

# atlatszo.hu - Watchdog NGO and Investigative Journalism Nonprofit

[Atlatszo.hu](http://atlatszo.hu) is a **watchdog NGO and a center for investigative journalism** to promote transparency, accountability, and freedom of information in Hungary. Established in 2011, atlatszo.hu – “atlatszo” means transparent in Hungarian – produces investigative reports, accepts information from whistleblowers, and commences freedom of information lawsuits in cases where its FOI-requests are refused.

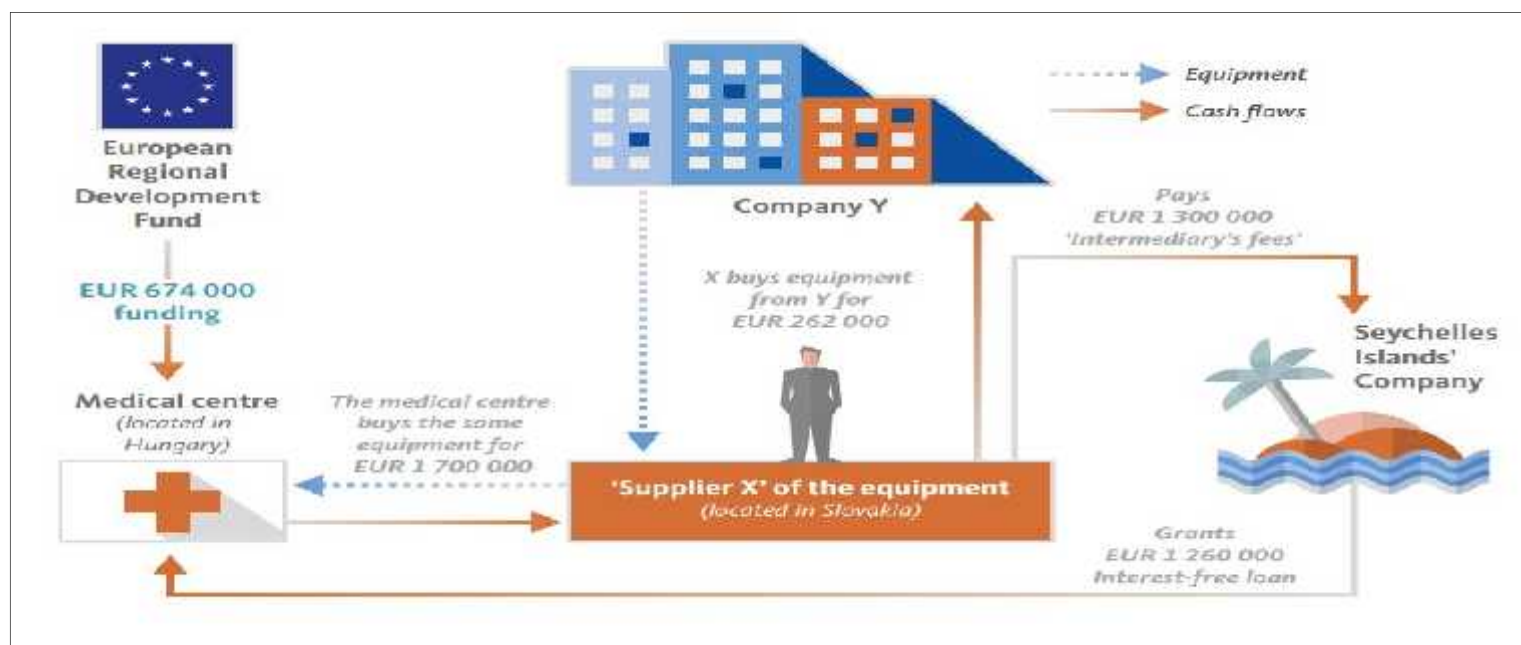
Atlatszo.hu staff are mostly journalists, supported by subcontracted video journalists, legal and IT experts. **Yearly budget in 2015: cca 300k EUR**

Individual donors – more than 3000 private citizens – have contributed significantly. **Microdonations accounted more than 50% in the 2015 budget.** Institutional donors include various programs of the *Open Society Foundations*, and a grant from *Fritt Ord*. We are collecting income tax 1 percents and run a training project funded by the *Norway NGO Fund* through a partnership with *Asimov Foundation*.



# Investigating Irregularities, Fraud and Corruption with EU Funds

Hungary is one of the biggest beneficiaries of European solidarity: our country is a net receiver of European Union funds, which cover most of its development budget. Irregularities, fraud and corruption are frequently present in EU-funded projects in Hungary: ranging from useless buildings and creative accounting to big time political corruption on public tenders. **Atlatszo.hu investigated dozens of cases in the recent years, some of them ended up being investigated by the EU's anti-fraud unit OLAF as a consequence.**

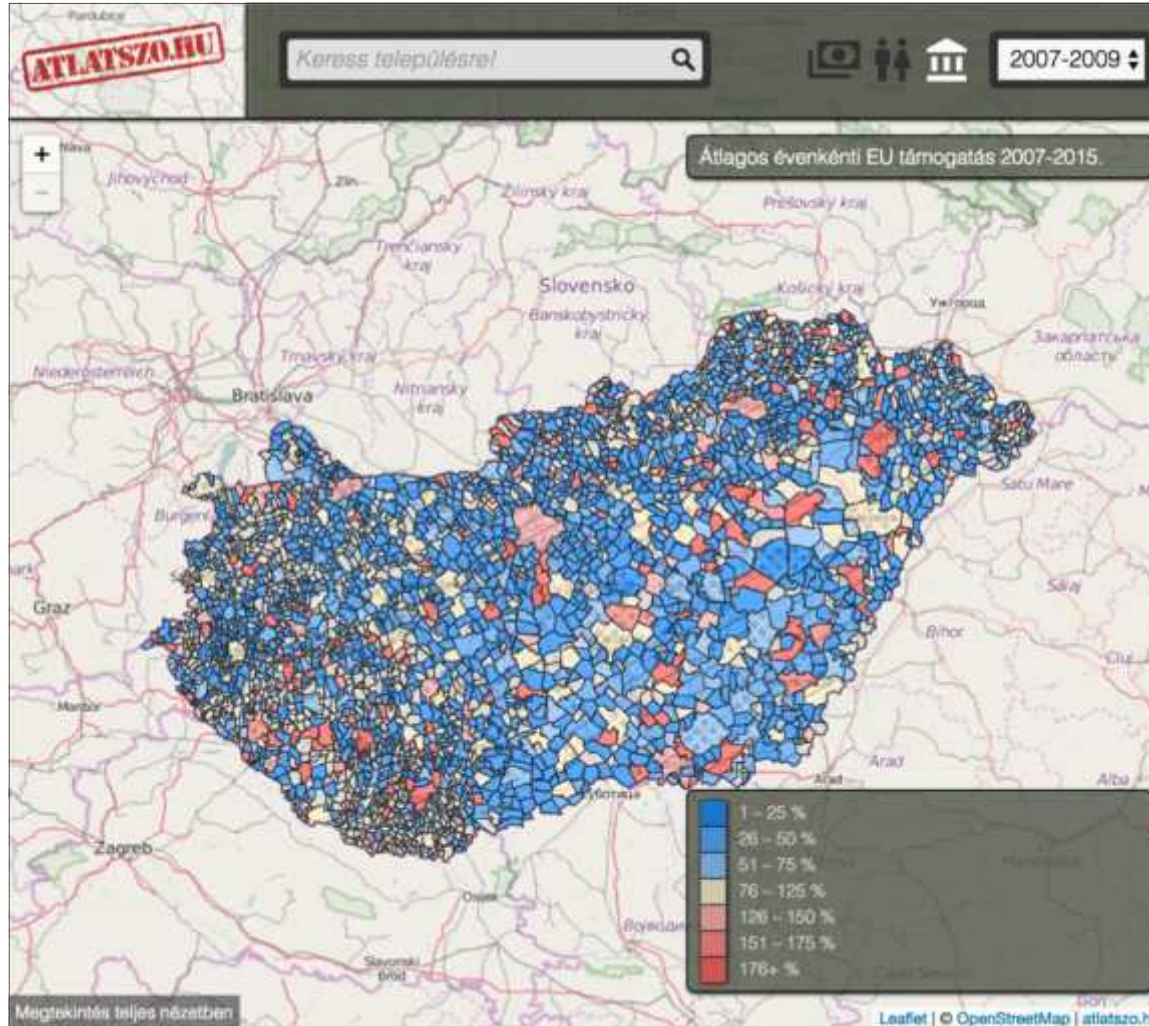


# Dozens of cases investigated and reported

- [EU authorities launch investigation into suspicious IT accessibility project](#)
- [More and more signs of corruption in state funding of PM's son-in-law](#)
- [Prime minister's friend and dentist scrutinized for use of EU funds](#)
- [Nostalgia train in PM's hometown to receive priority funds from EU](#)
- [EU-tender winners published in "administrative error", NFÜ claims](#)
- [Lack of monitoring helps offshore owned companies win EU funds](#)
- [EU-subsidies to companies with no revenue](#)
- [Offshore coffee company received EU funds](#)
- [Unfinished project gets EU funding in Budakeszi](#)
- [EU funds can't sustain the eco-village in Galgahévíz](#)
- [EU money: 46 million HUF spent on a worthless cave](#)
- ["Parabical doctors" hired by EU tender winning medical company](#)
- [Hungarian-Romanian Joint Venture: Millions Spent on Useless Roads](#)
- [Institutional framework paves way for nabbing farm funds](#)

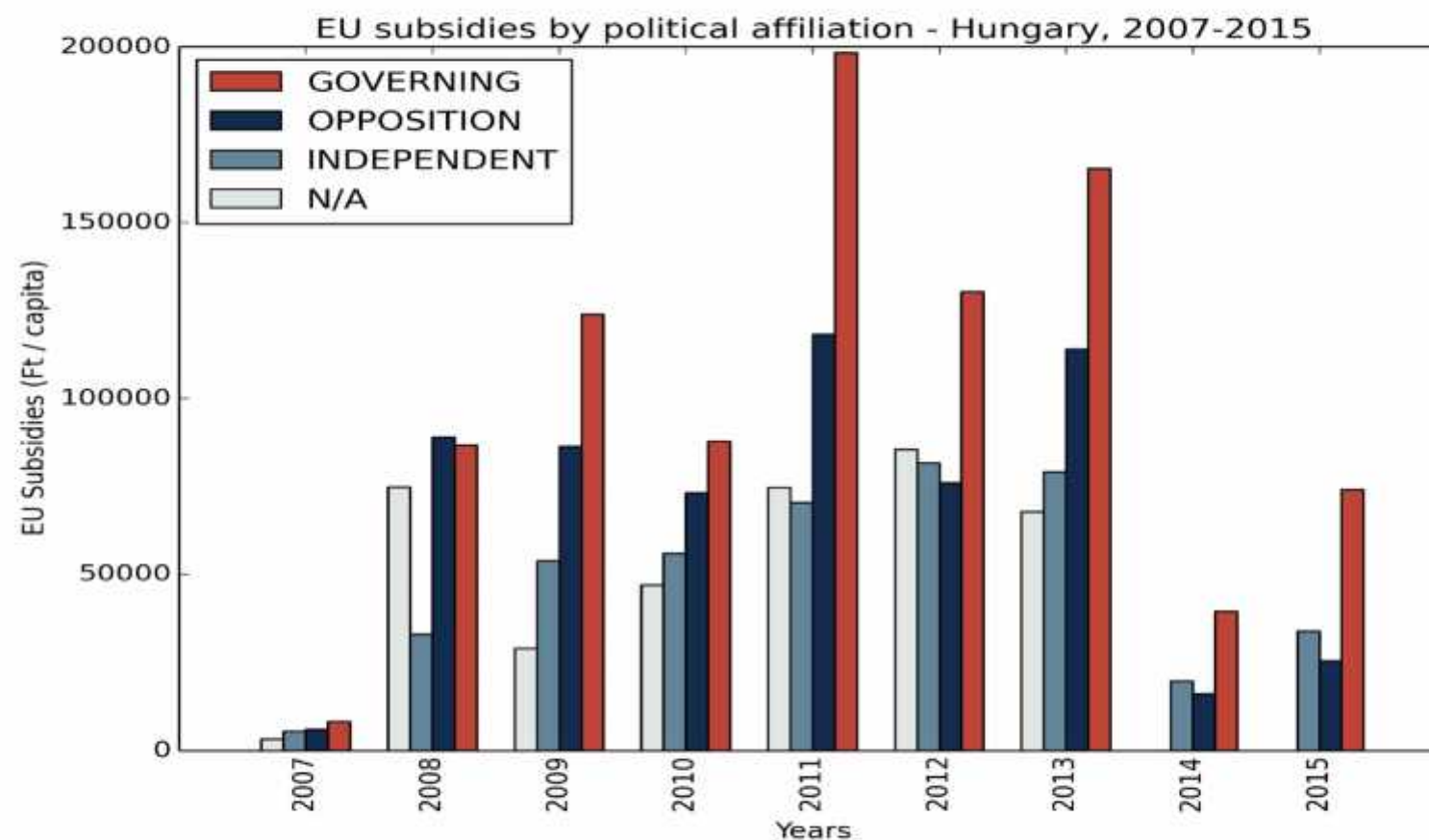


# Atlatszo.hu launched interactive map to monitor EU funding



Over recent years Hungary has received huge amounts of funding from the European Union. Now, thanks to an interactive map developed by Atlatszo.hu, anyone can learn how the money is spent and whether political affiliation is an advantage when applying for EU funds.

## Systemic bias in distributing EU subsidies in Hungary – political affiliation of local mayor vs subsidies received by settlement



# Challenges hindering watchdog work

- Hungarian law enforcement, police and prosecution under strict political control, not willing to investigate, or even covering up cases
- Government and pro-government media outlets attacking independent journalists, launching smear campaigns to undermine credibility of critical journalism
- International sponsors (Open Society Foundations, Norway NGO Fund) attacked, labelled un-patriotic by government and pro-govt media
- No significant EU funding for watchdog work protecting EU Funds:  
[Parliament-proposed grant scheme for investigative journalism lost in the maze of Commission administration](#)



# Thank You for your attention!



**bodoky@atlatszo.hu**