

## POLICY SUPPORT AND CONSULTANCY

To sum up, HETFA Research Institute and Center for Economic and Social Analysis offers various activities for its partners. The most important ones are the following:

### 1. Policy support

Our research center has gained extensive experience in

- formulating policy strategies for central and local government bodies,
- supporting organizational reforms,
- analysing policy decisions,
- carrying out evaluations,
- facilitating cooperation between local decision makers and stakeholders, and
- conducting international research on the related fields.

### 2. Proposal writing and Project Management

We have a number of local or regional public authority (e.g. Hévíz from Hungary, the County Council of Harghita) and university partners (University of Debrecen) whom we support in international networking and attracting foreign investors. HETFA also supports the participation of these partners in cross-border, transnational projects and EU funded projects, by writing proposals and managing projects. The focus of these projects range from the preservation of cultural and national heritage till economic development including improving policy-making.

### 3. Communication and Dissemination

Closely relating to the previous fields, HETFA conducts various activities in communicating and disseminating the results of our research projects but the center is also supporting communication activities of our partners, e.g. editing the international newsletter and supporting international appearance the city of Hévíz, dissemination activities of the Visegrad Project led by the University of Debrecen ([www.hetfa.eu/visegrad-agri](http://www.hetfa.eu/visegrad-agri)), development and regular update of the website for the Thematic Development Programmes of the Capital Budapest ([budapestfejlesztes.hu](http://budapestfejlesztes.hu)). In addition, our research institute is responsible for the editing and publishing of the online journal "Összkép" ([www.osszkep.hu](http://www.osszkep.hu)) focusing on the background nexuses of our every-day-life's problems such as the state of health, earning and living standards of Hungarians, educational and professional tendencies.

### 4. Organization of workshops, fora, events

Lastly, strongly connected to our research and policy support projects we have significant experiences in organizing thematic workshops, fora, events, and any other type of meetings involving stakeholders from various fields, such as policy-makers from different levels, researchers and analysts, representatives of businesses and the industry. For more information please consult with our website.

KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN USE

## OUR EXPERTISE

HETFA Research Institute and Center for Economic and Social Analysis 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 and network from Hungary and the Danube Region, it seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the current socio-economic situation of the Region 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). We are also experienced in **supporting public authorities in proposal writing and project management**, as well as in other activities, such as **communication, dissemination and networking**.

## OUR AIM

We are open to a broad range of cooperation opportunities deriving from our multi-folded experiences and networks. We aim to contribute to initiatives including research, analysis, piloting, targeting the development of our Region.



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## SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR COOPERATION

### Increased competences for business and social innovation

Through various assignments and research projects, HETFA conducted several studies in the field of business environment, communal competitiveness, administrative burdens of SMEs as well as development and characteristics of entrepreneurship. Our efforts focus on both the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the business environment using the methodology and perspective of economics, sociology and political science. We offer realistic private/public policy solutions to make Central European businesses more able to create value, more cooperative and more open to innovation.

#### Reference projects:

- Study on the Legal enforceability of contracts and the development of entrepreneurial economy founded by the National Science and Technology Fund
- Analysis on the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction effects and costs of using ethanol in the transport sector commissioned by Pannonia Ethanol
- Development of Agricultural Enterprises in the Knowledge-based Economy project financed by the International Visegrad Fund in cooperation with University of Debrecen, University of Lodz, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
- Development strategies of small- and medium enterprises (2007-2013) – intermediate evaluation in cooperation with Ernst & Young
- Trust and Entrepreneurship Research Programme of HETFA

In addition, as a founding member of the **Danube Regional Vocational Education Cluster** HETFA is in active cooperation with other stakeholders from the sector of Vocation Education and Training. Our experiences in Hungary and other parts of the Danube Region reveals that countryside settlements faces the loss of skilled population and decreasing number of inhabitants and economic activities. Therefore our aim is to support the (1) establishment of jobs requiring graduated workforce, (2) the formulation of training courses in professions needed in the countryside, (3) and to release the potential of inhabitants of these countryside regions by supporting the launch of their economic activities by the means of social innovation.

#### Reference projects:

- Analysis of Hungarian VET system in the Carpathian Region commissioned by the State Secretariat for National Policy of the Prime Minister's Office

Strongly linked to social innovation, one of our main research topics is to describe and analyse territorial inequalities using a multi-disciplinary methodology: econometrics, quantitative and qualitative methods of sociology and social-anthropology. We have practice in generating space-based, innovative and sustainable development initiatives mainly in the Transdanubian part of Hungary using the dense network of our colleagues. Based on our experience in policy support, in developing relationship between science and society, and our field experience we already contributed to the development of local plans: we defined the problems together with local stakeholders, mediated among the different local and non-local actors and facilitated actions.

According to our organizational statement our research activity should lead to useful results both at local, national and EU level by creating discussion forum of the civic society, the scholars, advisors, decision-makers and the locals as well.

#### Reference projects:

- Study on The Role of Collective Marketing Initiatives in the Hungarian Agriculture
- Research on Local producers and producers' communities – following Elinor Ostrom commissioned by the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly

### Improving institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges

HETFA center elaborated the methodology and holds trainings as well as post-graduate courses for governmental experts and analysts on the impact assessment of public policy measures. With this regard, we aim to provide hands-on training for governmental officers by introducing methods and techniques necessary to measure and evaluate regulatory decisions.

The courses also discuss benefits, opportunities and risks of different assessment techniques, the necessary steps of managing impact assessment processes, and the possible means of strengthening the soundness and acceptance of assessment.

#### Reference projects:

- Impact assessment methodology trainings commissioned by the Hungarian Office of Public Administration and Justice
- Impact assessment management trainings commissioned by the Hungarian Office of Public Administration and Justice
- Postgraduate studies on impact assessment of public policy measure in cooperation with Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Courses on impact assessment strongly relates to the priority of improving institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges. In addition, HETFA has a number of assignments on preparing

- impact assessment of public policy measures or interventions
- development strategies for cities, county councils, as well as for the capital Budapest
- monitoring system for various national strategies,
- sectoral analyses including employment, SMEs, creative industry, meat industry.

#### Reference projects:

- Employment policies for low skilled labour force commissioned by the National Employment Non-profit. Public Company
- Impact assessment of creative industry commissioned by Design Terminal NKK
- Monitoring system for the national strategy on sustainable development commissioned by the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly
- Monitoring system for the national science policy strategy commissioned by the Agency for Education
- Thematic Development Programme for Economic Recovery and Job Creation of Budapest
- Evaluation of the Effects of EU Funding on various sectors, i.e. territorial cohesion, public education, employment, commissioned by the National Development Agency