



**RESEARCH.
ANALYSIS.
CONSULTANCY.**



HETFA – Research Institute and Center for Analyses
For Applicable Knowledge

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Profile and Mission

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

Our goal is to provide useful and evidence-based analyses on policy-relevant issues for the whole public community in order to improve the quality of public debates and public decisions. Our mission is to develop and disseminate new and applicable knowledge about:

- Business Trust and Entrepreneurship
- Good Governance
- Spatial Harmony

HETFA aims at combining an inspiring and demanding research environment with societal relevance. HETFA focuses on multidisciplinary research in areas that are relevant for understanding contemporary societal and economic processes. HETFA operates chiefly in the following research fields:

- entrepreneurship and SME policy
- better regulation and cutting red tape
- employment policy
- local governance
- cohesion policy
- regional policy
- rural development and lagging regions.

HETFA collaborates with associated scholars at various Hungarian and Romanian universities and think tank institutes. HETFA also cooperates with local and micro-regional councils, government offices and non-governmental organizations. HETFA regularly organizes round-table discussions with experts and high-quality professionals in order to increase knowledge and raise awareness of our research activity.

In the past few years HETFA has gained extensive experience in forming governmental and municipal strategies, supporting organizational reforms, analyzing governmental decisions, carrying out evaluations, forming cooperation between local decision makers and persons concerned, and conducting international researches on governance. Experts of HETFA are committed to support decision makers and those drafting public decisions on nationwide and local issues. HETFA group offers the experience of its previous projects, its comprehensive and widespread professional base and its commitment.

Services provided by HETFA – Research programmes

The programs of HETFA create a framework for co-operational knowledge acquisition: topics, collective experience, good examples and opportunities to think together. Through our programs we build partnership, invite co-workers of the academia and the press to collective work and contemplation. Our programs serve as an expanding knowledge base of problems, causes, coherences and good practices. We share our results with the public, involve young people in our work, and help them get acquainted with our region's communities. HETFA provides ambitious, grounded work taking account of foreign experience, as well as the dissemination of international and domestic good practices.

“Business Trust and Entrepreneurship”

In our program we do socio-economic research with a focus on enterprises, entrepreneurial values and cooperation between enterprises. With the methodology of new institutional economics we would like to contribute to the development of new institutions, and promote trust among enterprises. Year by year we present a significant amount of case studies, and gain serious experience in conducting representative survey data collections.

“Good Governance”

The purpose of the program is to provide applicable knowledge for the preparation and implementation of public policy decisions. The program would like to help committed office-holders, decision makers and participants of public policy debates. In our work, we focus on analyzing administrative burdens, which make everyday life and the work of enterprises difficult. In addition, we are working out recommendations, which help make employment more flexible and integrate people with lower education to the labor market.

“Spatial Harmony”

The aim of the program is to deal with the social and environmental problems of Hungarian and East-Central European regions, for which we would like to find adequate solutions. We analyze the regional processes and try to solve the problems of the underprivileged areas, relying on the methodology of regional sciences. In our analysis we emphasize the need of getting acquainted with good local practices, which aim at mitigating the stress of local employment.

Key Consultants and Researchers

Mr. Gábor Balás

Economist, managing director of HETFFA Research Institute and HETFFA Center for Analyses. 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, effects of state regulations on cooperation among SMEs.

Dr. András Csité, PhD

Economist and sociologist, managing director of the HETFFA Research Institute and HETFFA Center for Analyses. He was a research fellow at the Institute for Political Science 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 the Hungarian Sociological Association awarded him with the Erdei Ferenc Medal. 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. Gabriella Borbás

Economist, senior consultant at the HETFFA Center for Analyses. Previously she worked as head of cabinet at the Hungarian National Development Agency. Ms. Borbás participated in strategic decisions concerning the institution system and the implementation procedures of the Hungarian National Development Plan. In 2008 she was awarded with the certification of merit by the Hungarian National Development and Economic Minister. Her main fields of expertise are: modernizing public administration and efficient use of EU funds.

Dr. Nándor Németh, PhD

Geographer, managing director of the Pannon.Analysing Office. Between 2003 and 2009 he was a research fellow at the Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. He specialized 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 economical impacts of the enlargement of the Hungarian motorway network.

Ms. Ágnes Szabó-Morvai

Economist, senior expert at the HETFFA Reseach Institute. Her fields of interest are financial markets, corporate finance and labor market issues. She is a PhD candidate in Economics at Central-European University (CEU). Her dissertation topic is the effect of childcare benefits on labor market activity. She teaches statistics, econometrics at CEU and corporate finance at Debrecen University. Previously, she worked in the credit risk modeling department of GE Money Bank, Hungary.

Mr. Boldizsár Megyesi – visiting fellow

Sociologist, senior expert and visiting fellow at the HETFFA Research Institute. He works on rural research in Hungarian and European research projects at the Institute for Political Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He writes his PhD dissertation on institutions of rural development. His main interest is the long term effects of development policy on social and territorial inequalities.

Dr. Károly Mike, PhD– visiting fellow

Economist, MSc in Economics (2002) and PhD in Economics (2010), Corvinus University of Budapest. Senior expert and visiting fellow at the HETFFA Research Institute. Assistant professor at the Group for Public Economics and Law and Economics, Department of Public Policy and Management, Faculty of Economics, Budapest Corvinus University. Director of Széchenyi College for Advanced Studies. 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.

Selected Projects of HÉTFA

Project – A review about the “support-addiction” of enterprises, and the differences in acquisition of development funds, its causes and consequences.

Period – 2010

Client – Hungarian Center for Economic Development Inc.

Description – The purpose of this analysis was to describe the differences in the acquisition of development funds, its causes and consequences.

Project – Development Strategy of Hungary for the development of small- and medium sized enterprises (2007-2013)” – intermediate evaluation

Period – 2010

Client – Ministry for National Development and Economy

Description – We performed the intermediate evaluation of “Development strategies of small- and medium enterprises (2007-2013)” in association with Ernst & Young Consulting Ltd. The evaluation was ordered by the Ministry for National Development and Economy. We analyzed the adequacy and substantiation of the strategy, and evaluated the experiences of its implementation.

Project – Evaluating and analyzing “Locally Initiated Economy Development Program”

Period – 2010

Client – Institute of Economics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Description – The basic purpose of our project was to explore how employment in small towns can be extended and long-term unemployment reduced. As the experiences show, neither the market sector nor the public sector could solve this problem efficiently and permanently. Taking this fact into consideration, we explored local employment solutions, which combine the goals and functions of market- and public spheres.

Project – Investment guide of Tolna country

Period – 2010

Client – Tolna County Development Council

Description – We prepared an investment guide that focused on 21 townships, lying nearby the motorway “M6”. We produced a publication and a website (www.investintolna.hu) that present the investment potential of the area.

Project – Basic questions of development politics

Period – 2009

Client – Economic and Social Council

Description – In this study we reviewed the lessons of the usage of the Cohesion and Structural funds. We focused on the usefulness and efficiency of these funds, and on the conciliation of the developments and the sectoral policies. We summarized the results of the most important assays, evaluations and the debates appearing in the press. We analyzed the data of opinion polls and monitoring data of the supporting system with regard to the topic.

Project – The work is far away – employment problems of people with lower education in Hungary

Period – 2009

Client – Economic and Social Council

Description – In this study – which was ordered by the Economic and Social Council – we reviewed the employment problems of people with lower education, and we formulated recommendations for the ESC and for public actors.

Project – Survey about the developer’s costs, added to acquiring and using of financial supports

Period – 2008

Client – National Development Agency

Description – The survey about the developer’s costs, added to acquiring and using of financial supports was ordered by the National Development Agency. Our aim was to measure the administrative burdens and come up with recommendations for their reductions.

Project – Indicators in strategic governance – The conception of Hungarian governmental feedback system

Period – 2007

Client – Prime Minister’s Office

Description – We prepared a recommendation about the adaptation of metric systems in governmental work.

Recent Publications

Working Papers

Title – Chambers of Commerce, Entrepreneur Associations and Advocacy Groups

Author – Fruzsina Bognár, junior expert at the HÉTFA Center for Analyses

Publication year – 2010-2011

Description – Our essay is based on the case studies of the research with the title „Chambers of Commerce, Entrepreneur Associations and Advocacy Groups”. The research focused on pressure and advocacy groups, and commercial chambers of entrepreneurs. The case studies were built on interviews with executive managers, press and document analysis. The aim of the study is to identify the strategies that these organizations apply to reduce the effect of free rider problem.

Title – Features of the relationship between the state and businesses in Hungary

Author – András Csité and Klára Major

Publication year – 2010

Description – This study introduces the general situation of Hungarian SMEs, describing their main problems, their regulatory environment and the impacts of the developmental support appropriated for them between 2004 and 2008.

Title – The effect of the global crisis on small- and medium sized enterprises

Author – Ágnes Szabó-Morvai

Publication year – 2010

Description – In this study, made with contribution from Bálint Herczeg, we sum up the experience of SMEs regarding the global economic crisis as well as the survey results related to this topic. The paper also introduces solutions SMEs have chosen to survive.

Background Papers

Title – Doing Business in the Balkans

Publication year – 2011

Description – The aim of this study is to explore the opportunities of doing business in the Balkans. Assessing some of the well known international competitiveness indexes and surveys, we introduce how easy it is to do business in Albania, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Bulgaria, in Croatia, in Macedonia, in Romania and in Serbia. The study displays the changes of the economical environment in these countries during the last few years, and summarizes the main tendencies in the examined region.

Title – International routines to smaller bureaucracy

Publication year – 2010

Description – The aim of this paper is to review foreign experience of good practices with reference to the relieving of administrative burdens. In this study we introduce the recommendations of OECD, EU and World Bank, the simplification strategies referring to small and middle enterprises, the factors, putting back the lowering of the burdens, and the forms of cooperation between state institutes and civil society.

Title – The administrative burdens in Hungary

Publication year – 2010

Description – In this paper we would like to give an overall picture of the administrative burdens, which make the work of Hungarian businesses difficult. We summarized the achievements of the main researches conducted so far and reviewed the experts' recommendations, with an emphasis on relieving these burdens.

Title – International researches about administrative burdens

Publication year – 2010

Description – The purpose of this paper is to present Hungary's competitiveness and the degree of administrative burdens, which make the work of Hungarian businesses troublesome. In our analysis we compare international competitiveness indexes, including the data of the Doing Business Index (set up by the World Bank), the Global Competitiveness Index (prepared by the World Economic forum), the World Competitiveness Yearbook (established by the Swiss IMD institute) and the Economic Freedom Index (produced by the Heritage Foundation).

Title – The administrative burdens and their measure methods

Publication year – 2010

Description – HETFFA Research Institute has started a research program about costs that are connected to observing laws and make the work of Hungarian businesses more difficult. In this part of our Background Papers we define the concepts of administrative burdens, present the problems about them, and display why the simplification and the qualitative improvement of the regulatory environment could become a part of the recommendations of international organizations.