Iván Székely
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Dr. Iván Székely is an internationally known expert in the multidisciplinary fields of data protection and freedom of information. A long-time independent researcher, consultant and university lecturer, former chief counsellor of the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Székely is at present Counsellor of the Open Society Archives at Central European University and associate professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME).

As a social informatist, he has been dealing with theoretial and practical aspects of openness and secrecy since 1984. He has written some 60 major studies connected with research and consulting activities, and about 80 notable publications, including monographs. As a regular conference lecturer, he has had presentations at about 150 professional events, including over 80 lectures at international conferences and seminars.

A leader of the first privacy and data protection research in Hungary and in the region (1989–90), he conducted the first Hungarian survey on data protection and information privacy in the media (1990).

Székely was co-founder and trustee of the *InfoFilia Hungarian Data Protection and Freedom of Information Foundation,* 1991–2000; co-editor and special consultant for the Hungarian book series *Informatics – Law – Administration,* 1991–93; editor in chief of the journal *TDR Hungary,* 1990–93; contributing editor of *Transnational Data and Communications Report,* 1991–94; founding member of the editorial board of the journal *Információs Társadalom* [Information Society].

Székely is co-author of the Hungarian National Information Strategy (1995), and also co-author of the government's Theses on the Information Society (2000). Invited expert and co-author of the project „Technological Perspectives of the Information Society" of the National Council for Telecommunications and Informatics (2005). He participated as consultant and manager in the activities of international consulting firms and auditors; he conducted data protection audits at several state and private organizations – among others, at the National Population Register. Since 1992 he has been participating in the advisory work for preparation of information and communication-related Hungarian laws.

Székely is co-founder and trustee of the *FUNDUS Canadian-Hungarian Foundation for Quantitative Economic History Research* since 1991. From 1995 to 1998 he was chief counsellor of the newly established Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information. He participated in founding the institution, shaping its activities, and editing its traditional and electronic publications.

From 1997 to 2000 Székely was member of the Committee on Archival Legal Matters of the International Council on Archives (ICA); he participated in the preparation of the Recommendation of the Council of Europe on access to archives, and he was the head of the project monitoring its implementation (2000–2005). He is co-author of the Handbook on access to archives of the Council of Europe (2005). He was chair of the information and media board of the Hungarian Soros Foundation, 2000–2001. As member of experts' teams he contributed to the conceptualization of the Estonian secrecy regulation (Riga 1994), the framing of the new Kazakh archival legislation (Almaty, 1998), as well as the drafting of the Bulgarian Access to Public Information Act (Sofia 1998–1999). Dr. Székely is a member of the Transparency Task Force of the international project Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), advisory board member of Privacy International, the Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, and the European Privacy Institute; and the representative of Hungary in the International Programme for the Development of Communication of UNESCO.

From December 1998 he is Counsellor of the Open Society Archives at Central European University (CEU), a leader of its international projects, co-author and editor of the book presenting the Archives' mission and activities. He prepared the Archives' international principles and recommendations on the use of DNA-based evidence in identity restoration (1999).

As associate professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), he has been participating in establishing the Department of Information and Knowledge Management, in shaping its curriculum, as well as in its educational work and preparation of manuals since 1991. Székely also introduced new interdisciplinary courses at the Sociological Institute of Budapest University (ELTE); he has developed the course on media ethics at the Budapest School of Communication (2003–); he was director of the course "Acces to Information, Access to Archives" at the Summer University of CEU (2000); he is director of the course on archives and human rights at CEU (2002–). Since July 2007 he is teaching at the Department of Electronic Technology at BME.

Székely is member of several international research groups, among others, the Privacy and Identity Management for Europe (PRIME), Broadening the Range Of Awareness in Data protection (BROAD), Ethical Issues of Emerging ICT Applications (ETICA) and Living in Surveillance Societies (LiSS) projects of the EU, and the Surveillance Project of Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. In 1994, summarizing his scientific work, he prepared a multidisciplinary doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Natural and Social Sciences of BUTE (information management); he defended his second thesis for candidacy (sociology) in 1998. In 2004 he received the Positive e-Privacy Award (the "negative" counterpart of the Big Brother Award in Hungary).

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