



### **In Support of the European University at St. Petersburg**

According to the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, the European University at St. Petersburg is the best university in Russia in terms of research output and financial efficiency. Founded in 1994 as a non-governmental post-graduate school specializing in the humanities and social sciences, it provides some of the best quality teaching and research in the post-Soviet world. Its professors, students and alumni stand for the maintenance of academic autonomy and integrity at this current critical time for both Russian and international academia.

And yet, the EUSP has now become the victim of a state supervisory agency's decision to revoke the university's licence and to evict the university from the historical heart of St. Petersburg where it is housed in the palace of Yekaterina Mikhailovna Dolgorukova. The fastidious compilation of "violations" against building and safety regulations of which the university is accused followed several unscheduled inspections ordered by the state executive body, the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (*Rosobrnadzor*). The superficial reasons for the decision to revoke the university's licence mask a grave attempt to discard knowledge and values that cannot be evaluated in terms of profit. There is speculation that private investors have expressed interest in the university's buildings.

We express our support for the EUSP which had demonstrated unprecedented will and courage in responding to the charges of the state executive agency (*Rosobrnadzor*) and has shown readiness to cooperate, in compliance with the law, in order to correct any alleged "irregularities".

Our staunch support also goes to the staff and students of the university who are ensuring that teaching and learning carries on as normally as possible despite the uncertainty of the situation.