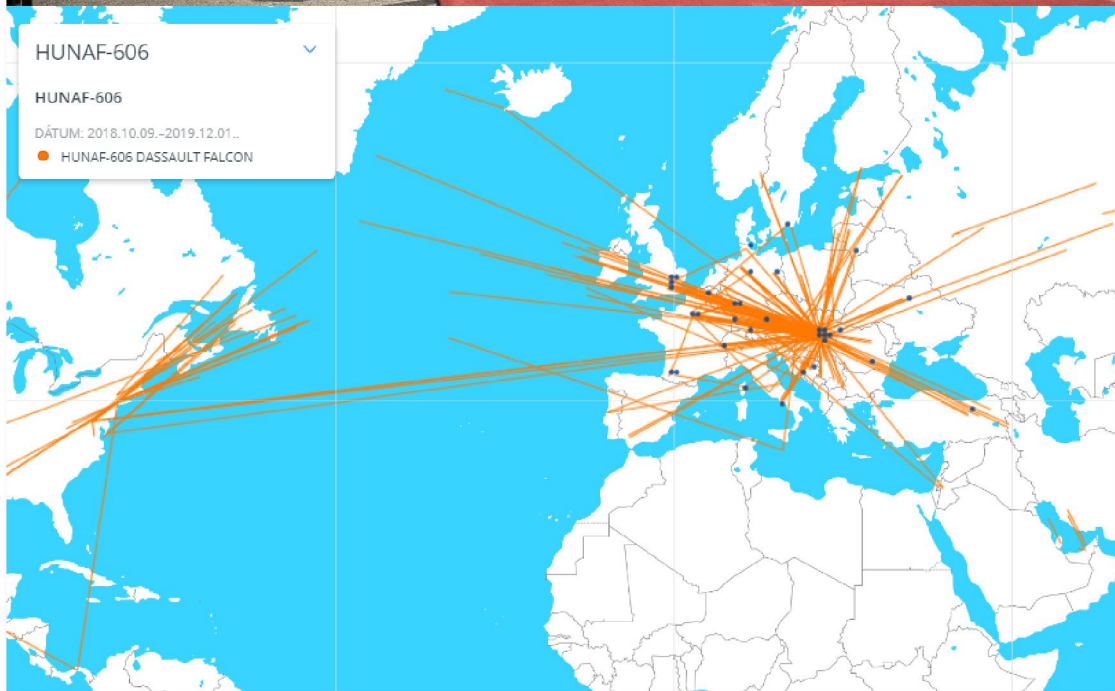
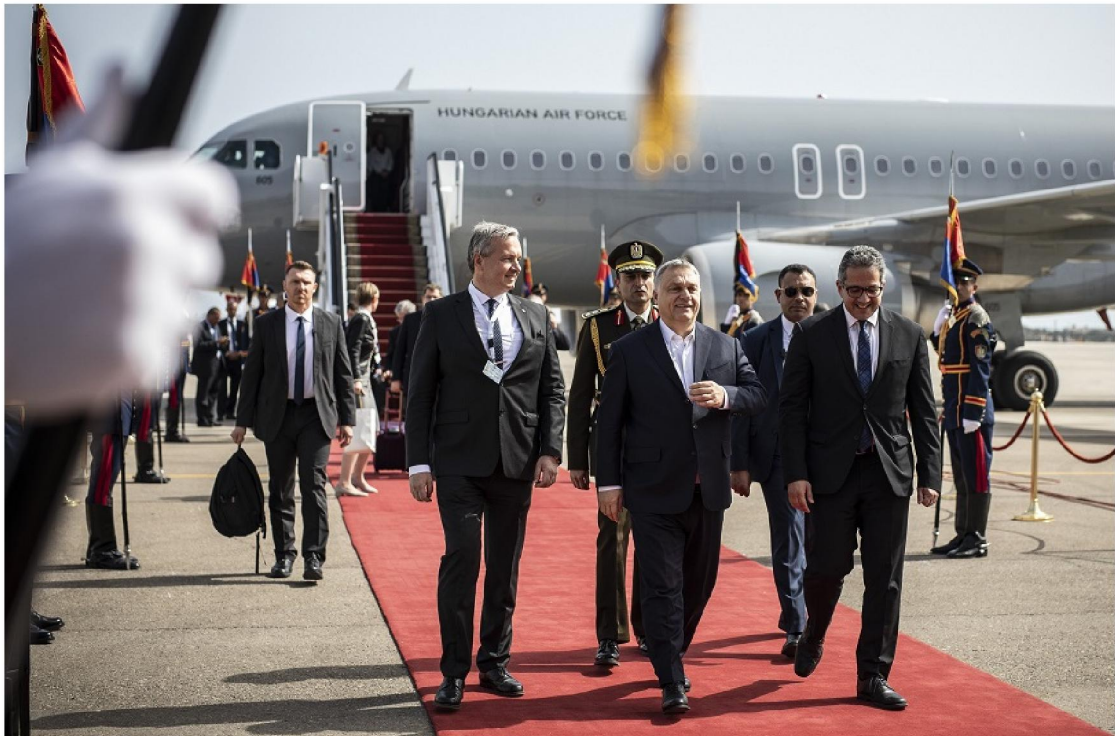


Atlatszo – The first nonprofit center for investigative journalism in Hungary



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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1. The first nonprofit center for investigative journalism in Hungary

[Atlatszo](#) 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 – ‘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 operates a Tor-based anonymous whistleblowing platform, a freedom of information request generator for the general public, an independent blogging platform for other NGOs and independent journalists and experts and other online services. Atlatszo staff are mostly journalists, supported by video journalists, legal and IT-experts.

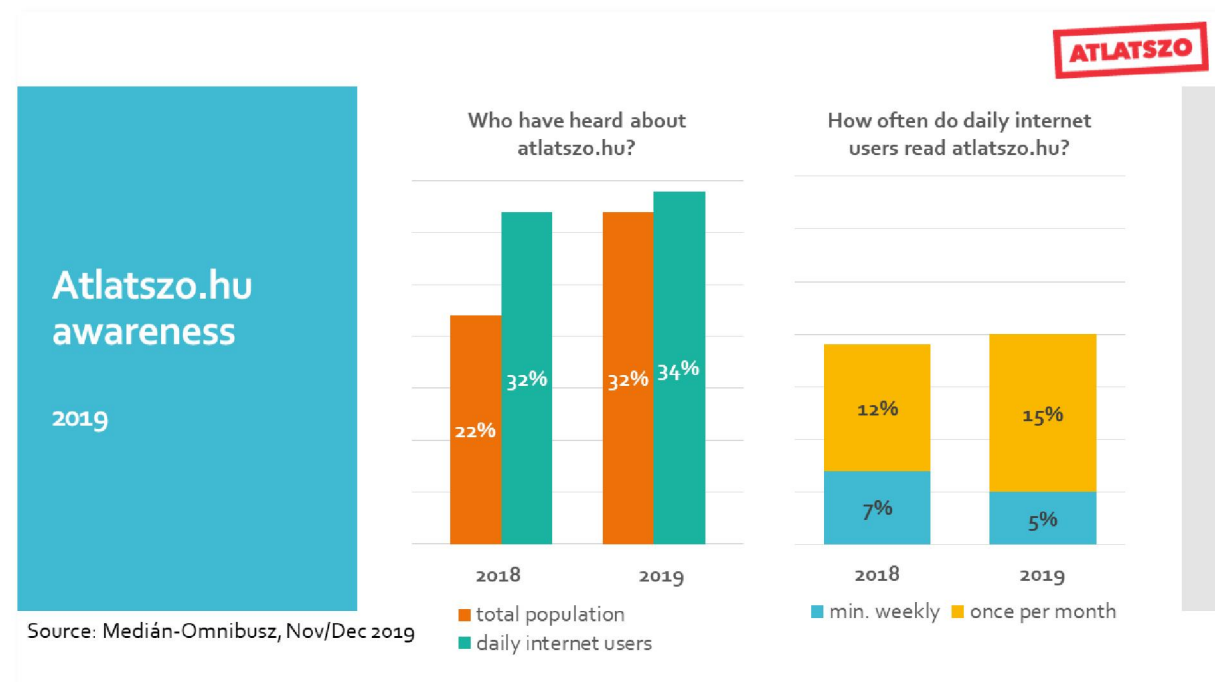
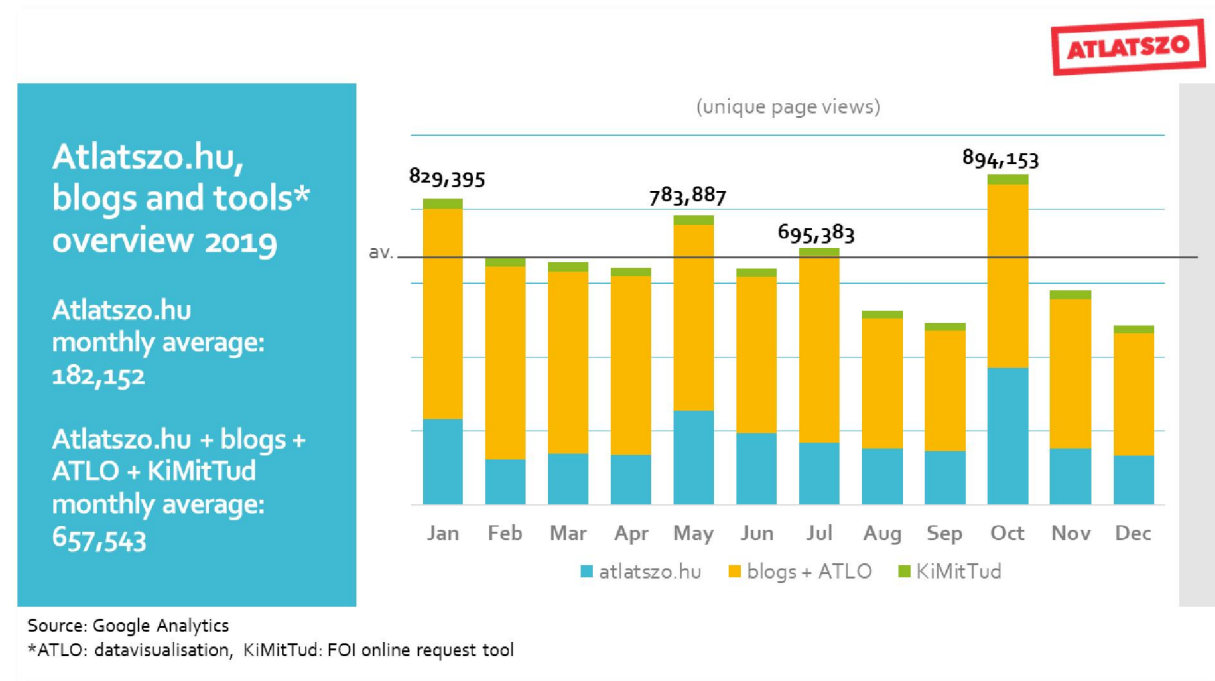
Atlatszo is among the top ten most popular quality journalism sites of Hungary with growing readership and a significant impact on the Hungarian public sphere - our articles were referred to 3065 times in 2019 by other Hungarian media outlets. The site covers political corruption, campaign financing, 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 Atlatszo 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

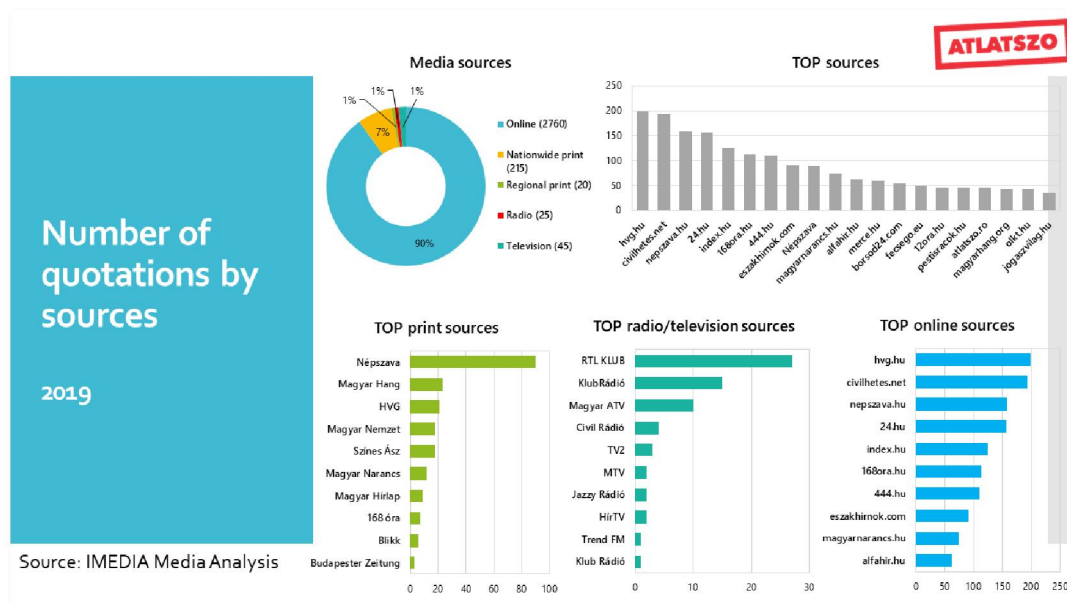
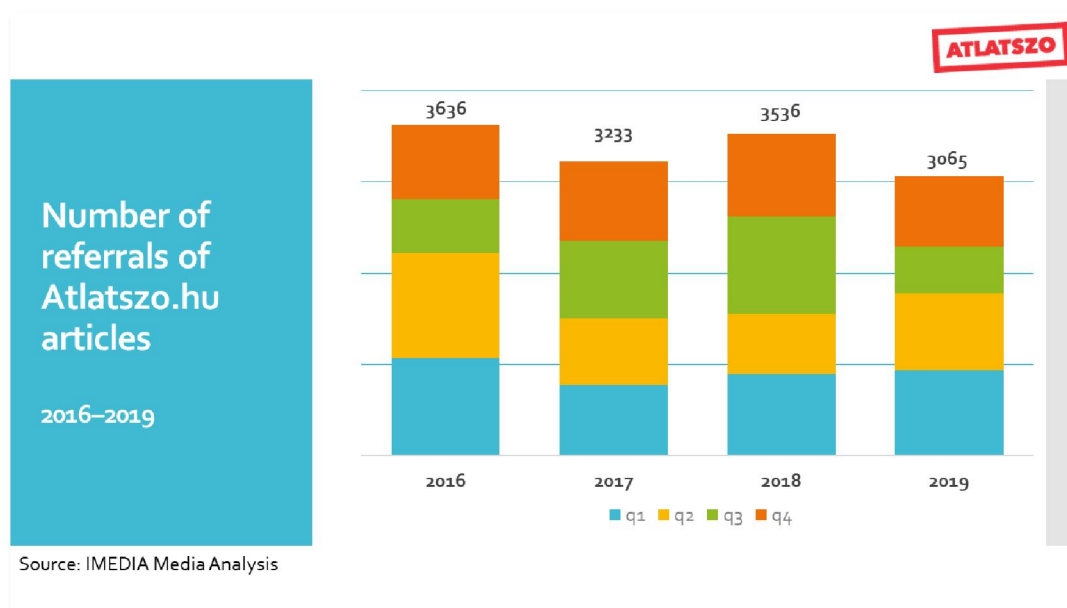
In 2019 our websites reached a regular readership of 500,000-900,000 unique page views monthly (Google Analytics), or 15% of daily internet users of Hungary at least once a month (Medián Research). Our main [Facebook page](#) reached 101,000 followers by the end of the year.



2.2 Impact

2.2.1 Domestic impact

Newsworthy stories published by Atlatzso get picked up by other media, print and online publications, as well as radio and television, including prime time news broadcasts. Atlatzso was quoted, referred to via its publications or was mentioned 3,065 times in 2019 in Hungarian online, print and electronic news media, in connection with more than 500 news topics. 69 of these mentions were discrediting Atlatzso, what means that the number of propaganda attacks have significantly decreased compared to the previous year (2018: 296). Most of the derogatory news pieces were mentioning Atlatzso in connection with George Soros, who is still a main target for the government-funded media in Hungary. In 2019, the pro-government media continued to offer little to no coverage to Atlatzso's investigations (IMEDIA Media Analysis).



2.2.2 International impact

Many of Atlatzso stories were noticed and quoted by international media outlets in 2019. Our investigations about fraudulent use of EU subsidies in Hungary was quoted or featured by [The Economist](#) and [VRT](#) and [AP](#) and [ZDF](#) and [Hromadske](#). Our reporting on the pleasure boat collision which killed 28 tourists on the Danube in Budapest was quoted by [Reuters](#). Atlatzso was also frequently mentioned and featured in articles and reports about free press under threat in Hungary: [Nieman Reports](#) and [The Atlantic](#) quoted our research into Hungarian governmental propaganda spending, [Index on Censorship](#) and [TPI](#) and [Foreign Policy](#) and [Info.cz](#) interviewed us about restrictions on media freedom. The [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#) published our article about how we investigated the private yacht and luxury jet of the Hungarian governing elite. Atlatzso was also featured in the DW Akademie publication „[After the Scoop](#)” which showcases nine media outlets from across the globe spearheading investigative reporting.

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 businesses and oligarchs via biased tenders during recent years. In 2019, Atlatzso 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.

- [Hungarian Pavilion of the 2015 Milan World Expo still swallows taxpayers money](#)
- [Key figure of election sex scandal owns apartment next to Chief Prosecutor at Lake Balaton](#)
- [Group sex parties and private airplanes: Fidesz mayor exposed in run-up for local elections](#)
- [Mr Trócsányi's conflicts of interests: not strictly law, but not purely politics, either](#)
- [Budapest World Heritage Site endangered in hotel construction project by Orbán's son-in-law](#)
- [UNESCO: Budapest might end up on the “World Heritage in Danger” blacklist](#)
- [Not only Mészáros but also his family members are enriching themselves from public tenders](#)
- [Mészáros & family, Huawei and ZTE to profit from Budapest-Belgrade railway reconstruction](#)
- [Prime minister Orbán's son-in-law bought a luxury holiday villa near Lake Balaton](#)
- [Orbán's spin doctor granted diplomatic passport despite holding no official government role](#)
- [Museum of Applied Arts secretive about artwork loaned to the prime minister's office](#)
- [Central bank chief's son owns a collection of Porsche 911 Targas](#)
- [Deputy PM Zsolt Semjén's friend requested valuable hunting grounds in the Gemenc forest](#)
- [State-owned lottery company gives €219,000 to NGO favored by the government](#)
- [Mészáros children win school reconstruction projects with overpriced offers](#)

- [From Tiszakécske to Dubai: László Szíjj's Rise to the Top Business Circles of the Regime](#)
- [Orban's new, 'austere' office decorated with 38 pieces of historic artwork from public museums](#)

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 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 2019 highlights:

- [This is how authorities sabotaged the fraud investigation against Orban's son-in-law](#)
- [Atlatszo identified the Hungarian fraud example highlighted in OLAF's annual report](#)
- [The EU-funded mini train of Felcsút generated a loss of HUF 17 million in 3 years](#)
- [Unfinished, useless swimming pools cost more than a billion forints in public funds](#)
- [Court sentences defendant to prison in a fraud case uncovered by Atlatszo in 2012](#)
- [Viktor Orban's village is getting an artificial lake and an island, funded by the European Union](#)
- [Hungarian authorities secretive about OLAF's report on fraud committed by Orban's son-in-law](#)
- [OLAF cases in Hungary: first defendant in fake 'dog fitness' case given suspended prison term](#)
- [The Mészáros empire won public tenders worth €826 million last year, 93 percent of which came from European Union funds](#)

3.3 „Local state capture” in municipalities and rural areas

The structure of rural publicity in Hungary has become distorted to an extent unparalleled since the fall of communism: the dominant part of local and regional media was bought out by pro-government oligarchs and straw persons. Therefore, the local abuses do not receive publicity. In 2019 Atlatszo continued to work with local correspondents outside the capital dedicated to investigate and report individual cases of the 'local state capture situation' in Hungarian municipalities, uncovering conflicts of interest and cases of wrongdoing.

- [Food for votes scheme exposed in an area of extreme poverty during local elections](#)
- [Village mayor's family company's contract with local real estate developer investigated](#)
- [Media hack: Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister investigates a non-existent company](#)
- [Election fraud: mayors of villages on the Serbian border convicted for fictitious address reporting](#)
- [Famous 'roma village' proves at EU election that poor people do not simply sell their votes to Orban](#)
- [A pro-government official helped a town avoid an expensive cleanup of construction waste](#)

3.4 Environmental destruction

Destruction of the environment is accelerating in Hungary due to large scale private and state construction projects and relaxed regulation. There are shortcomings in central environmental management and monitoring, authorities are reluctant to control businesses close to the government. Environmental licensing decisions are often made with a political bias, because these enterprises represent serious economic interests. Atlatszo is reporting the damage:

- [Stench, fire, flies & rats – billions of forints disappearing from waste facility near Balatonfüzfő](#)
- [Authorities are overlooking construction works in protected area near Budakeszi](#)
- [Lake Fertő closed for construction – locals protest the tourism megaproject in the protected area](#)
- [Toxic gases released at Mátra Power Plant, locals blame Lőrinc Mészáros's starch factory](#)
- [Carcinogenic soil and groundwater contamination at hazardous levels in Hidas and Garé](#)
- [A forest was cut down to allow the Samsung factory to expand; locals protest the decision](#)
- [Construction waste is piling up in a Budapest suburb, worrying locals but not authorities](#)

3.5 PM Orban's private jet and military plane flights

The image of PM Orban as the average Hungarian was hurt when Atlatszo revealed that he is 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. In 2019 we continued to investigate the non-commercial airplanes the prime minister and his inner circle fancies.

- [Why does the Hungarian Air Force fly to the Canary Islands, Las Vegas, Dubai, Malta, or Panama?](#)
- [OTP Bank denies Orban's holiday visit on private island in the Adriatic Sea](#)
- [After a couple of low cost flights to polish his image, PM Orbán is flying the luxury jet again](#)
- [We found another private jet that is used by the governing elite in a non-transparent manner](#)
- [PM Orban's private jet and military plane flights are surrounded by secrecy](#)



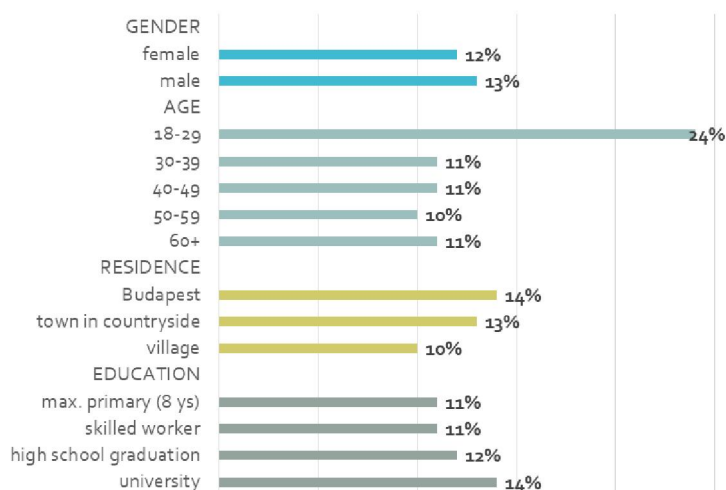
3.6 Investigating the nuclear industry

Hungary is home to a number of nuclear facilities. While the Paks nuclear power plant is known to everybody, 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 offer comprehensive information about the ongoing nuclear projects, especially with respect to corruption and environmental risks.

- [In Finland, the licensing process is more transparent for a newly built Russian NPP](#)
- [A restaurant and a shopping centre operate next to a former nuclear waste repository in Solymár](#)
- [Nuclear reactor units abandoned 30 years ago after Chernobyl to be finished in Ukraine](#)
- [The expansion of Rosatom: spreading Russian influence by building nuclear reactors](#)
- [This is how Hungarian villages fought back against planned nuclear waste repositories in the 1980s](#)
- [Tour of 'atomic truck' advertising the Paks2 nuclear plant expansion costs €1.1 million](#)
- [Tritium Leak and Waste Packaged in Plastic Bags: Questions about the Nuclear Cemetery](#)

Readership in different demographic groups

as a percentage of the total population of each group, Dec 2019



Source: Medián-Omnibusz, Nov-Dec. 2019

4. Crossborder projects and collaborations

4.1 Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

Just like in previous years, Sarajevo-based [Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project](#) (OCCRP) was a very important partner for Atlatszo in 2019. This year we cooperated with OCCRP in [exposing](#) that the official foundation of Fidesz, the Hungarian ruling party, paid more than 150,000 euros for “public law research” of dubious value to a private company managed by former Belgian senator Stef Goris. The Investigative Dashboard run by OCCRP contributed research and flight tracking records to Atlatszo’s investigation into [secret flights of the Hungarian Air Force](#) to places like Canary Islands, Las Vegas, Dubai, Malta, or Panama.

4.2 Vsquare

Atlatszo is a founding member of [Vsquare.org](#), an investigative journalism project funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium. Vsquare 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 investigations of [militarized patriotism](#) in the region, a [Russian bank](#), and a [Chinese tech giant](#) expanding in Europe, and [skyrocketing state propaganda spending](#) in Hungary and Poland.

4.3 Expanding Anonymous Tipping

Atlatszo is participating in a EU-funded project called [Expanding Anonymous Tipping](#) (EAT), which aims to promote a whistleblower culture and ultimately contribute to a lower level of corruption and empower civil society. EAT is offering an anonymous whistleblowing platform provided by [GlobaLeaks](#), an open source, free software. The customized platform facilitates anonymous tipping and builds trust between citizens and public or private organizations.

4.4 Black Waters

[Black Waters](#) is a hybrid investigative-research and advocacy project led by the Center for Media, Data and Society of Central European University that responds to the need for engaging reporting on environmental damage, corruption and the consequences for social justice in Central and Eastern Europe. A team of researchers, journalists and audio-visual artists develop novel multimodal methodologies, conduct mixed-methods research, and report their findings using audio, visual and textual media. Although not activist in its character, the project contributes to calls for environmental justice and accountability of big polluters in the region. Atlatszo investigated the [hazardous waste deposit at the red sludge reservoirs in Almásfüzitő](#) in the framework of this project.

4.5 mySociety

[mySociety](#) is a not-for-profit social enterprise, based in the UK and working internationally. The organisation is building online technologies that give people the power to get things changed, and they share these technologies so that they can be used anywhere. mySociety is working with partner groups to help them build effective civic websites through the

implementation of their tools and software. [Kimittud](#), Atlatszo's public FOI request generator service is powered by mySociety's open source platform, [Alaveteli](#) — also the software behind FOI sites in over 25 countries worldwide. In 2019 mySociety hosted the third international AlaveteliCon, the Freedom of Information (FOI) technologies conference in Oslo, where Atlatszo was also represented.

4.6 Open Information Partnership

The [Open Information Partnership](#) is a diverse network of established organisations and individuals across Europe working in open, independent, fact-based reporting. In 2019 we joined together in response to the rising tide of manipulated information – in the news, on social media and across our public discourse – which we believe to be an existential threat to democracy. Through the Open Information Partnership we pool our resources to increase our individual and collective strength, through peer-to-peer learning, open information exchange and skill-sharing. This means that our network can grow in scale and impact, so we're able to give more people access to clear data and fact-based reporting.

4.7 Domestic partnerships

In 2019 we collaborated with various Hungarian NGOs along different issues. Together with Transparency International Hungary, in March we [published](#) a searchable [online database](#) of corporate taxes going to sports clubs - after a lengthy legal battle Transparency International Hungary obtained the official records. Before the municipal elections in October we joined forces with K-Monitor and Transparency International Hungary asking candidates to commit themselves to putting into practice 21st century minimum standards for local government transparency. Candidates joining the [minimum program](#) have pledged to submit a decree about transparency and accountability in their local governments. The signatories included 39 mayoral candidates, 15 of them won seats, and 390 municipal representatives, 170 of them won seats. In another joint project with environmental organization Energiaklub our investigative journalists teamed up with experts to [research](#) nuclear power plants and radioactive waste sites in Hungary.

4.8 Conferences attended

Atlatszo director Tamás Bodoky was attending and speaking at the [11th Global Investigative Journalism Conference](#) in Hamburg, the [Informationsfreiheit und Journalismus Symposium](#) in Potsdam, the [Festival Piauí de Jornalismo](#) in Sao Paulo, the [FT Future of News Europe](#) conference in Amsterdam, and the [Prague Media Point](#) conference in Prague. Financial manager Krisztina Zala was attending the [AlaveteliCon](#) in Oslo, and the [Civitates](#) conference in Brussels. Data journalist Attila Bátorfy was attending the [DataHarvest](#) conference in Mechelen. Staff journalist Gabriella Horn was attending the [Protecting Journalists in the EU](#) conference in Brussels, a [GlobSec](#) training in Bratislava, and the [Tackling Disinformation in the Era of Digital Media](#) conference in Zagreb. Atlatszo co-founder Ákos Maróy was attending the [NewsGeist](#) conference in Athens. Tamás Bodoky, Attila Bátorfy, and Zoltán Sipos of Atlatszo Transylvania were attending the [OCCRP](#) annual conference in Riga.

5. Innovation in visual storytelling

5.1 Camera drone project

Atlatzso is working with camera drones to offer a far broader, aerial view of key stories, such as wealth amassed by the governing elite, environmental degradation, which would have been left with a much more limited perspective relying only on what could be seen at ground level.

- [Drone footage of huge construction project at the Hatvanpuszta Orbán estate](#)
- [Budapest World Heritage Site endangered in hotel construction project by Orbán's son-in-law](#)
- [Lake Fertő closed for construction – locals protest the tourism megaproject in the protected area](#)
- [Prime minister Orbán's son-in-law bought a luxury holiday villa near Lake Balaton](#)



5.2 Facebook Live project

Facebook Live 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 events, Facebook Live makes it possible to share those moments as they're happening. In 2019 we continued to utilize FB live to broadcast political protests as they were happening.

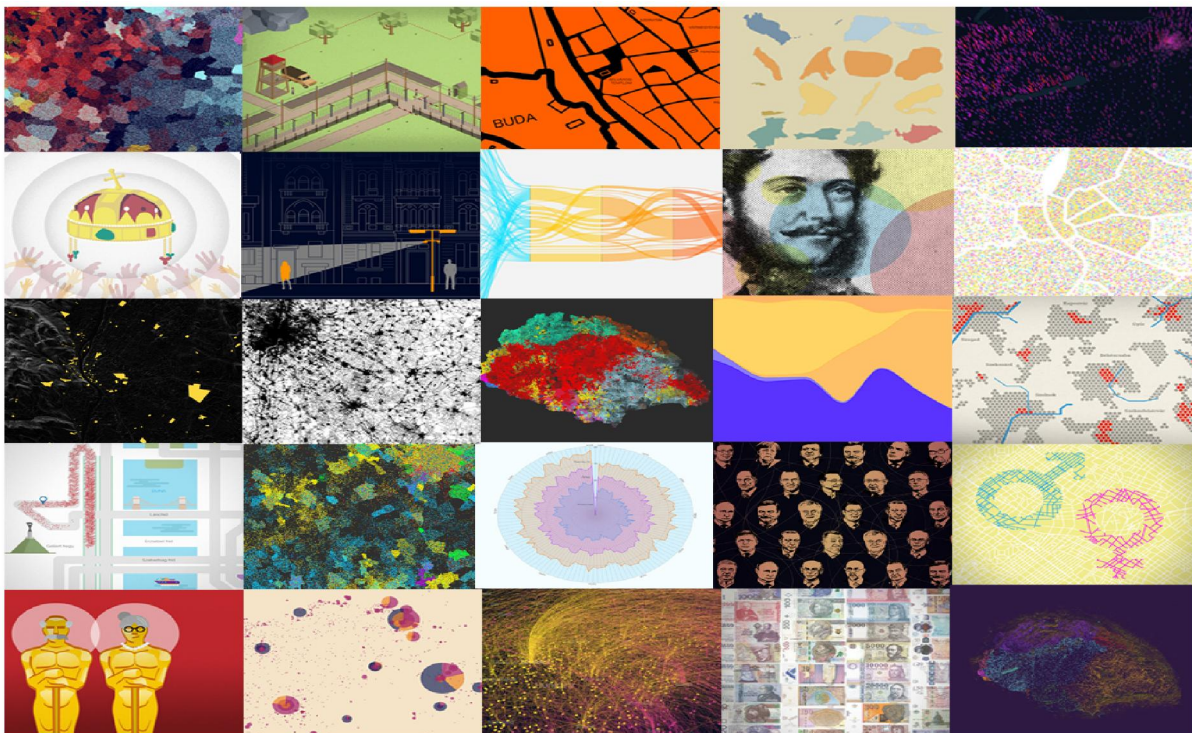


5.3 Data journalism and data visualisation

Atlatzso 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 Atlatzso laid much emphasis also on the importance of data journalism and visualization. In 2018 we launched [ATLO Team](#), 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.

In 2019 ATLO Team produced and assisted data-driven reporting on corruption and public affairs. Our most notable data-driven feature was about the [Hungarian Air Force's suspicious routes](#) in Panama, Dubai, Las Vegas, Malta and the Canaries. Our most popular data journalism articles were about the [sponsors of the Prime Minister's football club](#), the [pro-government news media](#), and the historical ranking of [Hungarian billionaires](#). We did two data projects on [how to visualize properly election results](#) without manipulating the readers. We created further 32 standalone projects on historical, scientific or urban topics, and two developments. Many of ATLO's visualization projects were picked up by mainstream news outlets, and they were showcased at the CEU's Data Stories Exhibition. Some of the highlights:

- [The official meetings of prime minister Viktor Orbán – interactive feature](#)
- [Companies rush to sponsor Orbán's football club, Puskás Academy](#)
- [Interactive feature – native language ethnic map of historical Hungary in 1910](#)
- [Data visualization: this is what the pro-government news media looks like](#)
- [See the movement of Hungarian migrants and refugees after the Treaty of Trianon](#)
- [See how the wealth and ranking of the richest 100 Hungarians changed over time](#)
- [89% of Budapest streets that are named after people commemorate men](#)



6. 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 8 years we filed more than 140 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 has won more than 60 percent of FOI lawsuits initiated so far. 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.

The court case which received international media coverage in the year 2019 was about the expenses and subsidies paid by the Magyar Foundation of North America, a lobbying organization in the USA founded by the Hungarian government. As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had failed to comply with the final [court decision](#), we had to start an enforcement procedure to finally obtain the data.

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.

2019 was the year of the local elections in Hungary, and it helped us to promote our freedom of information agenda. Our lawyers worked with two other Hungarian NGOs (K-Monitor and Transparency International Hungary) in the „Ez a Minimum” (This is the minimum) project: the minimum requirements for the transparency of municipalities was endorsed by more than 400 nominees of the October municipal elections. Since then, dozens of decrees were adopted by municipalities based on a draft proposal authored by Atlatszo lawyers.

The legal team of Atlatszo 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 also provided pro bono legal representation in some of the most interesting cases, since legal representation is compulsory in FOI request trials against data controllers operating on the national level since 2018. Our lawyers also held trainings and presentations on freedom of information and media law both in Hungary and abroad.

In addition to [Így íránk mi](#), a constitutional law blog authored by Atlatszo lawyers, in March 2019 [a new legal blog was launched](#) by Atlatszo, called [Strasbourgi Figyelő](#) (‘Strasbourg Monitor’) that is summarizing and explaining the most important decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Our aim is to present the decisions in an accessible way that is useful and interesting for both lawyers and the general public in Hungary. Strasbourg Monitor is focusing on recent decisions of ECHR and describes cases where a decision was made the previous week.

7. Online services

7.1 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 has started a dozen blogs of its own and attracted another dozen of quality guest blogs.

In 2019, we further developed a new blog started in 2017 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. 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 2019, we also continued to publish a blog dedicated for rural watchdog content, [OrszágSZerte](#), which covers controversial topics outside the capital. By maintaining this channel, we are providing a platform for regional issues that would not reach the national media otherwise and supply a regular income to more than a dozen independent journalists outside Budapest.



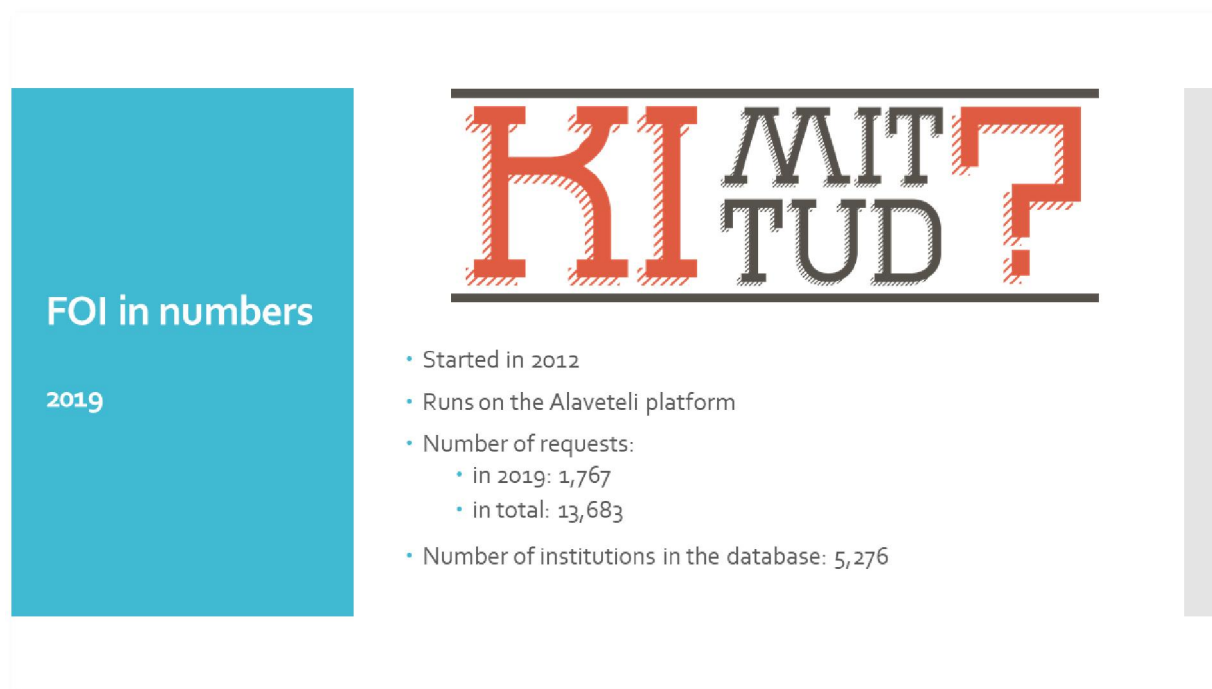
7.2 Secure leaking platform

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 2019, we received 4-5 submissions a week on average, roughly every 10th disclosure being worthy of further journalistic scrutiny.

GLOBALEAKS

7.3 FOI request generator

[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 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 13,000 freedom of information requests with more and more citizens are discovering its power.



7.4 TAO Search Tool

One of the most controversial ideas of the Orban government is the so-called TAO sports support system, introduced in 2011. TAO stands for 'társasági adó' – that is, 'corporate tax.' The system allows corporations to pay a part of their taxes to sports teams instead of paying that money to the state. The money that flows to sports teams has been distributed and spent in a non-transparent way until now. After a lengthy legal battle Transparency International Hungary obtained the documents about how TAO money is flowing to sports clubs. Atlatszo processed that data and we released it in a [searchable format available for anyone](#).



TAO-KERESŐ

Egy helyen a látványcsapatsportokba (foci, jégkorong, kézilabda, kosárlabda, vízilabda) öntött közpénzek több évnnyi dokumentációja. Kereshető adatbázis az EMMI-nek leadott támogatási határozatokból, melyekből kiderül, hogy mely cégek melyik sportegyesületnek mennyi TAO-pénzt adtak 2011 és 2016 között. Keressen cég, település, sportág vagy egyesület alapján!

Felcsút Puskás Akadémia FTC Veszprém Videoton OTP Telekom

8. Workshops and trainings offered to journalists and activists

Our FOI workshop offers a brief introduction to the Freedom of Information Act and examples of online tools that help citizens send FOI requests. During the lecture, participants learn about what public data means and how to utilize of Atlatszo's FOI request generator system, [KiMitTud](#). In addition to FOI we can also teach Investigative Journalism Techniques, Data Journalism and Data Visualisation, and Online Security. We also offer a special workshop targeting secondary school students on Fake News Awareness, utilizing our [Fake News Hunter](#) online quiz, which helps them to recognize disinformation.

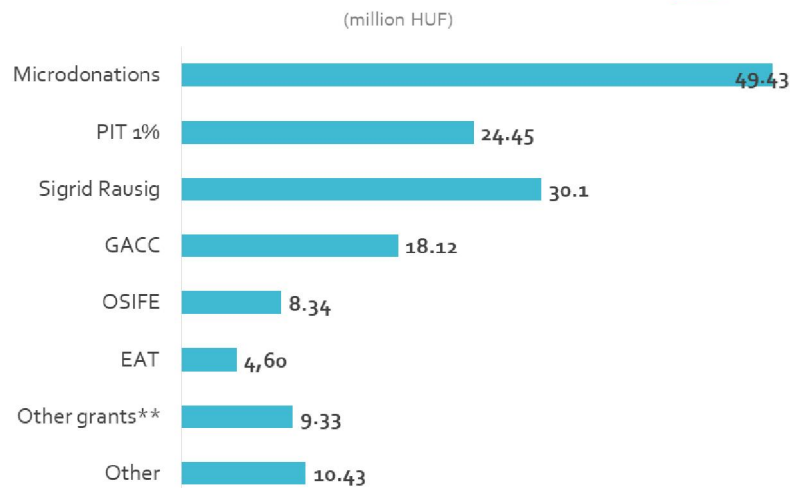


9. Funding

Atlatzso 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 – are contributing significantly. Crowdfunding is very important to us, we regularly campaign our readership to donate. Microdonations and [personal income tax 1 percents](#) offered accounted more than 60% in the 2019 budget. The rest came from international institutional donors.

Where did we get the money from?

Our main sources in 2019*

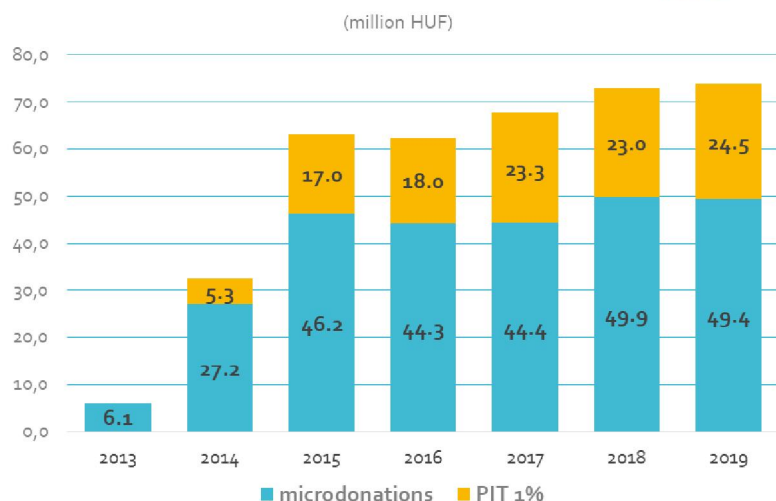


*atlatzso.hu Nonprofit Ltd. and ÁtlátszóNet Foundation jointly

**IJ4EU, GIJN, CEU, Magnet KAP, etc.

An important income source: microdonation and PIT 1%*

2013–2019



*PIT: personal income tax. In 2014 and 2015 PIT received by Asimov Foundation, from 2016 by ÁtlátszóNet Foundation

10. Prizes and Awards

Azerbaijani Laundromat project awarded in 2019

OCCRP and its partners were [recognized](#) with a „citation of excellence” at the 11th Global Investigative Journalism Conference for unveiling the USD 2.9 billion money-laundering operation and slush fund linked to the Azerbaijani political elite. Atlatszo was the Hungarian partner of this 2017 crossborder investigative project: we [reported](#) on an offshore company with azeri government ties which received millions of dollars on a Hungarian bank account following the extradition of the Azerbaijani axe murderer.

Transparency-Soma Award for Investigative Journalism 2018

Atlatszo journalist Katalin Erdélyi, data journalist Attila Bátorfy, and photojournalist Dániel Németh were awarded the [Transparency-Soma Prize](#) for their articles about the luxury vehicles, a yacht and a private jet registered abroad that prime minister Viktor Orbán and the governing elite are using secretly. 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.



SozialMarie 2016

[KiMitTud](#), the online tool implemented by Atlatzso 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 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 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)



11. Organisational structure

11.1 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).



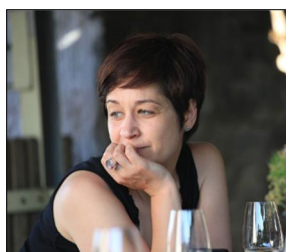
Gábor Polyák is associate professor at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Law, Department for ITC Law. He graduated in law and media sciences at the University of Pécs, Hungary. He completed an LL.M. degree at the University of Vienna on ITC law. His PhD was completed at the University of Pécs. He is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

11.2 Management



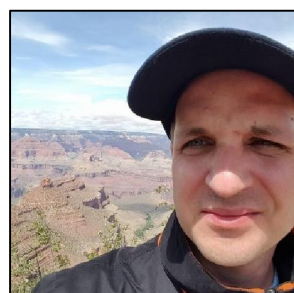
Tamás Bodoky (*Director, Editor*) is an investigative journalist, editor and nonprofit manager based in Budapest, Hungary. Bodoky has been a journalist since 1996. Before founding Atlatszo, he worked at Magyar Narancs weekly newspaper for five years as a science and technology writer and Index.hu online news site 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 a project manager since 2012, she is responsible for financial management, fundraising, and grant administration.



Balázs Tóth (*Legal administration and compliance*) 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 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.

11.3 Staff

11.3.1 Staff journalists

Attila Bátorfy (*Data Journalist*) Bátorfy has an MA in Media and Communication Studies from the ELTE University in Budapest. He is data journalist, head of ATLO Team for datajournalism at Atlatszo, teacher of journalism and media studies at the ELTE University, and a research fellow at the Central European University's Center for Media, Data and Society. Previously he worked at Kreatív, a professional b2b magazine about media and advertising, and at Vs.hu news site, where he was head of data projects. He is editorial staff member of Médiakutató quarterly journal for media studies. 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.

Brigitta Csikász (*Crime Reporter*) Csikász has an MA in History and Communication Studies from the University of Szeged. She started her career as a communications specialist at the Police College of Budapest. Later, she went on to become an investigative journalist covering crime, police and law enforcement issues. Prior to joining Atlatszo she worked at weekly news magazine HVG where she was awarded the Prize for Quality Journalism.

Katalin Erdélyi (*Investigative Journalist*) Erdélyi started writing about politics as a hobby on the public watchdog blog Vastagbőr ('Thick Skin'), which joined Atlatszo's guest blog selection. Erdélyi joined Atlatszo in 2012, where she covers public procurement, public spending, and holds an all time record for the most FOI requests filed by a single journalist. In 2019 she was awarded the Transparency-Soma Prize and the Prize for Quality Journalism for her articles about the luxury yacht and the private jet that prime minister Viktor Orban and the governing elite are using. In 2018 Erdélyi was promoted to deputy editor of Atlatszo and is supervising the work of junior journalists.

Gabriella Horn (*Investigative Journalist*) Horn has an MA in Media and Communication Studies and in French and English Studies from the ELTE University in Budapest. She has been working as a journalist and news editor for over 20 years now. She started her career as a journalist at the Budapest based British news agency News Network Ltd., later she worked as a news reporter at RTL Klub television and as a contributing journalist for a number of national print publications, including Heti Világgazdaság and Magyar Narancs weeklies. Freelancing regularly for Atlatszo from the beginnings, she joined us full time in 2019 and is covering various topics including environmental sustainability and political corruption. In 2015 Atlatszo was awarded the Hégető Honorka Award for a video report on land grabbing by Horn.

Eszter Katus (*Investigative Journalist*) Katus has an MA in Media and Communication Studies, and Teaching Hungarian Language and Literature from the University of Pécs. In the last decade she was a local reporter in Baranya county for the Dunántúli Napló daily paper, and also reported about the countryside for various Hungarian media outlets. She worked with the Hungarian media watchdog organization Mérték Media Monitor, and was leading a project (introducing Solutions Journalism in Hungary) in cooperation with Ashoka Hungary and Transitions Online. She joined Atlatszo in 2019 and is investigating controversial topics and local state capture outside the capital.

Antónia Rádi (*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 was a staff reporter at the political daily Népszabadság and the economic news magazine HVG. She has won the Pulitzer Memorial Prize and the Prize for Quality Journalism. She has been working at Átlátszó since 2015, and is the editor of our countryside blog, working with a dozen local correspondents outside the capital.

11.3.2 Contributing journalists

Botond Bötös, Tamás László Papp, Viktória Dobsi, Barbara Vitrai, András B. Vágvolgyi, Lili Rutai Lili, Dóra Laborezi, Márton Sarkadi Nagy, Zalán Zubor, Orsolya Fülöp, Csaba Segesvári, Zoltán Kis, Zsuzsa Bodnár, Imre Huszka, László Pusztai, Noémi Kocsis, Zsuzsa Zimre, Márk Tremmel, Eszter Galambosi, Boróka Parászká, Irén Kármán

11.3.3 Contributing video journalists and graphic artists

Áron Halász, Gergely Áron Pápai, Zsófi Rick, Gabriella Dohi, Dániel Németh, Bence Bodoky

11.3.4 Lawyers, attorneys

Dr. Tibor Sepsí (*Attorney at Law*) After graduating from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest in 2000, Sepsí 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.

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.

11.4 Legal entities

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

11.5 Contact

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Donations: english.atlatszo.hu/about-us-fundraising/