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## Preface to the Issue of the *Annales*

In 2002, the Faculties of Law of the Georg-August University of Göttingen and ELTE Budapest decided to establish the “Deutsche Rechtsschule”, which since then has allowed numerous ELTE students to study the basics of German law with German professors and to become acquainted with the German way of legal thinking here in Budapest. Many of them have also been able to obtain a subsequent LL.M. degree in Göttingen. Over the past two decades, cooperation between the two Faculties has expanded considerably. One of its fruits is the biennial series of conferences, a much-appreciated form of interaction between our faculties. In these conferences, we analyse legal institutions and concepts from different perspectives that cut across all areas of law. The results of these workshops can be found in several previous issues of the *Annales*, and in volumes published in Göttingen. This issue contains the papers based on the presentations at this year’s conference, for which we have chosen the omnipresent topic of “Wandel des Rechtsstaats”, partly due to the turbulences we have witnessed in Europe and globally since the last conference early in 2020.

Having chosen the theme for the conference, we decided to launch an incentive to deepen our cooperation with the Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris, and to invite our esteemed French colleagues to the conference as well. It was also in 2002 that we started a similar cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Panthéon-Assas, thanks to the great efforts of the late Professor Attila Harmathy and Professor Márta Dezső. In 2006, this cooperation even developed into a Master program (Maîtrise 1) in “Droit Comparé/ Droit Hongrois”, attracting many students from ELTE. Not a few of them also went to Paris after graduating in Budapest to continue their studies in a “Maîtrise2” cycle in Paris.

The conference, with a first part in French and a second part in German, was organised in May 2022 with the generous support of the National Agency for Research, Development and Innovation under the Mecenatúra programme.<sup>1</sup> I am positive that the papers will, to some extent, convey to our readers the wonderfully lively and exciting atmosphere of the days we spent together reflecting on the changes in the concept of the rule of law.

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<sup>1</sup> The papers of the third section, which was held in English, can be found in issue 2023/1 of *ELTE Law Journal*, the Faculty’s other international journal.