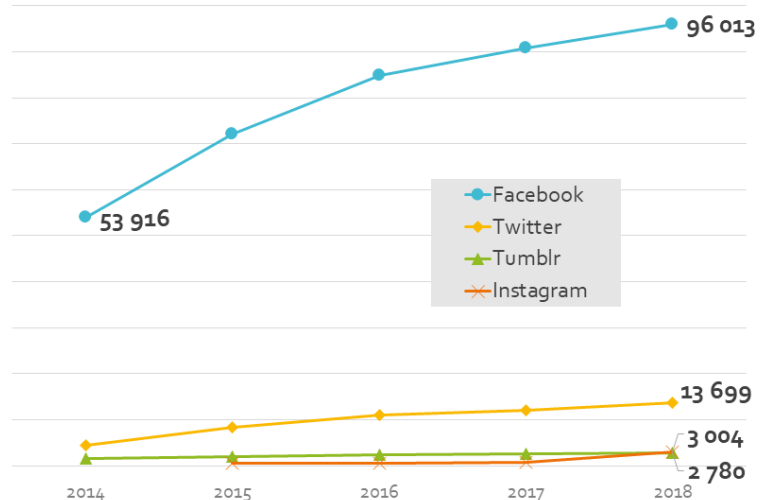
Source: Google Analytics

\*Tools: Online applications e.g. KiMitTud



#### Followers in social media

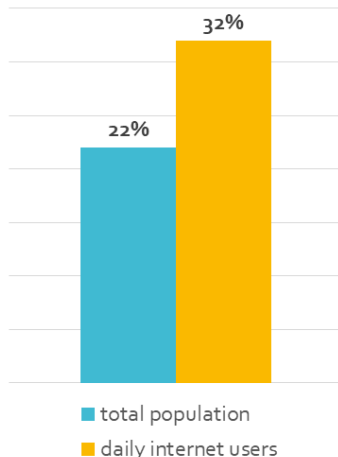
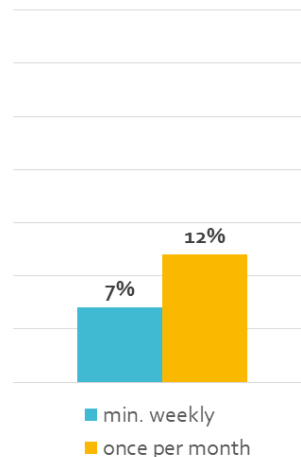
2014–2018



## Atlatszo.hu awareness

2018

Source: Medián-Omnibusz, Sept. 2018

 Who have heard about  
atlatszo.hu?

 How often do daily internet  
users read atlatszo.hu?


## Readers of online newspapers

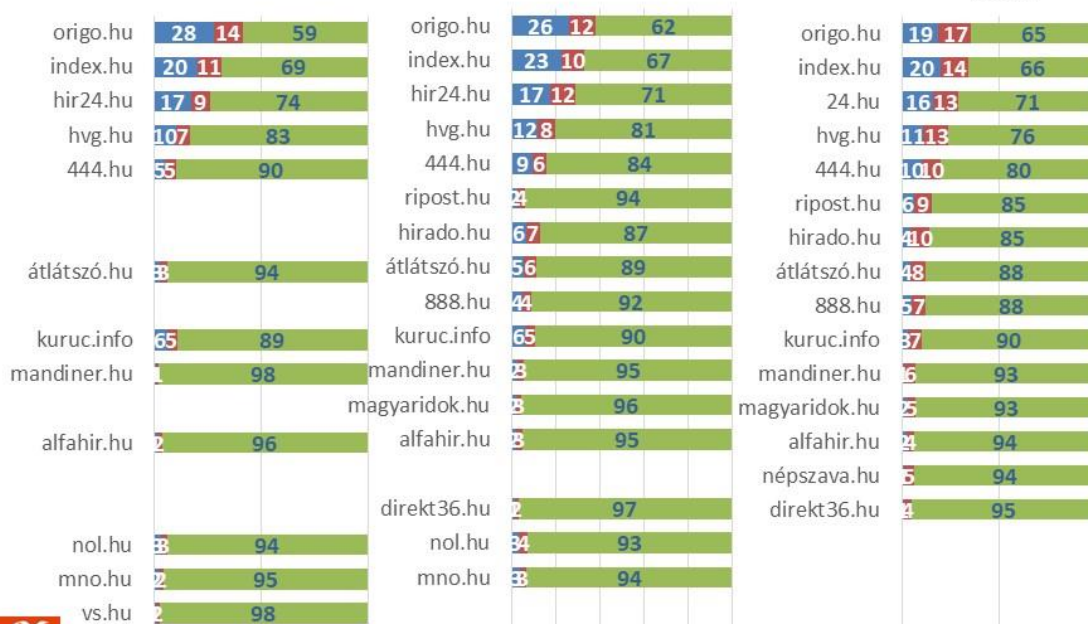
As a percentage of the total population

■ at least once a week ■ less frequently ■ never

2014-2015

2016

2018



## 2.2 Impact

### 2.2.1 Domestic 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. Atlatszo.hu was quoted, referred to via its publications or was mentioned 3,536 times in 2018 in online, print and electronic sources. The quotation rate of atlatszo.hu was 10% higher than it was in the previous year (3,233). It is estimated that news pieces that mention atlatszo.hu in 2018 have reached over 583 million viewers and generated an AVE figure of 1512 million HUF. Almost 300 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.

Átlátszó was present in the Hungarian media through more than 600 current or past topics in 2018. The brand was mentioned a total of 278 times in the print media and 155 times in radio and television programs. The print newspapers most active in mentioning Átlátszó included Magyar Idők and Népszava, while the radio and television channels showing the most interest were Klub Rádió and RTL Klub. At the same time, media outlets created, controlled by or supporting the Hungarian 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’ (IMEDIA Media Analysis).

### 2.2.2 International impact

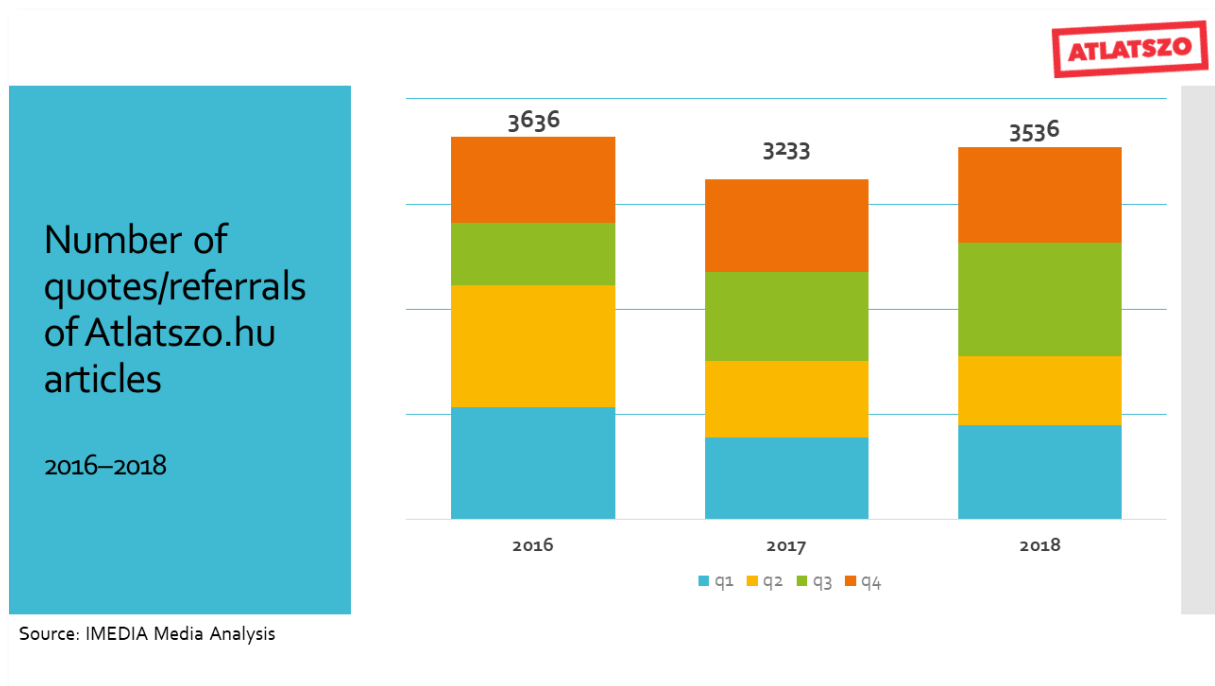
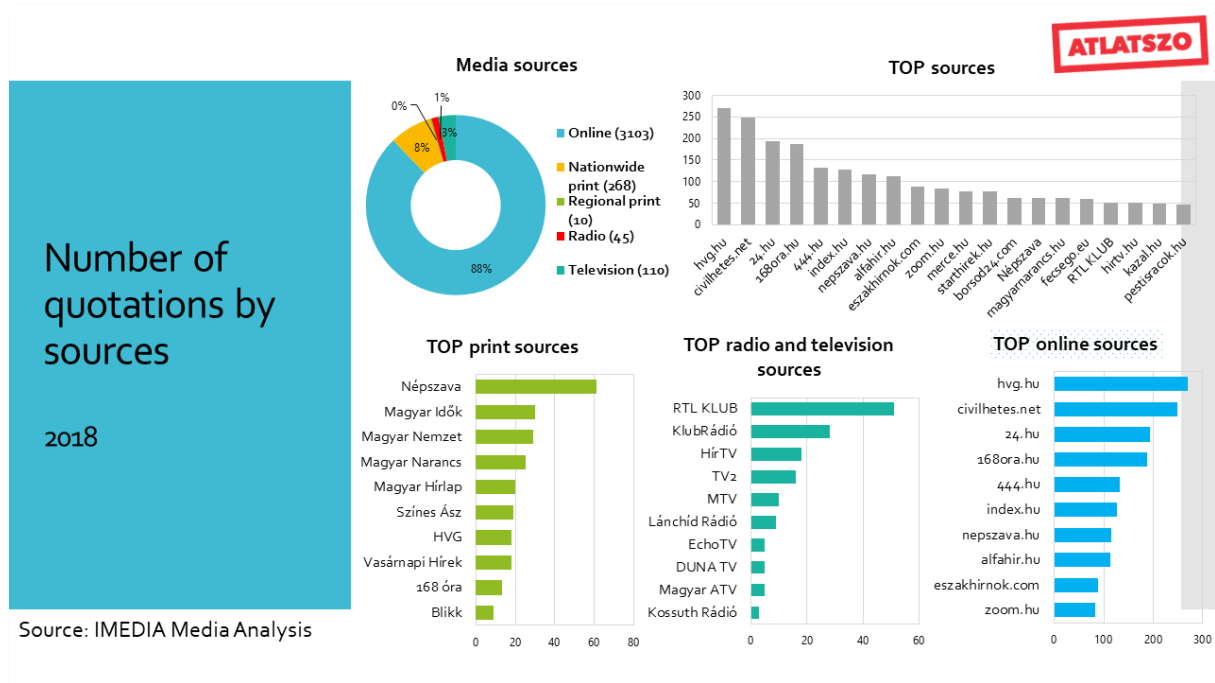
Several of our stories were noticed by international media outlets in 2018. Our revelation that PM Orban is using a luxury jet was quoted by [AFP](#), [Die Presse](#), [Kurier](#), [Der Standard](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [Jutarnij](#) in Croatia, The [Irish Times](#), [Pester Lloyd](#), and [OCCRP](#). We are also closely following how much money the Hungarian government is spending on propaganda, and how the pro-government media empire is being expanded. Our stories and infographics on this topic were quoted by [The New York Times](#) not only once, but *twice*, by [The Financial Times](#), Polish channel [TVN24](#), and the [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#).

Atlatszo’s editor Tamas Bodoky was quoted on press freedom issues by [AFP](#). The leader of our data team, Attila Batorfy was quoted by [Reuters](#) and Anita Komuves was quoted by a [website in Lithuania](#), [Irish Times](#) and [TVN24](#). We are also very proud to have been mentioned by an opinion piece in the [The Washington Post](#) as „an investigative site brimming with impressive scoops”. Atlatszo’s stories and journalists were quoted by international media dozens of times in the run-up to the April elections as well.

The story that was quoted the most often in foreign media was the one where we added up the numbers and revealed that the Hungarian government [spent €40 million](#) on anti-Soros propaganda in 2017. The Atlatszo story about the huge amount of money spent on propaganda was also quoted by the pre-election political summary published by The Intercept and by the election coverage of [NBC News](#) as well. The European edition of [Politico](#) also quoted another [Atlatszo story](#) about the anti-Soros propaganda.

Besides the above, Atlatszo editors and reporters were interviewed by foreign media several times before the elections. Atlatszo’s editor Tamas Bodoky was interviewed by Belgian [De](#)

[Standaard](#). Anita Komuves was quoted by [The Intercept](#), [CNN](#) and gave an interview to the [European Center for Press and Media Freedom](#). Attila Batorfy talked to [The Daily Beast](#) about the ownership structure of the Hungarian media. He spoke about the political climate with the reporter of Slovenian paper [Vecer](#) and talked about press freedom in Hungary with Lithuanian outlet [Lietuvos Zinios](#).





### 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 2018, 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 2018:

- [TV anchor close to PM Viktor Orban gets consultancy contract at Budapest Metropolitan Court](#)
- [Real estate company owned by István Tiborcz bought 13 luxury apartments after the elections](#)
- [Company owned by Mészáros' children won 12 billion HUF contract from his own football foundation without tendering](#)
- [A company close to Fidesz signs €20 million contract for operating the 'smart' border fence](#)
- [The Do-All, the Real Estate Agent and the Casino Man: three businessmen close to prime minister Orban control nearly 400 companies€50 million spent by the company organizing the 2024 Budapest Olympic bid that never happened](#)
- [Adnan Polat's son, Kerim, gets key roles in his father's solar panel business in Hungary](#)
- [Fidesz MP buys stake in pasta company for third of market price, becomes business partner of tobacco shop owners](#)
- [Fidesz mayor allows his own grandmother to rent an apartment owned and renovated by the town](#)
- [Former Diplomat Opens Wine Bar Despite Russian Visa Mill Scandal](#)
- [Companies connected to Lőrinc Mészáros won public tenders worth 280 million euros in July, either alone or as members of consortiums](#)
- [Fraudsters sentenced to jail fled by the time the Szolnok Court notified the police](#)
- [Businessman conned inside the National Office Building by a fake deputy minister](#)
- [Top investigators search for government officials' stolen tech equipment](#)
- [The next generation of pro-Orban oligarchs: the Mészáros kids are making 3300 euros a day winning public tenders](#)
- [Hungarian state subsidizing Hollywood mega-productions with tens of millions of euros](#)
- [Fidesz strongman's family buys huge plots of state land for a bargain price](#)
- [Tobacco Barons in Hungary: loophole allows businessmen to reap the profits of close to a hundred tobacco shops](#)
- [The story of how Orban's son-in-law became rich, told by seven major Atlatszo investigations](#)
- [Indebtedness of national oligarchs risk banking system, experts say](#)

#### 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 2018 highlights:

- [Fidesz-party county clerk awarded EU funds to build a guest house, which fails to attract tourists](#)
- [Orban's EU-funded hobby train ran empty for 10 days in the past year](#)
- [LED lamps by Orban's son-in-law: This is how EU funds were stolen in the town of Vác](#)
- [OLAF's letters to Hungarian towns reveal details of fraudulent street light modernization projects](#)
- [The EU funded 84 percent of the public procurement tenders won by Elios](#)
- [Offshore companies were among the owners of Elios Zrt., the company accused of wrongdoing by OLAF](#)
- [European Union funds enriched the government's favorite construction companies in 2017](#)

### **3.3 „Local state capture” in municipalities and rural areas**

By the beginning of 2018, the structure of rural publicity has become distorted to an extent unparalleled since the fall of the Kádár System: the dominant part of local and regional media was bought out by pro-government oligarchs and straw persons. After the acquisition of Mediaworks, Pannon Lapok and Lapcom, the journalists and editors of regional newspapers who did not fit the central expectations were laid off (or they resigned) hence today the editorial offices are 100% loyal to the central will. Channels of local publicity - municipal televisions, web portals, and print papers - have characteristically been the message boards of local power, they display no watchdog activities whatsoever. Therefore, the local abuses that may be uncovered by local NGOs or opposition players do not receive publicity. In 2018 Atlatszo recruited local correspondents outside the capital and set up a blog („[Országszerte](#)”) dedicated to investigate and report individual cases of the 'local state capture situation' in Hungarian municipalities, uncovering conflicts of interest and cases of wrongdoing.

### **3.4 Government propaganda and media spending**

In 2018, the Hungarian government continued to ramp up its propaganda efforts and media spending in order to create a government-friendly media landscape. Atlatszo 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:

- [The government of Hungary spent €216 million on propaganda and fearmongering in the past 8 years](#)
- [Half of the October posts on the Hungarian government's Facebook page were anti-migration fearmongering messages](#)
- [Hungarian government allocated €18.2 million of taxpayers money on advertising campaign against Sargentini, Soros, and Verhofstadt](#)
- [A case study in Hungarian propaganda: this is how the pro-government media works if something awkward is revealed about PM Orban](#)
- [Hungarian PM Orban threatens journalists – if someone hits us, we will respond, he said](#)

- [Anti-Soros protest in Brussels funded by state-owned energy company](#)
- [Orban's anti-NGO law stigmatizing animal shelters, food banks and church groups](#)
- [Pro-Orban forces take over news channel, cancel a dozen shows](#)
- [This is how politics distorts the advertising market in Hungary: threats, blackmail and corruption](#)
- [Milo Yiannopoulos was paid \\$20,000 from Hungarian taxpayer money for 60-minute anti-migrant speech](#)
- [State-owned energy company spent €17.3 million on advertising in two years](#)
- [Majority of taxpayer money allocated for propaganda going to enigmatic new company](#)
- [Government-aligned businessmen took over regional media in Hungary, are rewarded with huge profits](#)
- [Here is why the Hungarian government spent €20 million advertising its own company with a monopoly](#)
- [Right-Wing Hungarian Media Moves Into the Balkans](#)
- [Government-leaning media forced by courts to issue high number of corrections](#)
- [Hungarian government spent €8.1 million on its latest 'Stop Soros' campaign](#)
- [Hungarian government spent €40 million on anti-Soros propaganda in 2017](#)

### 3.5 PM Orban's private jet and military plane flights

Viktor Orban worked very hard during his years in politics to present himself as an ordinary guy, just someone next door living a simple life. His Facebook page shows pictures of him drinking pálinka, Hungary's favorite home-made spirit and cooking traditional sausages. The image of Orban as the average Hungarian was hurt last year when Atlatszo revealed that Orban has been using a luxury private jet that is available only for the super-rich. However, he is using not only that plane but many other non-commercial aircraft as well. Some of those are owned by the Hungarian military, another by the largest Hungarian private bank. Atlatszo's most impactful 2018 investigation covered the non-commercial airplanes the Hungarian prime minister has used last year according to our research.

- [PM Orban's private jet and military plane flights are surrounded by secrecy](#)
- [Atlatszo's story about the luxury vehicles used by the governing elite awarded Transparency-Soma Prize for investigative journalism](#)
- [Private jet owned by OTP Bank identifies itself as Hungarian governmental aircraft](#)
- [Interactive feature: follow the luxury jet and the yacht used by the Hungarian governing elite](#)
- [Orban most probably used a military aircraft to spend an evening in Milan's La Scala](#)
- [The private jet used by Orban flew to Belgrade a day after former Macedonian PM Gruevski announced that he is seeking asylum in Hungary](#)
- [How Orban travels to soccer matches abroad is kept secret, but we found another private jet he might have used last Thursday](#)
- [Atlatszo awarded the Prize for Quality Journalism for its investigation into Hungarian government elite using luxury yacht and private jet](#)
- [Hungarian elite's favorite luxury jet flew to London on the day of the FIFA Awards](#)
- [Hungarian government elite, including Orban, uses luxury yacht and private jet registered abroad](#)

### 3.6 Budapest lobbying Washington

The Hungarian government has a cordial relationship with the U.S. government, so much so that Orban got away with kicking out CEU, an American university from Hungary in 2018. Atlatszo investigated the lobby efforts and spending of Budapest in the US capital which is conducted in a highly non-transparent manner.

- [Government of Hungary spent a total of \\$3.54 million on lobbying Washington in 2018](#)
- [While protesters were tear-gassed by police, the U.S. Ambassador attended a soccer match with PM Viktor Orban](#)
- [Government of Hungary hires Barnes & Thornburg to lobby the White House on religious freedom and immigration issues](#)
- [Hungarian diplomats in the United States pay \\$45,000 a month for the advice of Trump's men in Israel](#)
- [Hungarian government hired Trump's Israel campaign chief as a lobbyist](#)
- [Government of Hungary refusing to tell how it spent \\$7 million in the U.S.](#)

### 3.7 Investigating the nuclear industry

Hungary is home to a number of nuclear facilities. While the Paks nuclear power plant is known to everybody, the nuclear disposal site in Püspökszilág is less recognized. Besides, there are several other nuclear projects in the making, including the Paks II nuclear plant or a high-level radioactive waste site in the Mecsek mountains. Our investigative team was formed together with experts of watchdog NGO Energiaklub to counterbalance the propaganda of the atomic lobby and the lack of official information and offer comprehensive information about the ongoing nuclear projects, especially with respect to corruption and environmental risks.

- [Investigative Journalists Team Up with Experts To Uncover Details About Nuclear Plants And Radioactive Waste Sites](#)
- [Police investigation into overheated river at Paks NPP after report by MEP Benedek Jávor](#)
- [Company owned by pro-Orban businessman expected to win €110 million soil improvement job at the Paks II NPP site](#)
- [Water temperature near Paks nuclear plant was above 30 °C, dangerous for life in the river Danube](#)
- [Hungarian nuclear plant spent 7.2 million euros on advertising itself in two years](#)
- [Hungarian government classified whether Russia gets compensation if Paks II nuclear plant expansion is called off](#)
- [Geologist says substantial information were lost or neglected by Paks2 NNP site geological studies](#)

### 3.8 Investigating the 2018 parliamentary election

The 2018 Hungarian parliamentary election took place on 8 April 2018. This parliamentary election was the 8th since the 1990 first multi-party election and the 2nd since the adoption of a new Constitution of Hungary which came into force on 1 January 2012. The result was a victory for the Fidesz–KDNP alliance, preserving its two-thirds majority, with Viktor Orbán remaining Prime Minister. Orbán and Fidesz campaigned primarily on the issues of

immigration and foreign meddling, and the election was seen as a victory for right-wing populism in Europe. Atlatszo investigated fraud and irregularities during the process.

- [Hungarian government spent €23 million of taxpayers' money on propaganda before the election](#)
- [Opposition politicians suing dozens of government-aligned propaganda outlets for character assassination](#)
- [State-owned Hungarian energy group gave €1,7 million to NGO favored by Orban to 'improve public thinking'](#)
- [Without 'tactical voting', Orban's party would control 3/4 of seats in Parliament](#)
- [Data visualization: this is how the pro-government media empire owning 476 outlets was formed](#)
- [Police investigating 111 accusations of election fraud by 'fake parties'](#)
- [Phantom residents are voting and collecting pensions near the border with Ukraine](#)
- [Dozens of international media outlets referencing and quoting Atlatszo](#)
- [Target or ally? Hungary faces the elections battle](#)
- [Just make a guess, and the Parliamentary Seat Calculator tells you which party will dominate the new Hungarian parliament](#)

### 3.9 Investigating Hungarian football sponsorship in the neighbouring countries

The Hungarian government is financially supporting soccer wherever it can: new stadiums are being built across the country. Besides professional soccer, there is a huge amount of money spent on junior teams and training the new generations of soccer players as well. This soccer mania did not stop at the borders of Hungary: construction of stadiums and soccer academies have started in the past few years in neighboring countries in territories where ethnic Hungarians live. Hungary has spent several billions of forints on these academies across the border since then. However, it has not been clear, how this money is being spent by the soccer clubs and academies in neighboring countries. Atlatszo and Atlatszo Erdely (Romania) teamed up with local journalists in Serbia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Croatia to shed light on football spending.

- [Hungarian government spent billions on football academies in Slovenia, Ukraine and Croatia](#)
- [The soccer team in Felcsút can get players for free from a soccer academy in Transylvania that receives Hungarian government support](#)
- [The Orban government spent billions on Hungarian football clubs in Serbia, Romania and Slovakia](#)
- [Invisible money: Hungarian government's €14 million grant for a soccer academy and stadiums in Vojvodina spent in a non-transparent way](#)
- [Hungarian expansion in Slovenia: first a football academy, then a wellness complex paid from taxpayer funds](#)
- [Hungarian taxpayers paid one million euros for two ice hockey teams to join Slovakian league](#)
- [Project of Atlatszo and Atlatszo Erdely awarded €19,000 by EU investigative journalism fund IJ4EU](#)



### 3.10 Crossborder projects and collaborations

#### 3.10.1 OCCRP

Just like in previous years, Sarajevo-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) was a very important partner for Atlatszo in 2018. Atlatszo cooperated with OCCRP colleagues in Macedonia and Bosnia to [uncover](#) how businessmen close to Hungarian PM Viktor Orban invested in media in Macedonia. Hungarian businessmen bought media outlets that supported former Macedonian PM Nikola Gruevski, who later was granted asylum in Hungary. Atlatszo also joined OCCRP's project about 'Golden Visas' in the region and [tracked](#) how the controversial Hungarian system of state residency bonds was introduced and then canceled. OCCRP also quoted several of our Hungarian-language stories. They published our [revelations](#) about how the PM's son-in-law was involved in an EU funds fraud and what the [details](#) of that fraud looked like. OCCRP also covered our [story](#) on the luxury yacht and private jet used by the governing elite and also covered our story [about a con man](#) who pretended to be a deputy minister and demanded money from a businessman in exchange for non-existent government-funded business. The site also quoted [our research](#) on 'fake parties' that popped up across the country a few months before the elections.

#### 3.10.2 Vsquare

Atlatszo is a founding member of Vsquare.org, an investigative journalism project funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. Vsquare.org brings together investigative outlets from Visegrad countries (Hungary, Slovakia, The Czech Republic, and Poland) and aims at improving the quality of investigative journalism in the region. Atlatszo contributed to several of Vsquare's projects in 2018. The first big project of Vsquare was to examine the effect of Russia and Russian fake news in the politics of the region. Atlatszo contributed two stories to this project. One of them was a [story](#) about how the Hungarian government and taxpayer funded-propaganda are spreading pro-Russian fake news in Hungary. Another story in this project was an [interview](#) with analyst Péter Krekó about how Hungary became a 'post-truth laboratory.' Another project of Vsquare this year was to examine China's economic and political influence in the Visegrad region, to which Atlatszo contributed an [analysis](#) of Chinese-Hungarian relations. Vsquare was awarded an IJ4EU grant in 2018 for examining the role of military rhetoric, paramilitary groups and military education in the spread of nationalism in the region. Investigative reporters from the four countries, including Atlatszo, examined how ministries of defense finance NGO groups in their respective countries and summarized this in a joint project. Atlatszo contributed another [story](#) to this project about how arms manufacturing was revived in Hungary in 2018 using licenses from a Czech arms factory.

#### 3.10.3 IJ4EU

In 2018, Atlatszo worked on two cross-border journalism projects financed by the new [IJ4EU European Investigative Journalism Fund](#). The first project aimed to track the Hungarian taxpayer's money amounting to 55 million euros spent on on football academies and stadiums located in Hungarian communities living in [Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine, Croatia and Slovenia](#) since 2013. Atlatszo as a lead partner, in partnership with Atlatszo Erdely from Romania, found that some of the supported clubs are successful, but also there are a number of obscure, unsuccessful football teams and academies among the recipients. Some of these clubs receive money to build fancy stadiums. We uncovered dodgy land deals of powerful local

businessmen with good relations with the Hungarian government in Serbia. We also found that Lőrinc Mészáros, a businessman [well-known for its close ties with Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán](#), is profiting from these investments: apart from owning some of the clubs directly, his business interests can be found among the contractors [who build the infrastructure](#), not to mention the fact that from these academies located abroad, the soccer team in Felcsút [can get players for free](#). The second cross-border project funded by IJ4EU was a story about “cancer treatment tourism” between Hungary and Romania ([first part](#), [second part](#)). Written by András Becker (Atlatszo, Hungary) and freelance journalist Boróka Parászka (Romania) the series takes a look at the private cancer treatment centers emerging on the ruins of the public health care in Romania, and how people with less income are using legal loopholes in the healthcare systems of the two countries to access treatment. We found that Hungary became the “Mecca of healthcare”, as an EU directive enabled patients to use public health services in any European country. As the Romanian health care system is less evolved, tens of thousands of Romanian patients choose to treat themselves in Hungary, cancer treatments being the most popular.

## 4. Innovation in visual storytelling

### 4.1 Camera drone project

Thanks to a successful donation rally, Atlatszo.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 wealth amassed by the governing elite, the consequences of corruption, environmental degradation, which would have been left with a much more limited perspective relying only on what could be seen at ground level.

- [Drone video shows systematic destruction of protected forest in Hungarian countryside](#)
- [Drone video: see the castles and hotels owned by the prime minister's son-in-law](#)
- [Drone video: This is how the Mészáros empire looks from above](#)
- [This is what corruption looks like: drone videos of 23 towns with Elios lamps](#)

### 4.2 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. In 2018 we utilized FB live to broadcast political protests as they were happening.

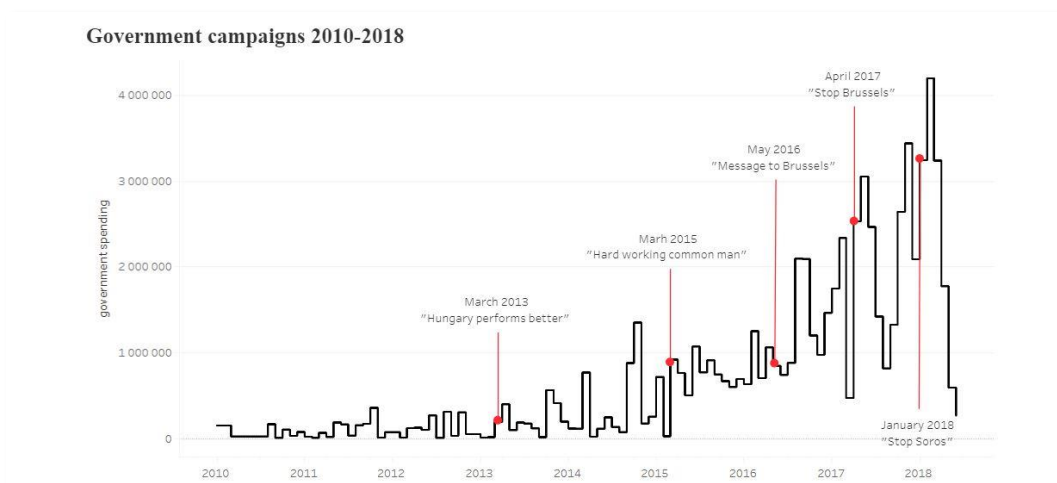


### 4.3 Data journalism and data visualisation – the ATLO project

Átlátszó has been experimenting with new tools and directions of journalism from the beginning with the purpose of creating compelling investigative stories which engage the audience better than traditional textual storytelling. In this way Átlátszó laid much emphasis also on the importance of data journalism and visualization. After the first successes of the past years in October 2018 we launched [ATLO](#), our full profile data and visual journalism team, to take this field to a new level. As the first dedicated visual journalism board in Hungary, ATLO's main aim is to support investigative journalism, science and digital humanities with compelling graphics, images and visualizations.

The team is led by Átlátszó's Attila Bátorfy, who was amongst the firsts data journalist and visualization experts in Hungary gaining international attention with data-based reporting and visuals. The graphic designer is Mikola Bence, a veteran and award winning information designer, previously working for leading (now defunct) traditional daily newspapers Magyar Nemzet and Népszabadság. Their work is supported by developer László Horváth. The launch can be considered successful. Their first works were featured by such news sites and social media communities which generally never take Átlátszó's investigations. ATLO's work also got noticed by the international data and visual journalism community. ATLO's launch was reported by legendary data journalist, Paul Bradshaw's [Online Journalism Blog](#), their work was featured by the Global Investigative Journalism Network's [data journalism section](#), just to name two achievements what Hungarian data journalism never reached before.

- [Atlatszo launches data visualization project Atlo](#)
- [Interactive map and timeline: Follow Gruevski's escape from Macedonia to Hungary](#)
- [Number of students enrolled in tertiary education has been declining in Hungary since 2005](#)
- [Data visualization feature: the history of cemeteries in Budapest since the middle ages](#)
- [Data visualization of the Hungarian bronze ceiling: there are more statues of animals than historic women in Budapest](#)
- [Personal Income Tax Calculator helps Hungarians see how much they earn compared to others](#)
- [Atlatszo launches game for students, teaching them how to spot fake news](#)
- [Infographic: Explore the media empire friendly to the Hungarian government](#)



## 5. Legal strategy and results

Our legal strategy is based on the perception that public data is often withheld in Hungary by state institutions and by those using public funds, therefore freedom of information requests are not sufficient alone, court procedures must be initiated to obtain documents of sensitive nature. In the past years we filed more than 130 court applications of this nature. Our aim is to impact discrete cases, to force authorities to react and to actively form the court practice in cases involving previously undecided questions of interpretation.

Atlatszo.hu has won more than 60 percent of FOI lawsuits 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 court cases which were receiving the largest media coverage of the year 2018 were about the HUF 508 million giant subsidy by state-owned electricity firm MVM to the NGO closely allied with the government named CÖF. We have successfully sued the firm for the details on the said cooperation (the second instance decision was delivered by the Budapest Regional Court in April), while we also had to start a separate court procedure in the case of the freedom of information request on the project report that was submitted by the CÖF to the MVM. This second procedure was settled out of court as MVM finally gave full access to the report voluntarily. The report showed that – although most of the money was spent for overprized publicity videos – a significant sum of the subsidy was directly used by the CÖF to finance its pro-government speakers of political campaign events hosted by government MPs throughout the country, while even the pro-government CÖF protest rally in front of the building of the European Parliament in Brussels on the 26th of April, 2017 was financed by the MVM with 6.7 million forints.

We have also won an freedom of information request trial against the state public media holding MTVA on the publication of its contracts with the state-owned telecommunication firm Antenna Hungária. Even tough the contractual partners wanted to keep all their previously unpublished contracts confidential as their trade secret, the courts had rejected this argument in both first and second instance decisions, so Atlatszo had received the documents in November (exactly one year after the FOI request was submitted).

In 2018, we have also won trials against the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Affairs on the invoice summaries on the subsidies of the Magyar Foundation of North America, against the Prime Minister’s Office on the screening reports of the state-owned asset managers responsible for the maintenance and development of the Buda Castle, and against further two state-owned firms on questions related to their spending. We have also successfully sued the Hungarian Football Association for the documentation on the subsidies of private football clubs by private donors which were subject to tax reduction.

Besides using courts, our primary choice for legal remedy is the National Freedom of Information and Data Protection Authority (NAIH), which is faster and cheaper than courts. In 2018 we submitted 18 complaints to NAIH. Most of the cases were decided in favour of atlatszo.hu acting as the complainant.



At the same time, we have been sued several times for corrections or for alleged violation of inherent rights: our legal team fended off legal attacks by municipalities, by politicians in relation to publishing their already public photos, or by businessmen closely related to the government. Sometimes, this work can also be assisted by our primary activity: Atlatzso had partially lost in a trial for correction this year, because we were not able to prove against the denial of a state-owned firm that a statement quoted by us from a leaked copy of a confidential report is actually from the official report. But a few months later we won the freedom of information trial, and the access to the report had proved us, which is now a solid basis in any further procedures against the said firm.

The legal team of atlatzso.hu also supported dozens of ordinary citizens who filed freedom of information requests on various topics via our freedom of information request generator service. Our attorney-at-laws are even provided pro bono legal representation in some of the most interesting cases, which is all the more important to the fact, that legal representation is compulsory in FOI request trials against data controllers operating in national level since 2018. 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 dozen of quality guest blogs.

In 2018, we further developed 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 2018, we also run 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.

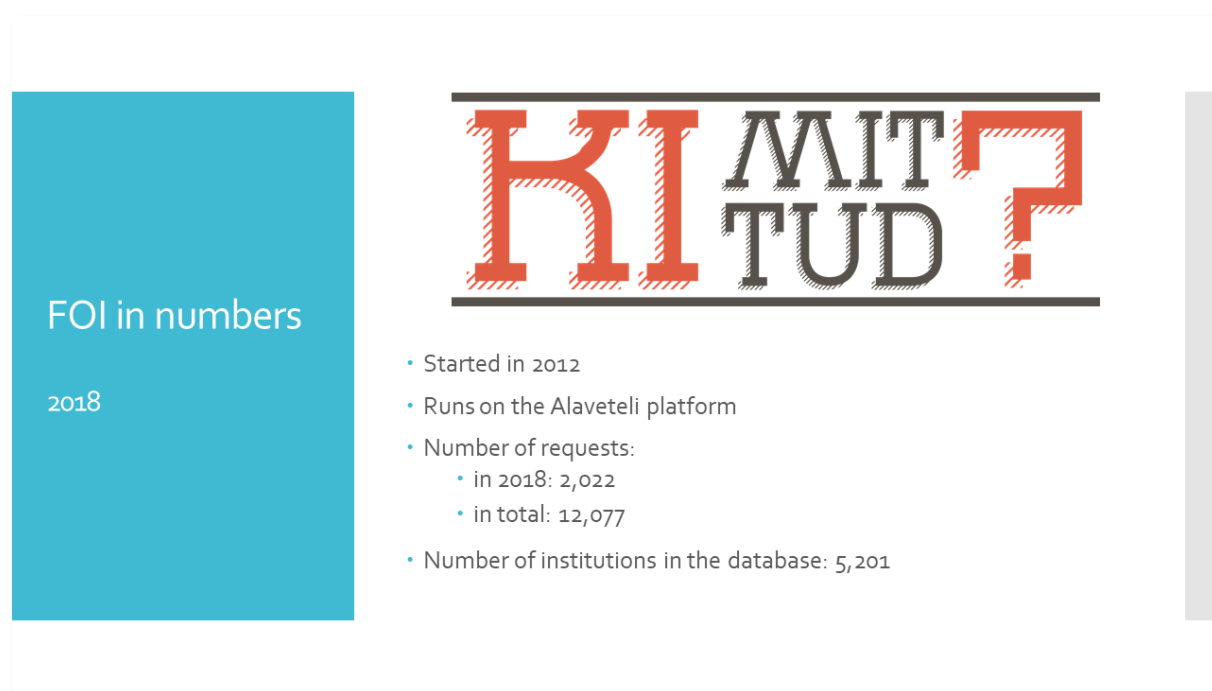
### 6.2 Secure leaking platform (magyarleaks.hu)

Cooperation with anonymous sources and the protection of whistleblowers is very important to us; therefore, we implemented a secure submission platform, [MagyarLeaks](#), for whistleblowers using software developed by GlobaLeaks, secured by the Tor network to protect the identity of anonymous sources. In 2018, we received 1-2 submissions a week on average, every 10<sup>th</sup> disclosure being worthy of further journalistic scrutiny.

The logo for GLOBALEAKS, featuring the word "GLOBALEAKS" in large, bold, blue capital letters with a slight 3D effect.

### 6.3 FOI request generator (kimittud.org)

[Kimittud](https://kimittud.org) 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 12,000 freedom of information requests and more and more citizens are discovering its power.



### 6.4 Fake news hunter educational tool (alhirvadasz.hu)

Atlatszo 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.

## **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](http://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](http://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.



### **7.3 Data Journalism and Data Visualization**

Atlatszo.hu's journalists are regular users of off-the-shelf data visualisation tools like [infogr.am](http://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**

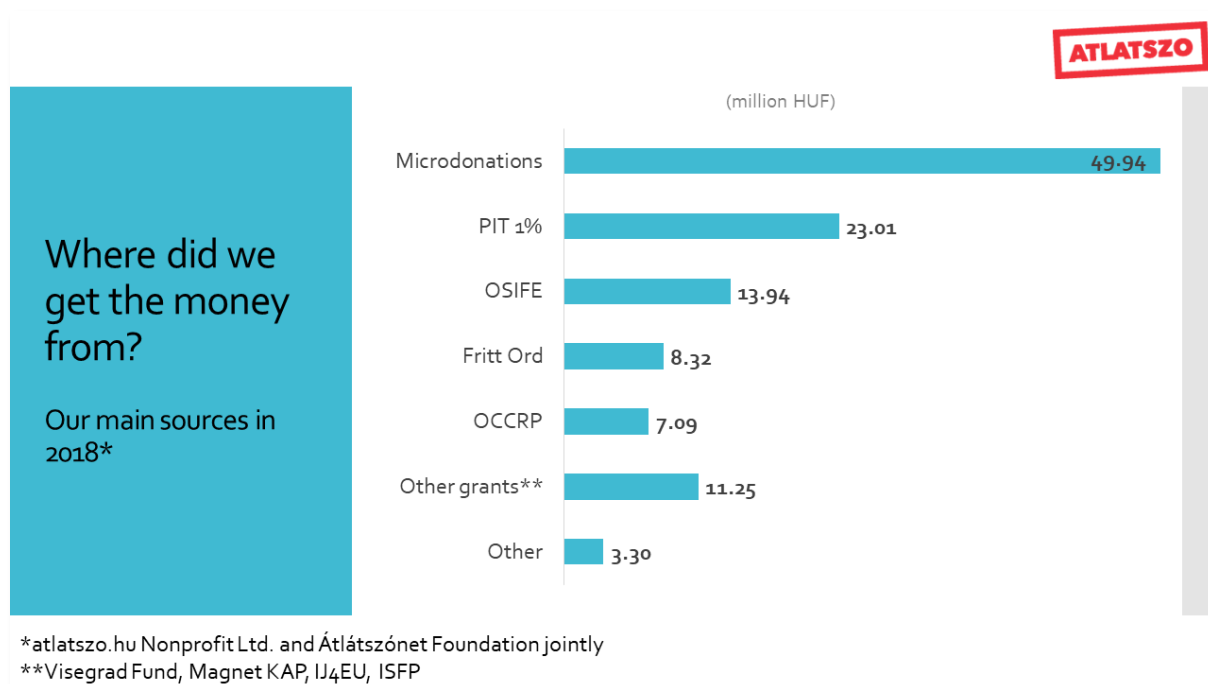
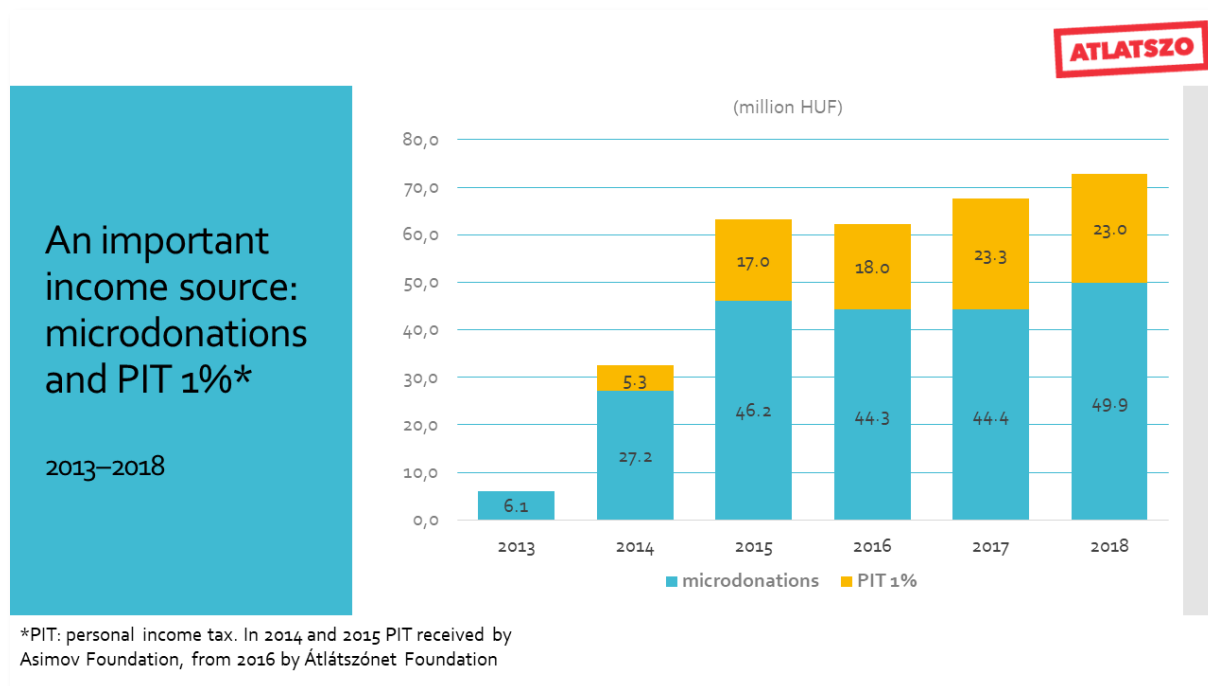
This half-day workshop is intended to raise awareness of information security risks for journalists and activists. Through case studies, participants become familiar with topics including wiretapping, PC monitoring, email hacking, social media attacks, stealing or confiscation of digital equipment, verbal 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 60% in the 2018 budget.



## 9. Recent Prizes and Awards

### Transparency-Soma Award for Investigative Journalism 2018

Katalin Erdélyi, Attila Bátorfy, and Dániel Németh were awarded the [Transparency-Soma Prize](#) for their article published by Atlatszo about the luxury vehicles that prime minister Viktor Orban and the governing elite are using. The Soma Prize is the most prestigious award for investigative journalism in Hungary and is awarded by Transparency International Hungary. Atlatszo journalists were also awarded the [Prize for Quality Journalism](#) for the same feature.



### 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 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

Atlatzso.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

Atlatzso.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 Hortobágy 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.

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



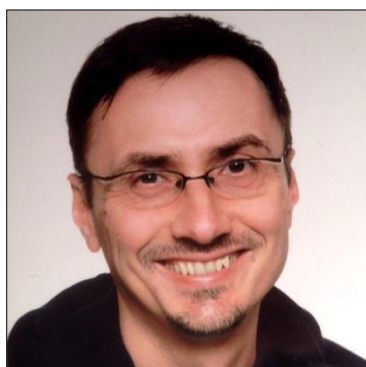
## 10. Organisational structure

### 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, Göbölös Soma prize 2003).



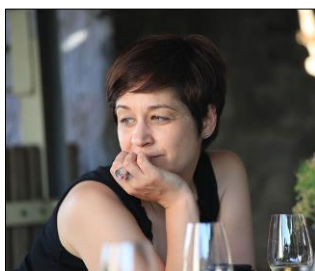
**Gábor Polyák** is associate professor at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Law, Department for ITC Law. He graduated in law and media sciences at the University of Pécs, Hungary. He completed an LL.M. degree at the University of Vienna on ITC law. His PhD was completed at the University of Pécs. He 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



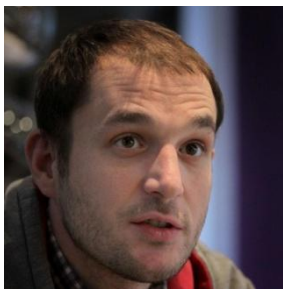
**Tamás Bodoky** (*Executive Director*) is an investigative journalist, editor and nonprofit manager based in Budapest, Hungary. Bodoky has been a journalist since 1996. Before founding atlatszo.hu, he worked at Magyar Narancs weekly newspaper for five years as a science and technology writer and Index.hu 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). Se 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 Atlatzso'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 Gőbölös 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 atlatszo.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 Atlatszo. 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](http://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](#), [Energiaklub](#)

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 Contact

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

