*Information about interviewee:*

*Norbert Sabic is the Chief of Staff in the Office of the President and Rector of the Central European University. The Interview was conducted Budapest, Hungary.*

*R= Respondent – Norbert Sabic*

*I=Interviewer – Sam Wrighton*

I: Some have suggested to me that there is evidence of corruption in the Hungarian government. Do you believe this to be the case?

R: Energy important for Orbán. Exim bank potentially financing Hungarian purchase of soon-to-be privatised Vojvodina energy. Nation system for cooperation – with us and you are fine, against us you are an enemy. Populist. Fund – Prosperitati– Grants for housing (10,000 euros for house if you agree to live in village). Money for farming equipment. Pet projects of Fidesz. VMS party – draws support from rural, elderly electorate. Under the influence of Fidesz. 90% would vote Fidesz. Potential corruption. Split occurred a few years ago because far-right theatre chief elected – disliked by most – nationalist plays. Opposition group to VMS challenged – 20% in first year. Leader of challenging group \_ Hungarian group – betrayed opposition by becoming supreme court judge – has to remain apolitical. VMS – control all of the money. Centralise everything. Support for Hungarian institutions declining – more corruption – more clientelist relationships.

I: How was dual citizenship affected the relationship between Hungary and the Hungarians abroad?

R: Referendum – MSP (Hungarian governing party at the time) actively against dual-citizenship. Difficult for Hungarians in Serbia to understand this policy. Fidesz – want to weaken MSP even further – want to do whatever they didn’t do. Right to vote linked to Hungarian ID card – changed recently. Privileges linked to this. New economic gains for engaging with the ethnic diaspora. Strategic investment. Clientelism. Corruption. Migration

Rhetoric from Hungary recently changed. Was – stay where you are, it is important for Hungary. Now – Fidesz – branch educational organisations – Elderly care and Megatronics. in Vojvodina

I: In practice, how did the extraterritorial naturalisation process work?

R: Evidence that you are Hungarian – Ancestors born in a territory that used to be part of Hungary – either during WWII or before 1921. Speak Hungarian – market developed for Hungarians to teach Serbs. Jobbik – clashed with VMS. Leader of Serbia – former member of Serbian nationalist party – said “All of the Hungarians should be given a sandwich and put on a train for Hungary”. The VMSZ are spending a lot of money on the rural electorate. They know their voters and who they are. The young, educated, urban elite don’t vote for them. As a consequence, Hungarian institutions are getting less and less money. Young, elite, educated don’t’ vote for them. Hungarian institutions getting less and less money.

New media getting all the money – propaganda machine – parallels with war. Enemies of Hungary.