

## 6) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (INSO 5)

Contemporary research emphasizes the role of locality, local communities, networks, projects, and temporary organizations.

### Our aim is to understand

- > food-chains, development activity, local reactions to climate change and sustainable resource use,
- > the effects of increased mobility of different actors, and
- > the interaction between rural and urban places.

### Main issues raised by our previous research:

- How can the contradiction among new agricultural and farm-management methods be resolved in order to create environment-friendly, economically viable (and rural) areas based on social justice?
- How can participative methods be applied efficiently as typical tools (i) to understand rural processes and (ii) to foster or strengthen social innovations within local communities?
- What are the best methods to generate space-based, innovative and sustainable development initiatives?

#### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## 7) SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING

Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA) supported by Ambient Intelligence (Aml) systems composed by electronic surveillance, recording and data transmission tools is affected by technological development and innovation.

### Our aim is to understand

- > related norms, values, and the limits of privacy, and
- > how these affect ethics, law, public policy and economics.

### Main issues raised by our previous research:

- How can privacy and personal data handling be secured while the system requires and stores a large amount of private data?
- How can human autonomy and personal liberty maintained while the users are under 24-hour surveillance?
- Who can ask for such control? The user or any of its relatives?
- To what extent can profit interests influence the level and functioning of the social service provided?
- What are the factors that can contribute to a more positive approach towards and trust in Aml systems?

#### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE OF HETFA

HETFA has broad experience in **analysing and evaluating public policies and programmes** (e.g. in social, education, labour, and regional policy), as well, as **formulating policy strategies and evaluation tools**. Building on its thorough knowledge of Hungarian and Central European circumstances, it seeks to conduct policy-relevant research at international level to contribute to a better understanding of the current socio-economic situation of Europe and to the identification of new, innovative policy solutions.

In addition to its own team of researchers and policy experts, HETFA works with a **broad professional network** of Hungarian decision-makers, researchers, and experts in the fields of public policy, economics and social sciences. **Research methods** of HETFA can be described as **multidisciplinary and task-oriented** based on quantitative (i.e. econometric models, multivariate statistical analysis, impact assessment) and qualitative analysis (i.e. stakeholder based analysis, sociological methods).

## OUR AIM

We are ready to be involved in European consortia addressing any of the topics raised by the Work Programme 2014-15 of Challenge 6 that fit our institute's profile and bring in our expertise, experience, and network.

## TARGETED FIELDS OF COOPERATION

The following research topics correlate most with our research fields:

### 1) RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (EURO 2, INSO 3)

#### Our aim is to understand the role of

- > higher education institutions (HEIs) with different profiles and geographical locations in the innovative capacities and innovation processes of firms and
- > public funds facilitating innovation processes of SMEs.

#### Main issues raised by our previous research:

- Is the influence of universities on innovative SMEs stronger if the research profile of the university overlaps with the sectors represented by innovative SMEs in the region?
- How does the educational and research profile of a university influence the types and volume of the innovative activities of companies? Can specialized universities have a stronger impact on innovation than institutions with a more general profile?
- At which level (NUTS-1, 2 or 3) can spill-over effects of academic research be tracked?
- How do EU funds directed to either universities or firms for innovation and/or research influence the cooperation between these actors and the (relative) efficiency of innovative and research activities?

#### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## 2) SOCIAL INVESTMENT: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (EURO 3)

The detrimental impacts of the financial crisis increased the need for social protection while constraining the ability of Member States to strengthen social inclusion policy and social protection. The solution is an innovative approach to social investment which perceives the state as an investor rather than a spender by focusing on preparation and prevention instead of reparation.

**Our aim is to understand which policy measures can most effectively support**

- > investment in human capital (e.g. early childhood education and care, public education or lifelong training),
- > the efficient use of human capital (e.g. supporting women's employment),
- > fostering greater social inclusion (e.g. granting labour market access to groups traditionally excluded).

**Main issues raised by our previous research:**

- Which policies are in line with the characteristics of the innovative approach of social investment?
- How can the respective policy measures be evaluated?
- How can the state support the civil sector to enable its contribution to social inclusion?
- What kind of instruments could strengthen solidarity within the society?

### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## 3) YOUTH: SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY (YOUNG)

The long term and mainly negative effects of the financial crisis on the youth include demographic changes (lack of motivation to start a family) as well as a number of socio-economic changes (insufficient social security protection, higher risk of poverty, loss of human capital).

**Our aim is to understand**

- > the norms, values and attitudes of young people in Europe,
- > the links between youth and gender issues, and
- > the phenomenon of youth mobility and well-being.

**Main issues raised by our previous research:**

- How can the youth (generation X and Y) become employed with their special skillset, values and norms in a labour market, which is driven by the skills, values and norms of the elderly? Are there any youth-compatible industries?
- What are the most important factors determining labour market opportunities of young women and new mothers? How can the family wage gap explained?
- What are the most important incentives for migration? Who leaves and who stays? Are there typical types of migrants (e.g. career-driven, unemployment-driven, etc.)? What are the social and individual welfare effects of migration in sending and recipient countries? How can policy help refill the place of emigrated workers in strategic industries, such as healthcare?

### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## 4) EU FUNDS: GOVERNANCE AND IMPACT (REFLECTIVE 3)

**Our aim is to understand**

- > the 'rules of the game' for spending of EU funds in Hungary and other Central Eastern European countries, and
- > the consequences of these rules for the efficiency and effectiveness of such funds.

**Main issues raised by our previous research:**

- How did the systems of public governance in CEE countries respond to the inflow of unprecedented amounts of EU funds over the last decade?
- How can existing or newly created public institutions handle the planning and implementation of development programmes?
- How do institutions of public governance change as a consequence of programme execution?
- What are the measurable impacts of executed programmes?
- How do people perceive the results of EU co-funded developments?

### LEADING RESEARCHERS

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## 5) INSTITUTIONS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INSO 2)

**Our aim is to understand**

- > the private and public institutional environment of doing business in Hungary and Central Europe, and
- > the business environment using the methodology and perspective of economics, sociology and political science through qualitative and quantitative analyses.

**Main issues raised by our previous research:**

- What innovative measures can be expected from the government to enhance competitiveness?
- How could we reduce the administrative burden on the economy? What are the non-governmental institutions that may create opportunities for companies to get more competitive?
- What are the special features (obstacles and opportunities) of a post-communist government and society in terms of competitiveness?
- What is the role of SMEs in a competitive economy?
- How is it adequate to conceptualize innovation in an economy on the semi-periphery of the Western world?
- How could business models be transformed to boost company's economic performance and growth potential in the post-crisis era?
- Is there any business model which could be applied throughout Europe?

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