



INFO SHEET

on **the plans** of the new campus of Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Palotanegyed and the **public consultation** initiated by the Municipality of Józsefváros

**YOU CAN FIND THE
QUESTIONNAIRE HERE:**



jozsefvaros.hu/go/ppkecampus_survey

Mondja el a véleményét a Pázmány Péter Katolikus egyetem új campusáról! A tájékoztató kiadványt az alábbi linken elolvashatja magyarul: jozsefvaros.hu/go/ppkecampus_info



Why is there a public consultation and what is it about?

The Government of Hungary would build a new campus for the Péter Pázmány Catholic University on the former site of the Hungarian Radio Corporation's Headquarters as a priority project as defined by Hungarian law, on the initiative of the Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference. According to current plans, all demolition and construction work will be completed by September 2027.

This huge project will not only determine the architectural environment of the Palotanegyed (i.e., the inner areas of Józsefváros), but also local society and the everyday experience and quality of life of the people living there. The new campus could only fit into Palotanegyed if it is designed in a meaningful dialogue with its neighbours, the thousands of Palotanegyed residents, and if it is built in the spirit of consensus.

What has happened?

The Government Office issued a **permit for demolition** for the areas affected by the project on 12 December 2023. These works are under procurement. Against this permit, the Municipality of Józsefváros, a directly affected residential condominium and a private citizen have launched a public administration suit. This suit is still ongoing. The plaintiffs filed for legal protection the courts in order to stop demolitions, but this request was rejected on 4 April 2024.

The Ministry initiated the **planning permission** on 17 January 2024 at the Government Office, but this procedure has been paused since 12 March 2024.

Since December 2021, the completion of the architectural design competition, the Municipality of Józsefváros has continuously demanded that the Bishops' Conference, the University and the government authorities in charge of the project carry out a public consultation. This would ensure that the opinions of the residents are meaningfully consulted and incorporated into the project plans before the demolition and construction would commence.

- In January 2022, the Budapest Development Centre (BDC), which was the responsible government authority at the time, distributed information leaflets to the residents of the area, promising consultation. This promise has not been kept either by BDC or the Ministry currently responsible for the project.
- In October 2022, reacting to the initiative of Mayor of Józsefváros András Pikó, the Ministry of Construction and Transport (MCT) showed openness to public consultation, but no response has been received to further, specific requests.
- During 2022 and 2023, the Municipality of Józsefváros held several public forums on Pázmány Péter Catholic University's planned development, but neither the Ministry's nor the Catholic Church's representatives attended them, except on one occasion.
- In December 2023, a public hearing organised by the Municipality was attended by representatives of both the Ministry and the University, but no concrete plans were presented. Their opinion was that changes could no longer be incorporated into the designs. Meanwhile, the website set up for the project published an e-mail address available for public opinions: <https://www.pazmanycampus.hu/>
- At the same time, a petition was launched by a group of local residents. They see the proposed development as a historic opportunity to create a park in Palotanegyed and call for a decrease rather than an increase in built-up land intensity: <https://szabad.ahang.hu/p/cape>
- In January 2024, negotiations between the Municipality and the Ministry resumed. However, the Ministry, citing the University, refused to open a substantive discussion on the plans in order to allow residents to express their views in full, and would only consult on some minor details instead. As this was not acceptable to the Municipality of Józsefváros, the Municipality decided to carry out a public consultation on its own before continuing to negotiate with the Ministry on the project.

Please rate the designs for the new campus of Pázmány Péter Catholic University!

The aim of this participatory public consultation is to learn the opinions of local residents regarding the project. These opinions will later be represented by the Municipality when negotiating with the Government.

The Municipality wants a revision of the plans, based on the feedback of local residents, before the demolition works will commence.

It is important for the Municipality that the project plans take into account the quality of life of the residents, their different needs and their opinions on this construction project that will significantly impact the area. It is also our firm intention that, **if the project does go ahead**, the investor, the Government of Hungary should carry out further development in Palotanegyed beyond the construction of the new campus. These will improve the living conditions of residents. We therefore seek your feedback on other possible developments in the Palotanegyed that are not directly linked to the project under consideration.

A summary of the public opinion as well as what the Municipality will do in light of them will be published.

The public consultation is to last from 10 April to 10 May 2024.

The public consultation is coordinated by the Community Participation Office of the Municipality of Józsefváros.

WHERE CAN YOU GIVE YOUR OPINION?



You can find the online questionnaire here:
https://jozsefvaros.hu/go/ppkecampus_survey



During the consultation period, volunteers from the Community Participation Office will visit affected residents in person.



You can find the Hungarian version of this document and the questionnaire here:
https://jozsefvaros.hu/go/ppkecampus_velemeney



What can be known about the project?

Which area will the project affect?

The building permit plan concerns plot nr. 36582, which is located in the block bounded by Bródy Sándor utca, Pollack Mihály utca, Múzeum utca and Szentkirályi utca. The wider planning area also includes the surrounding streets.

The area, bounded by Pollack Mihály tér, Múzeum utca, Szentkirályi utca and Bródy Sándor utca, is currently densely built-up. Many of the buildings there would be demolished under the current plans.

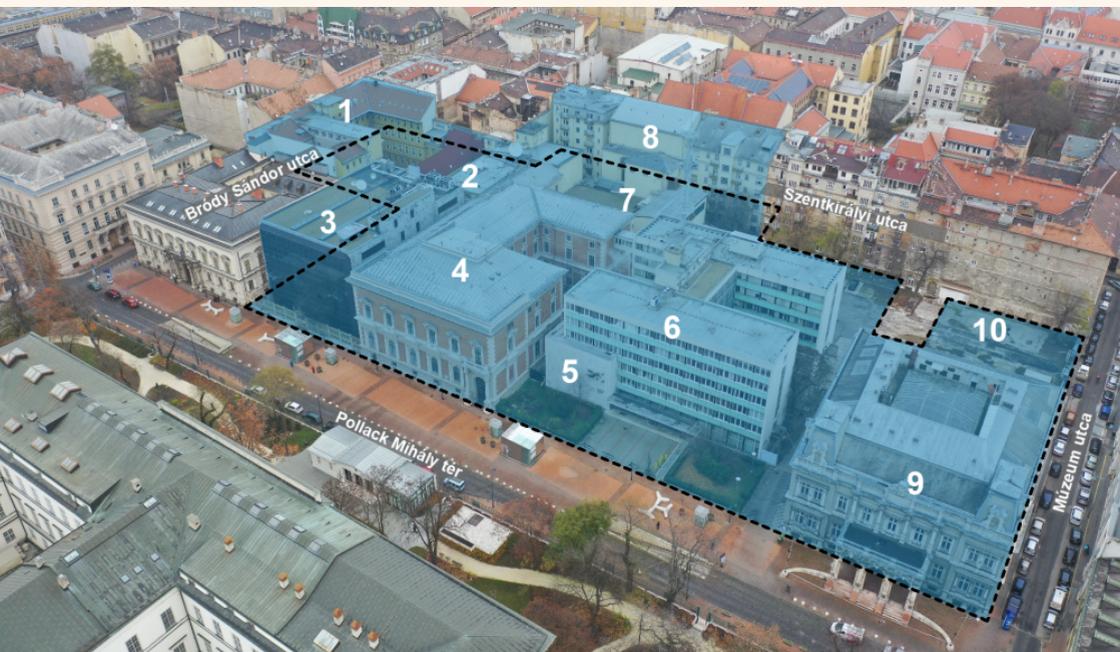


Source: Google Maps

The project would involve the demolition of eight buildings, while preserving two listed palaces (the Esterházy Palace and the Károlyi Palace). According to current plans, these will be replaced by educational facilities, a dormitory, a sports hall, a gym, new spaces connecting up public areas and an underground car park. This would involve the demolition of 37 000 m² and the construction of 57 000 m² of floor space. The new educational function and dormitory would serve 4-5 thousand students and lecturers.

The current plans argue that almost all the buildings to be demolished could only be used for educational purposes after major conversion and it is more economical to build new ones because of the existing structural and energy regulations. At the same time, the heritage report accompanying the plan recommends keeping some of the buildings. The draft plan ignores the possibility of converting the existing buildings by better distributing the planned functions.

Demolition of the former headquarters of the Hungarian Radio Company

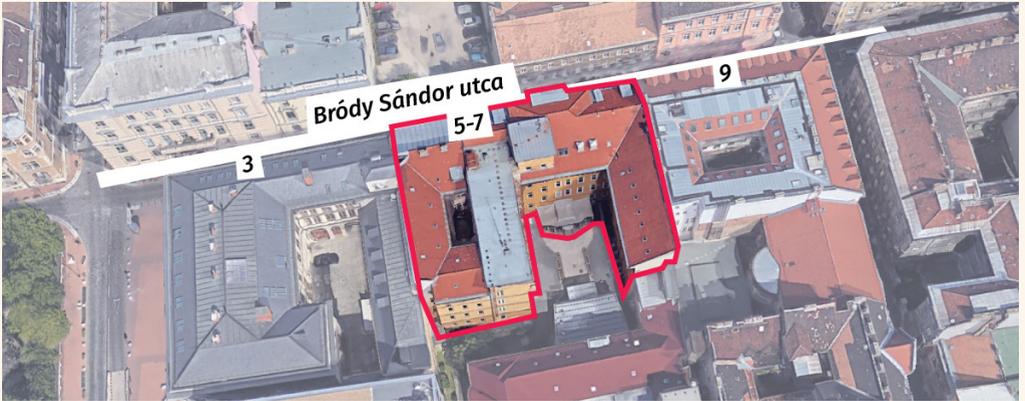


Project Area with the Current Buildings:

(1) Bródy S. utca 5-7., (2) Studio Palace and Pagoda, (3) Archive Building in place of the Festetics Garden (4) Esterházy Palace, (5) Bunker in place of the former National Riding School (6) Central Offices of the Hungarian Radio Company, (7) Studio 6, (8) Szentkirályi utca 25-27., (9) Károlyi Alajos' Palace and (10) its former gardens

To create the new campus, they plan to demolish the following buildings:

- **The former main building of the Hungarian Radio Company (1):** The U-shaped, three-story building at Bródy Sándor 5-7 utca consists of two parts. The façade has an outstanding historical importance, it is one of the most important memorials of the 1956 revolution and is protected. According to the current plans, the façade and the front wing would be retained, but the rest of the building would be demolished as part of the project.



Source: Google Maps

- **Studio Palace (Studios 2 and 7):** This two-storey building, housing radio studios, is connected to a newer four-storey wing with a flat roof. The building is still in use and houses the rehearsal rooms of the Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. It is also the site of the large Studio 6, whose very good acoustic qualities are internationally renowned in music circles. In front of the building is the metal-framed Pagoda building which serves as the entrance lobby and where a cafeteria was located.



7 Source: Google Maps

- **Archives Building (built in place of the Festetics Palace Gardens) (3):** This was once home to the Archives of the Hungarian Radio Company, two thirds of the archives were stored here. The building can house permanently cooled sound and musical recording requiring special storage. The building has flour storeys.



Source: Google Maps

- **Central Office Building and bunker (5 és 6):** This iconic, H-shaped, five-storey high building with a flat roof was once the office building of the Hungarian Radio Company. In front of the facade facing Mihály Pollack Square is a three-storey reinforced concrete bunker.



Source: Google Maps

- **Szentkirályi u. 25/a és 25/b (8):** Szentkirályi utca 25/a is a five-storey residential building currently not in use. It is connected to Szentkirályi utca 27 on several floors. The four-storey building on the street frontage is linked up with a single-storey, flat-roofed studio building behind it, which was specifically designed for this use. The interior spaces are notable for their radio history, cultural value and interior design, with Studio 22 occupying the third and fourth floor.



Szentkirályi utca 25/a



Szentkirályi utca 25/b

Source: Google Maps

- **Szentkirályi u. 27 (8):** Szentkirályi utca 27 is another five-storey residential building, an example of Budapest's architecture from around 1930. It is currently used as the archive and warehouse of the Radio. The building is structurally integrated with the residential building at Szentkirályi utca 29-31. The two buildings have a common boundary wall. During the demolition of the slabs and load-bearing walls, special attention must be paid to this, so as not to damage the structure of the remaining building.



Source: Google Maps

Szentkirályi utca 27

- **Garage and workshops:** The buildings in the middle of the site are typically used for storage and auxiliary functions. The taller building is two storeys high and houses machinery, offices and warehouses, while the ground floor flat-roofed wing next to it once housed garages and offices. The higher wing has passageways to the adjacent buildings. With the demolition of the garage row, the natural boundary of the house at Szentkirályi utca 29-31 would be eliminated, and the university would build a fence 3 metres from the windows of the house.

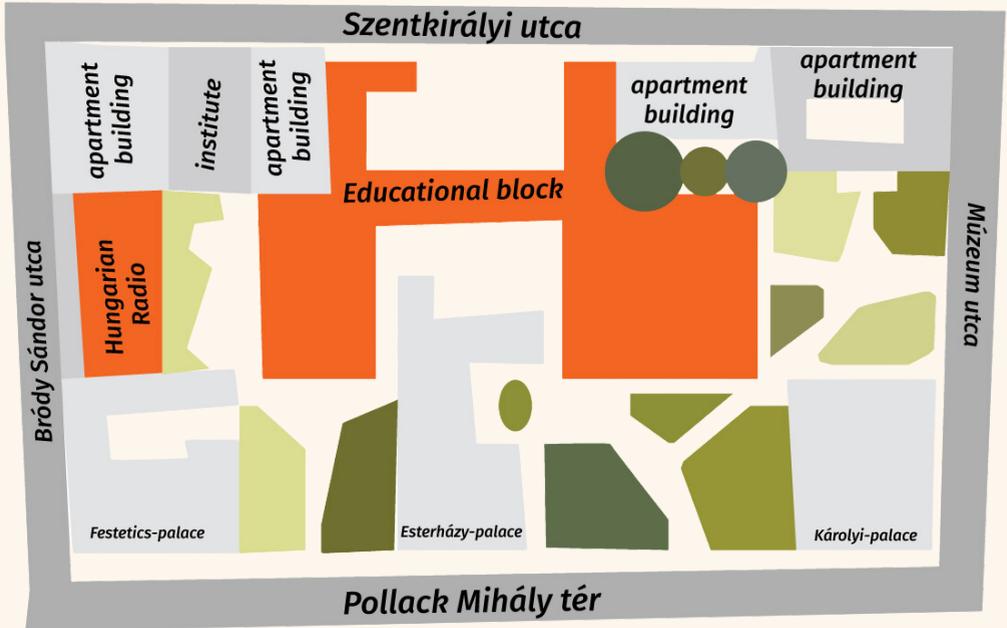
The impact of the project on its environs

According to the documentation of the public tender for the demolition, a total of 37 500 m³ of material would be removed during the demolition. The removal of this amount of demolished material will cause a huge environmental impact with noise and dust pollution. It is necessary to plan the demolition in detail in order to reduce the environmental impact and to address traffic management issues, but **no such plans are known**. The demolition plan indicates that the buildings contain highly hazardous asbestos, for which no detailed demolition technique has been described.

The plans emphasise the environmental sustainability of the new buildings. However, the planned investment does not take into account the ecological footprint of the demolition and does not respect the principle of "minimum necessary" as set out in the new architecture law (Article 5 of Act C of 2023 on Hungarian Architecture).

The connection between Józsefváros and the new campus

The project area is located in a downtown setting and is currently almost 100 percent built-up or paved. The surrounding streets have solid pavement, typical of the Palace District, and the streets are paved. This greatly increases the heat island effect, creating an unhealthy environment for people living, working and commuting in the area. In the plans, the streets would remain 100 percent paved, new green areas would be created in the campus area, between the old palaces and towards Múzeum utca and Szentkirályi utca, on widened squares which would be open to the public during the day.



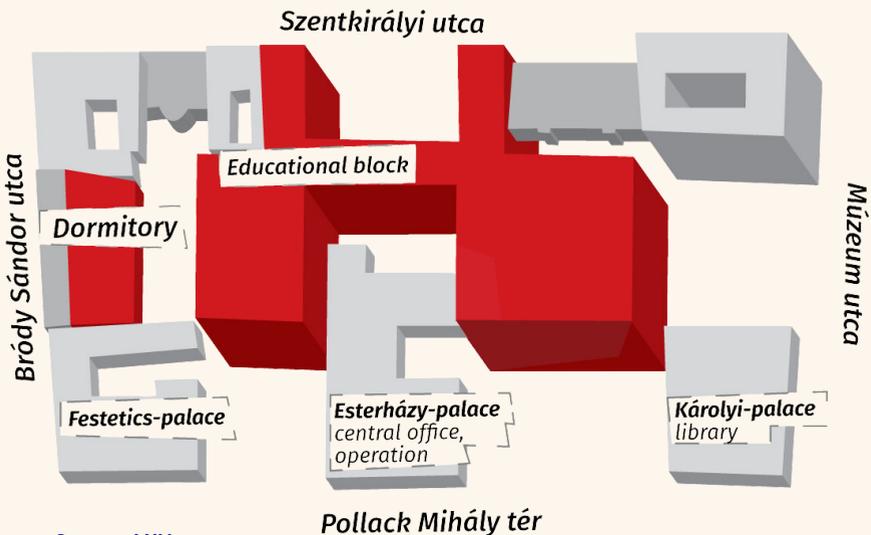
Source: Municipality of Józsefváros (MJV)

The centre of the planned Pázmány Campus is an educational block, which would be surrounded by green spaces. At its centre they plan a new public square in front of the main entrance on Szentkirályi Street. Some of the new green spaces would be planted on the roofs of basement areas which allows for limited tree planting.

The planned buildings of the new campus

The plans include four major buildings:

- an educational block with teaching rooms, offices, labs, a cafeteria, a sportshall and a fitness centre
- under Bródy Sándor u. 5-7, behind the retained facade of the old Hungarian Radio Company building, a dormitory would be built
- Esterházy Palace would house the central offices
- Károlyi Palace would house the library



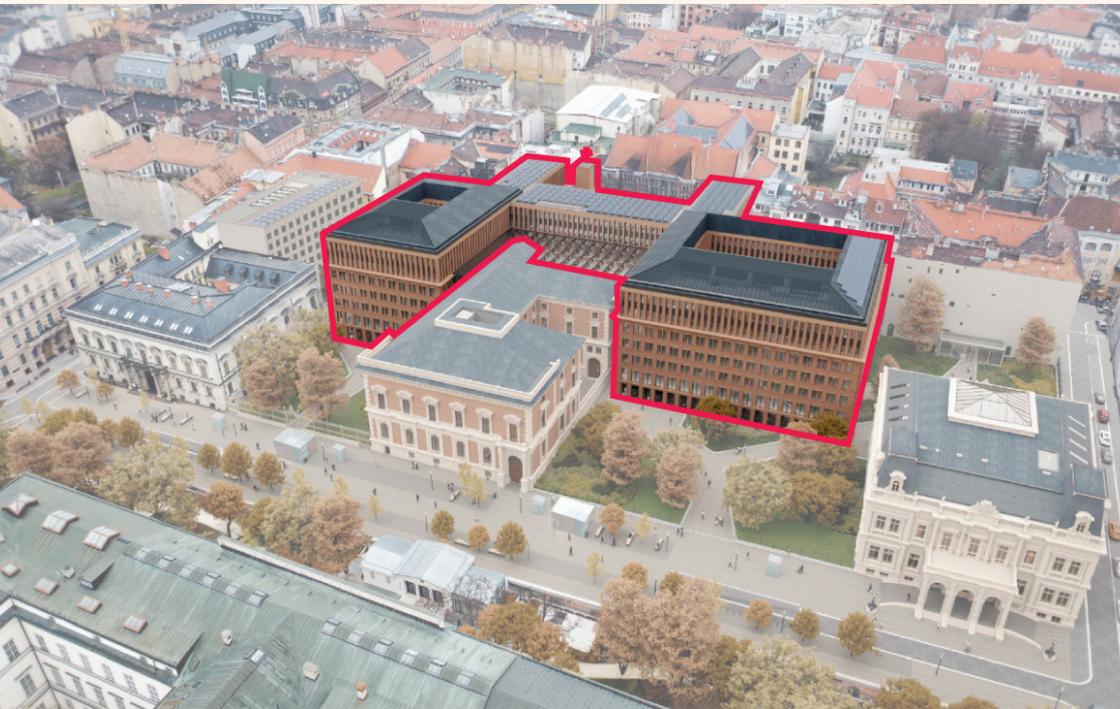
Source: MJV

The educational block

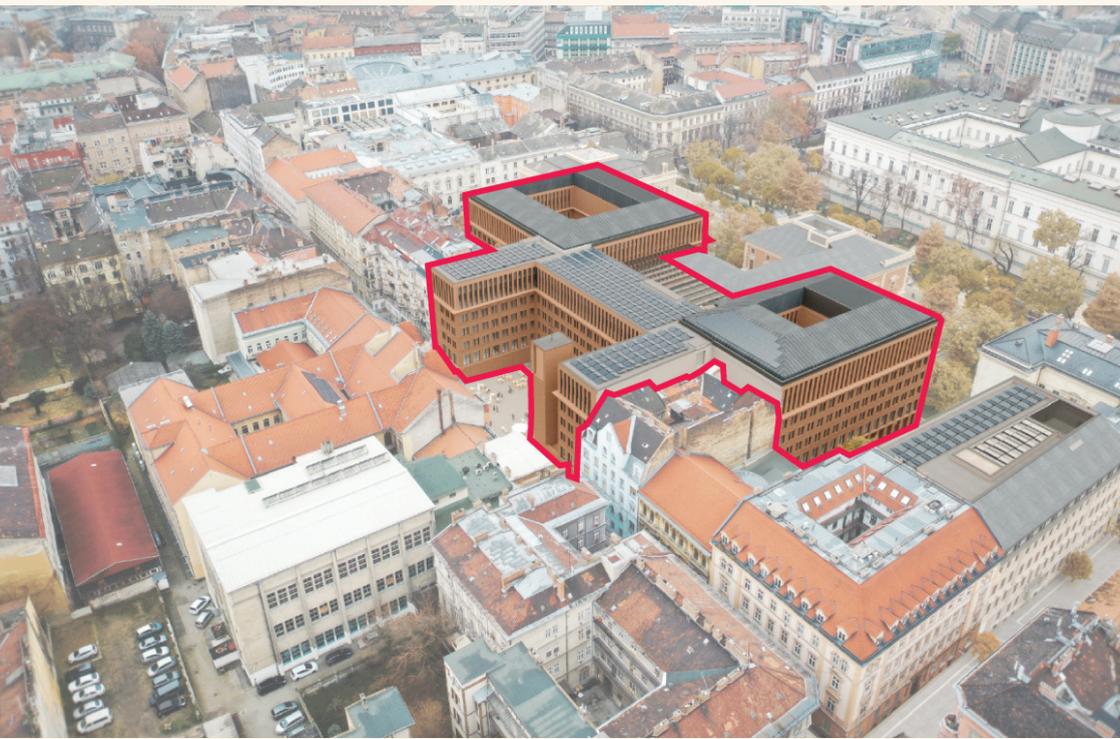
The largest, central building of the project is the new educational block. According to existing plans, the new educational block would be 30 metres high. The building would consist of three wings, a ground floor and six floors, and would house a sports hall, the main lecture theatres, departmental offices and seminar rooms and laboratories. A central cafeteria with a capacity of 400 people would be located on the ground floor. The three wings would be linked by a central lobby with direct access to level -1. Access to the library, sports centre, dormitory, bicycle storage and basement service areas would be provided from this level.

On the basement level -4 there would be a 200-seat sports hall for university handball, futsal, basketball and volleyball competitions. Access to the fitness centre would be possible from the interior of the lobby and from the garden of Károlyi Palace. Three separate smaller gyms would be located within the fitness centre.

The street-front buildings of the campus would be partially in line with the height of the facades of the neighbouring buildings, but the height of the facades on Szentkirályi Street and Museum Street would be 6-10 metres higher than the existing residential facades of the neighbouring buildings. The new building would have a roof height of up to 31 metres compared to the typical surrounding roof heights of 25-27 metres. This would have a significant impact on the lighting of the two dwellings in front. The courtyard windows of the residential building at 29-31 Szentkirályi Street would be 12 metres from the new educational building, and the rear of the residential building at 23 Szentkirályi Street would be 3 metres from the new educational building.



Source: ETDR (highlights: MJV)



Source: ETDR (highlights: MJV)

The use of the palaces

After the demolition of the former buildings and studios of the Hungarian Radio Company, the Károlyi and Esterházy Palaces would undergo a complete renovation, preserving their listed features. On Múzeum utca, at the plot of the former ornamental garden of Károlyi Palace a new green space will be created.

The renovation of the two palaces is planned to preserve and, if necessary, restore the listed architectural features of the palaces. According to the architects, the floor plans have been designed to respect the original proportions of the buildings. The new functions will be housed in such a way that only minor changes to the historic floor plans and structures of the buildings will be necessary.

The main building of the Hungarian Radio Company

The rear wings of the former main building of the Hungarian Radio Company on Bródy Sándor Street would be demolished. Keeping the main façade and the front wing of the building a dormitory would be built. As a result, significant demolition would be required. A ground floor and six storeys high rear wing would be built behind the retained part of the building with a ground floor and three storeys, but due to the high ceilings in the old building, the new wing would not exceed the height of the existing façade.

Access from the underground car park would be via this building.



Source: Google Maps (illustration: MJV)

Bródy Sándor utca 5-7



Source: ETDR (highlights: MJV)

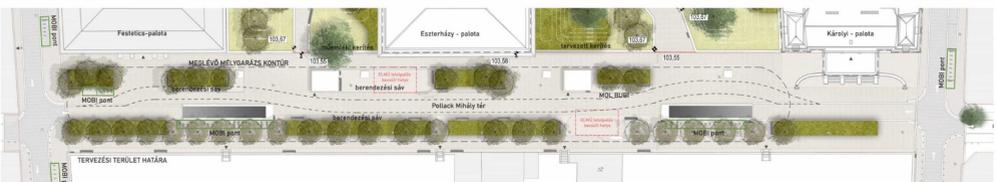
Parking on campus

Parking on the new campus would be largely served by the underground car park on Mihály Pollack Square, formerly managed by the National Museum, and a new underground car park under the campus. Together, these would serve primarily university staff, with the university being responsible for their management. The entry to the new car park would be from Szentkirályi utca, while the exit would be through the Bródy Sándor utca building. The entrance and exit of the underground car park on Pollack Mihály tér would be retained. The delivery of goods essential for the operation of the university would also be from Szentkirályi utca on level -1. The underground car park would provide the university with almost 500 bicycle storage spaces.

Renovation the neighbouring streets

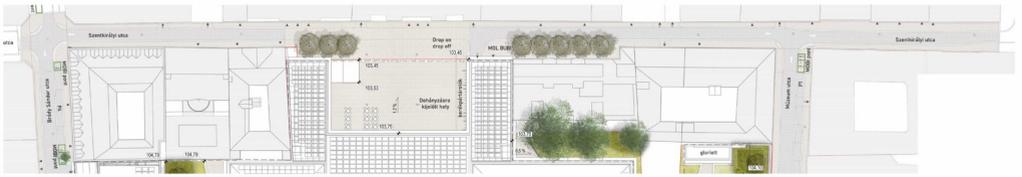
According to the current plans of the ministry, public spaces neighbouring the campus (Pollack Mihály tér, and sections of Szenkirályi utca, Bródy Sándor utca and Múzeum utca) would be renovated.

On **Pollack Mihály tér** through traffic would no longer be possible for motor vehicles as the area between the entrance and the exit of the car park would be turned into a pedestrian and cycling zone. The current traffic lane would be greened. The main functions of the square would be as a meeting space and to allow entry into the campus, with a Bubi station and bike racks. New trees would also be planted.



POLLACK MIHÁLY TÉR - TERVEZETT ÁLLAPOT

Parking on **Szentkirályi utca** between Bródy Sándor utca and Mikszáth Kálmán tér would be completely abolished. Through traffic would be banned. A new street layout would be created as a shared space with no differentiation between pavements and traffic lanes. This proposal needs to be revised in order to allow local access from the direction of Kálvin tér. A new square is planned in Szentkirályi utca that would link the new campus with the main building of Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Szentkirályi utca 28.



SZENTKIRÁLYI UTCA - TERVEZETT ÁLLAPOT

Source: pazmanyancampus.hu (Highlights: MJV)

Parking on the section of **Bródy Sándor utca** closest to Múzeum körút would still be prohibited and the current pavement width would be retained. In the section between Pollack Mihály tér and Szentkirályi utca, parking would be eliminated on the side opposite the campus, allowing for wider pavements and more comfortable cycling. The street section would be paved with paving stones everywhere, without new green spaces, but existing trees would be kept.



BRÓDY SÁNDOR UTCA - TERVEZETT ÁLLAPOT

Source: pazmanyancampus.hu (Highlights: MJV)

Parking on the section of **Múzeum utca** closest to **Múzeum körút** would still be prohibited and the current pavement width would be retained. In the section between **Pollack Mihály tér** and **Szentkirályi utca**, parking would be eliminated on the side closer to the campus, allowing for wider pavements and more comfortable cycling. The street section would be paved with paving stones everywhere, without new green spaces.



MÚZEUM UTCA - TERVEZETT ÁLLAPOT

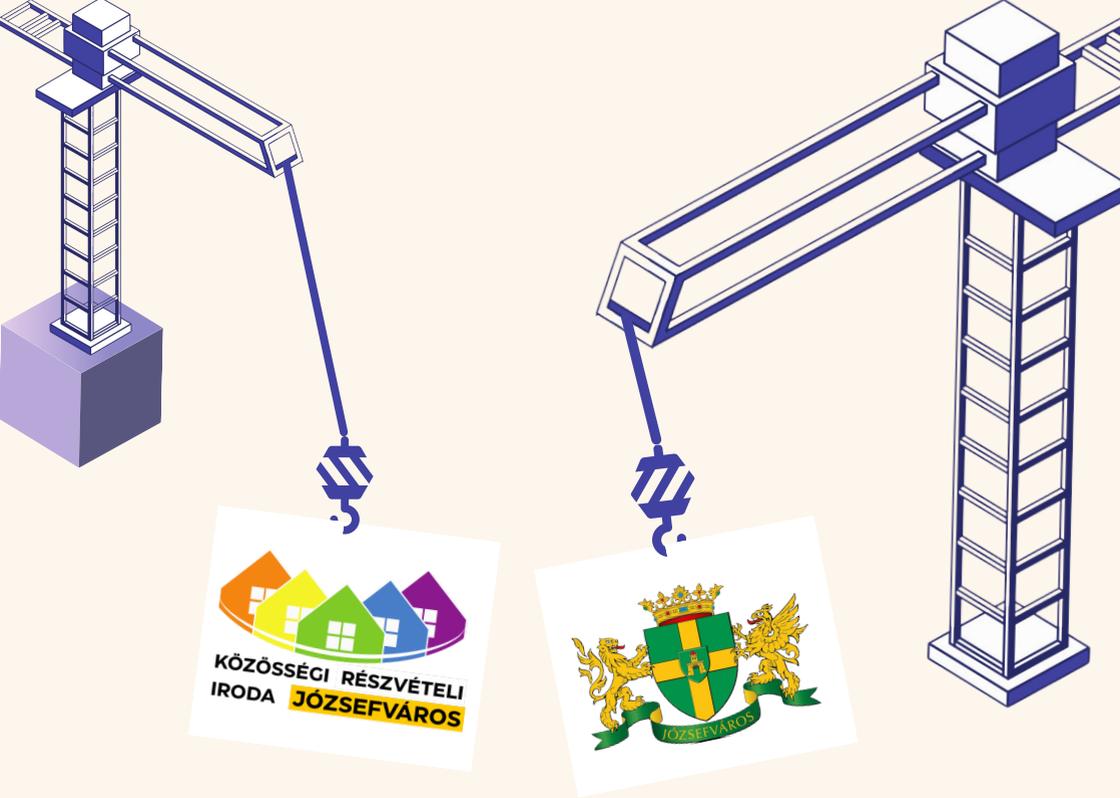
Source: pazmany-campus.hu (Highlights: MJV)

**VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE
NEW CAMPUS OF PÁZMÁNY PÉTER
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY!**

**YOU CAN FIND THE
QUESTIONNAIRE HERE:**



jozsefvaros.hu/go/ppke-campus_survey



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