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Official conclusion: CEU and City of Vienna sign agreement on the utilization of the Otto Wagner site

The City of Vienna has offered to help Central European University (CEU), a highly respected international university, establish its new home at the historical Otto Wagner site. Over a period of three years, the Vienna Business Agency, on behalf of the City, and CEU have negotiated the exact conditions for the future use of a portion of the site by the University. Today, the ceremonial conclusion was set during a festive photo session with the official signing of the contracts.

Peter Hanke, Executive City Councillor of Finance and Business of the City of Vienna, said: "The locating of CEU in Vienna has sent an important economic signal, as the implementation of this University campus by 2025 will create added economic value for the city in the next few years. Hence, it will enhance the image of Vienna as a modern, cosmopolitan, international city."

Michael Ignatieff, Rector of the renowned University, and Liviu Matei, Provost of CEU, were present at the signing of the contracts and took the opportunity to sum up the procedure so far and to look into the future: "With this signing, CEU is making Vienna its permanent home and committing ourselves to be responsible partners with the community in the Steinhof area," said **CEU Rector and President Michael Ignatieff**. "CEU thanks Vienna for welcoming us with open arms."

"This agreement marks the official beginning of a longstanding partnership between the City of Vienna and Central European University, one that is so clearly of mutual benefit for CEU and the City," said **Liviu Matei, Provost and Vice-Rector**. "It represents our shared ambition to work together to ensure the Otto Wagner site, a place of remarkable architectural and natural beauty - and with a complex history, becomes internationally renowned as a scientific and cultural powerhouse."

The building lease agreement with CEU has been concluded for a period of 100 years and specifies that the university itself will take care of the refurbishment of the buildings in the "core zone" to be used exclusively as a campus, which is about one third of the available area. The Vienna Business Agency, as a Fund of the City of Vienna, owns the property and has negotiated the conditions with CEU on behalf of the City. The possibility for CEU to further use the Otto Wagner area for another 100 years has already been defined.

Gerhard Hirczi, Managing Director of the Vienna Business Agency: "Being involved in an event as unique as the establishment of a university in Vienna fills us with pride and pleasure. 118 years after the opening of a sanatorium on the Steinhof grounds, a new and contemporary chapter in the history of this area will be written in 2025 with the opening of the university campus."

The grounds will continue to be open to the public, and all further planning will be carried out in close cooperation with the Federal Monuments Authority.

Chronological overview of events:

- **Autumn 2017:** First contact by CEU/George Soros, Vienna Business Agency is commissioned with negotiations
- **April 2018:** City of Vienna and CEU sign Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a university campus at the Otto Wagner site
- **September 2019:** CEU starts teaching at Campus Quellenstraße 51 (in Vienna's 10th district) as a temporary campus, planned as an interim solution for five years
- **June 2020:** City of Vienna decides on the building lease agreement for The CEU core campus
- **September 2020 to December 2022:** Planning phase
- **January 2023 to mid-2025:** Construction phase
- **Autumn 2025:** Planned start of teaching at CEU at the Otto Wagner site

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