



KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN USE

HÉTFA RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND CENTER
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

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BUDAPEST  HUNGARY

INTRODUCTION

HETFA is an **independent think tank in Budapest**, Hungary established in 2009 by young economists, political scientists and sociologists sharing theoretical and practical experience in social research, public administration and consultancy. **HETFA Group** consists of HETFA Research Institute, HETFA Center for Economic and Social Analysis and Pannon.Analysis Office.

Our goal is to **provide useful and evidence-based analyses** on national as well as local policy issues for the decision-makers and the policy expert community to **improve the quality of public debates and public decisions**. HETFA uses a multidisciplinary approach in its research projects on the following fields:

- entrepreneurship and SME policy,
- better regulation and cutting red tape,
- employment policy,
- youth policy (incl. education, social inclusion)
- local governance,
- cohesion policy,
- rural development and development opportunities of lagging regions,
- urban development & social rehabilitation policies
- strategies on sustainability.

HETFA frequently participates in **joint projects** with scholars at various universities and think tanks from Hungary and other Central European countries. We are also engaged in different research and consultancy works in cooperation with local and micro-regional councils, government offices and non-governmental organizations. We regularly organize round-table discussions with top scholars and experts to keep ourselves up-to-date and to contribute to a lively scene of sharing ideas on important issues.

In the past few years HETFA 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,
- conducting international research on governance, development policies, providing consultancy for local and regional governments in international networking and proposal writing.

We at HETFA are **committed to supporting decision makers and public decisions on national and local issues**. HETFA Group offers **extensive knowledge and experience, a comprehensive and widespread professional network and its commitment to quality and community**.

SERVICES

ANALYSES

Evaluation

Ex-ante evaluation, feasibility studies, ex-post evaluation.

Impact Assessment

Identification of alternatives for decision-making; examination of advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives; measuring the impacts of policies, comparing relative strengths and weaknesses of their activities, identifying how to achieve their goals.

Public Policy Planning

Elaboration of action plans, programmes, strategies, concepts; preparation of status quo and stakeholder analyses.

Research

Preparation of scientific analyses in the field of economics, political sciences and sociology.

SUPPORTING DECISION-MAKERS

Supporting Decision-makers

Creating models on the operation of administrative organization, feasibility studies, and supporting materials; macro-economic modelling of major investment projects and different development programmes.

Quality Assurance

Professional & thematic quality assurance; consultancy for managing procurements; consultancy for public policy programmes.

Methodology

Preparing guides, handbooks, and measurement schemes.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Knowledge Dissemination

Preparing informative studies and materials on public policy.

Education/trainings

Academic courses, vocational trainings, and curriculum development.

Knowledge Management

Organization of professional workshops, conferences; knowledge management.

CONSULTANCY

Proposal writing and project management

Mapping of available funds, project development & management under national, transnational and international programmes.

Further services

Website design, support in networking at transnational and international level.

DIRECTORS

MR GÁBOR BALÁS, PHD

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Economist, Managing Director of HETFA Research Institute and HETFA Center for Analysis. Previously, as head of department at the Hungarian National Development Agency, he was responsible for the evaluation of EU cohesion policy interventions in Hungary. His main fields of expertise are effective use of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds, efficiency of governmental policies, and the effects of state regulations on cooperation among SMEs.

MR ANDRÁS CSITE, PHD

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Economist and sociologist, Managing Director of HETFA Research Institute and HETFA Center for Analysis. He was research fellow at the Institute for Political Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest between 1994 and 2004. In 1997, he received the Academic Youth Award for his outstanding research activities. In 2000 he was awarded the Erdei Ferenc Medal by the Hungarian Sociological Association. His main fields of expertise are development policy, rural sociology, regional developments, and elite studies. He is the author or co-author of more than 80 peer referred articles in the field of sociology.

MS KLÁRA MAJOR, PHD

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Economist, research director at the HETFA Research Institute. Previously she was employed as assistant professor at Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Economics. She received her PhD degree at Corvinus University of Budapest in 2003. Her main research areas are macroeconomic modelling, program evaluation, application of spatial econometrics in analysing spatial processes, application of numerical methods in macroeconomics.

MR BALÁZS SZEPESI, PHD

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MSc in Economics and sociology (Corvinus University of Budapest), PhD in Political Sciences (Central European University). Strategic Director of HETFA Research Institute. He works as policy advisor and researcher since 1994 and frequently teaches courses at Rajk and Széchenyi colleges. He was Head of Unit for Evaluation and Analysis at the National Development Agency (2003-06), Chief of Staff for the State Minister responsible for economic strategy (2010-12). He is the founder of HETFA, permanent professor of Rajk College for Advanced Studies. His main fields of expertise and research are policy analysis, institutional economics, and competitiveness.

SENIOR EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS

Mr Sándor CSENGŐDI, PhD

External consultant at HETFA. He teaches public economics and social cost-benefit analysis as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Economics of the Corvinus University of Budapest. Between 2011-2012 he led the ECOSTAT Government Centre for Impact Assessment functioning as the methodology and knowledge centre for decision-making and legislation impact assessment. Beforehand he conducted and coordinated analyses and evaluations at the National Development Agency, then as a senior consultant at the AGENDA Consulting Ltd. he led evaluation projects and regional, developed municipal and national development programmes and strategies.

Mr Károly MIKE, PhD

Economist, MSc in Economics (2002) and PhD in Economics (2010). Senior research fellow at HETFA Research Institute. Until 2012 he was Director of Széchenyi College for Advanced Studies. Editor of the journals 'Kömentár' and 'Kormányzás, Közpénzügyek, Szabályozás' (Governance, Public Finance, Regulation). He teaches and conduct researches in new institutional economics, law & economics, as well, as public choice. His current research interests are the study of formal and informal institutions in the Hungarian economy, the political economy of EU, constitutional economics, and competition policy.

Mr Nándor NÉMETH, PhD

Geographer, managing director of the Pannon.Analysing Office. Between 2003 and 2009 he was research fellow at the Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. He specializes in the differences of regional development and changes of the regional structure of Hungary. The main subjects of his PhD thesis are the social and economic impacts of the enlargement of the Hungarian motorway network.

Ms Ágnes SZABÓ-MORVAI, PhD

Economist, senior expert at the HETFA Research Institute. Her fields of interest are financial markets, corporate finance and labour market issues. She received her PhD in Economics at Central European University (CEU). Her dissertation topic covers the effect of childcare benefits on labour market activity. She teaches statistics and econometrics at CEU and corporate finance at the University of Debrecen. Previously, she worked in the credit risk modelling department of GE Money Bank, Hungary.

Ms Edit VEREBES-SZÁSZ

Economist, senior expert at the HETFA. Previously she was employed by the CIB Banking Group and its Italian mother company, Intesa Sanpaolo (in Milan). Primary fields of her interest are corporate governance, process and IT system optimization and definition, analysis and management of credit related risks. Between 2010 and 2013 she defined the credit monitoring principles, developed the credit monitoring processes and related IT application for the Banking Group she was responsible for the simplification of corporate credit processes and applications, and for the credit risk part of the Basel 2 framework.

Ms Virág ZSÁR

Expert of International Studies, responsible for the coordination of proposal writing and project management at HETFA. During her studies she started to work on S&T policy support projects in Collegium Budapest in 2008 and in Bay Zoltán Foundation for Applied Research in 2009. Then she was involved in the implementation of EU-funded transnational projects (Central Europe, INTERREG IVC). She gained broad experience in the preparation, administrative and thematic management of various FP funded INCO projects (with Ukraine, Danube Region countries, Southeast Asia, etc.).

MAIN RESEARCH PROGRAMS

COMPETITIVENESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- to contribute to the development of institutions, the improvement of competitiveness, and the promotion of trust among enterprises
 - with a focus on enterprises, enterprising values, cooperation between enterprises, as well as competitiveness
 - by applying the methodology of new institutional economics

1. Institutions, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development

- to understand the private and public institutional environment of doing business in Hungary and Central Europe with a special focus on the functioning, network, development opportunities, and funding background of Hungarian enterprises

Selected publications:

HÉTFA – Ernst & Young (2010): Development strategies of small- and medium enterprises (2007-2013) – intermediate evaluation.

Balás, G., Csire, A., Szabó-Morvai, Á., Szepesi, B. (2010): Trust and Business in Hungary – Starting Points.

HÉTFA (2014): Strategy for the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme.

HÉTFA (2014): The USE of ICT among Business Enterprises in Hungary's Western Transdanubian Region

HÉTFA (2015): Managerial problems of agricultural enterprises.

HÉTFA (2015): Business services, competitiveness, competition. Effects of complementary supportive measures for the business sphere.

Szepesi, B. & Zulik, Á. (2015): The concept of 'moving forward' in entrepreneurship – Conceptual and theoretical base.

Mike, K. (2015): Where should the road of the Hungarian capitalism lead?

2. Research, Innovation & Economic Growth

- to understand the role of higher education institutions in the innovative capacities and innovation processes of firms with regard to the institutional profile and geographical location
- to analyse the role of public (national and EU) funds in facilitating innovation processes of SMEs

Selected publications:

HÉTFA – REVITA (2013): Evaluation of Programmes Targeting Higher Education

HÉTFA (2013): Impacts of Academic Research on GDP Growth

HÉTFA (2013): Policy Proposal for Establishing an Indicator System for Academic Research

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- to provide useful knowledge for the preparation and implementation of public policy decisions
 - by preparing methodologies for the assessment of governmental work
 - by evaluating the use of EU funds throughout the programming periods

1. EU Funds: Governance & Impact

- to understand the 'rules of the game' for spending of EU funds in Hungary and other CEE countries and the effects of these rules on the effectiveness of such funds

Selected publications:

Balás, G. (2009): Scope for Defining the Principal Areas of European Funds Available until 2013.
European Commission (2013): Expert evaluation Network. Job creation as an indicator of outcomes in ERDF programmes. Prepared with the contribution of HÉTFA experts, Balás, G. & Borbás, G.
Pannon Elemző – REVITA – HÉTFA (2013): Evaluation of the Effects of EU Funding on Territorial Cohesion
Mike, K. & Balás, G. (2014): Contracting for Structural Funds – How the EU's Rules of the Game Shape the Behaviour of Member State Governments.
Balás, G. – Csité, A. – Kiss, G. – Major, K. – Németh, N. – Piross, A. (2015): Effects of EU funds on economic development and growth

2. Social Investment: Education, Employment & Social Inclusion

- to support the modernisation of social protection systems and services structured around an innovative social investment approach through an innovative approach by perceiving the state as an investor rather than spender

Selected publications

HÉTFA (2012): Evaluation of developments serving the Roma integration
Pannon Elemző – REVITA – HÉTFA – Budapest Intézet (2013): The Role of Community Funds in the Dynamization of Underdeveloped Regions
Herczeg, B. (2015): Impact of the size of a school on the school's added value.
Czaller, L. & Major, K. (2015): Agglomeration wage premium in Hungary.

3. Youth: Social challenges & policy

- to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by the young generation in the pre- and post-recession economy
 - with a focus on
 - youth and young parents in the labour market
 - mobility and well-being
 - entrepreneurship: norms and values
 - vocational education, labour market and development policies
 - social impact analysis to understand social conceptions and attitudes towards scientific research – in the frame of Researchers' Night projects since 2010

Selected publications

Szepesi, B. – Luksander, A. – Csité, A. (2013): Exploring the socio-economic background of NSRF developments aiming at the decrease of youth unemployment
REVITA – HÉTFA (2013): Evaluation of measures targeting the improvement of employment

Szabó-Morvai, Á. (2013): The effect of a wage subsidy program on young mothers and job market entrants
Geambașu, R. – Kardon, B. – Megyesi, B. – Patakfalvi-Czirják, Á. (2013): Thirst for science? Social conceptions of the research activity, the factors influencing career choices and the social impacts of Researchers' Nights.

Lovász, A. & Szabó-Morvai, Á. (2015): Does Subsidized Childcare Matter for Maternal Labor Supply? A Credible Cutoff-based Estimate at a Policy Relevant Point.

HÉTFA - CESCO (2015): Vocational education in countries of the Carpathian basin

SPATIAL HARMONY

Relying on the methodology of regional sciences including the aspects of social innovation

- to deal with regional and social problems of Hungarian and Central Eastern European regions
- to analyse the regional processes
- to identify solutions for the problems of the underprivileged areas

1. Local Development & Social Innovation

By defining the problems through participative methods together with local stakeholders, mediating among different local and non-local actors and facilitating actions

- to eliminate the contradiction among new agricultural and farm-management methods aiming to create environment-friendly, economically viable (and rural) areas based on social justice surrounded by the continuous global challenges.
- to contribute to the development of local and regional plans
- to result in applicable results both at local, national and EU level

Selected publications

HÉTFA (2012): Local producers and producers' communities – following Elinor Ostrom

Kelemen, E. – Megyesi, B. – Nagy-Kalamász, I. (2008): Knowledge Dynamics and Sustainability in Rural Livelihood Strategies: Two Case Studies from Hungary. In: *Sociologia Ruralis*, 48/3 pp. 257–273.

Fischer, A. – Peters, V. – Vávra, J. – Neebe, M. – Kriel, A. – Lapka, M. – Megyesi, B. (2012): Climate Change? No, Wise Resource Use is the Issue: Social Representations of Energy, Climate Change and the Future. In: *Environmental Policy and Governance*, doi:10.1002/eet.1585

2. Urban Planning

Aiming at the social urban rehabilitation through the renewal of the physical environment, the improvement of social condition

- to support the planning of social urban rehabilitation projects as well as the development and reconstruction of urban districts

References

HETFA (2014): Integrated Territorial Development Strategy of Zala County

HETFA (2014): Integrated Territorial Development Strategy of Tolna County

Metropolitan – HETFA (2015), Social Urban Rehabilitation Handbook

HETFA (2015): Integrated Territorial Development Strategy of Budapest VIII District

HETFA (2015): Integrated Territorial Development Strategy of Budapest XVII District

Thematic Development Programme of Budapest Capital relating to

- the use of underused and brown field areas
- the use of Danube banks