

Foreword

This volume is based on the presentations delivered at the international conference on “Collective Guilt in Central Europe after the Second World War and Now” organised by the Minority Policy Research Group of the Ludovika University of Public Service (LUPS) in Budapest on 8 November 2023. The focus of the conference was collective guilt and responsibility in our immediate region, Central Europe, after the Second World War. This policy had long-term effects not only on the demographic, especially ethnic, national and linguistic diversity of the region, but also on legal relations through the confiscation of the private property of ethnic individuals.

The conference aimed to contribute to the academic dialogue on the historical and international legal aspects of the post-WWII state policy of collective punishment of ethnic groups, and to highlight and discuss its implications for today’s Central Europe. We are grateful to the speakers and authors for their valuable contributions both at the conference and in this volume. The conference programme reflected a broad approach to the topic and succeeded in exploring different interpretations of collective guilt.

Minority rights and minority policy are of great historical and contemporary importance in Hungary and in Central Europe: there are 13 national minorities living in Hungary, and several million Hungarians belong to minorities beyond our borders in the neighbouring countries.

Ludovika University of Public Service is one of the most important knowledge centres in Central Europe in the fields of civil service, public administration, diplomacy, security, military, law enforcement, water management, law enforcement and public safety.

At the Ludovika University of Public Service, minority issues have always been an important topic in legal, social, human rights, security and international terms. Human rights and minority policy issues are primarily the speciality of the Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies, where minority

issues are dealt with in several courses. The Doctoral School of Public Governance and International Studies welcomes dissertation topics related to human rights and minority protection.

Minority issues are also included in our research portfolio. The researchers of the Minority Policy Research Group (MPRG), the organiser of the conference, also conduct research on the legal and political status of national and ethnic minorities. The Research Group examines minority policy from national, regional and global perspectives in the light of the new challenges of the 21st century. This work is crucial because it assembles and shares knowledge of different European disciplines and practices, and it also enriches minority protection and minority policy making in new ways.

I am convinced that this volume will contribute to the international academic debate on human and minority rights and to a deeper understanding of mechanisms of collective guilt in forming the legal and political landscape of today's Central Europe.

Gergely Deli
Rector of the Ludovika University of Public Service