University of Szeged

Center for Research on Learning and Instruction

UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED

CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON LEARNING
AND INSTRUCTION
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New Hungary Development Plan

RESEARCH GROUP PROFILE

Established in 2003, the research group is principally engaged in carrying out practice-oriented research informed by the results of the MTA-SZTE Research Group on the Development of Competencies. Its major objectives are:

- to establish and maintain long-term cooperation between researchers and schools involved in utilizing the research results
- to involve practicing professionals in the ongoing research programs
- to facilitate the widespread dissemination of research results
- to bridge the gap between research and practice, to facilitate the implementation of research results into school practice
- to set up a common framework for research and education.

LINKS

- **MTA-SZTE Research Group on the Development of Competencies**
(http://www.edu.u-szeged.hu/mtakcs/)
- **University of Szeged, Institute of Education**
(http://www.edu.u-szeged.hu/nt/indexhu.php)
- **University of Szeged, Graduate School of Educational Sciences**
(http://www.edu.u-szeged.hu/phd)
- **Conference on Educational Assessment**
(http://www.edu.u-szeged.hu/pek/)
- **Szeged Workshop on Educational Evaluation**
(http://www.edu.u-szeged.hu/swee/)
- **Mentor program**
(http://mentorprogram.eu)
- **Deutsches Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung**
(http://www.dipf.de)
- **Central Institute for Test Development (CITO)**
(http://ww.cito.nl)
- **Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor, TAO Project**
(http://www.tao.lu)
- **University of Helsinki, Centre for Educational Assessment**
(http://www.helsinki.fi/cea/english/)
- **Institut zur Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen, Berlin**
(http://www.iqb.hu-berlin.de)

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- **Developing Diagnostic Assessments**

The main objective of the project is to develop a technology-based assessment system that fosters students' individual development by providing frequent diagnostic assessments. The research is extended to all the relevant components of the diagnostic system development. It includes the elaboration of a framework for three major literacy domains (reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy), launching a development project in seven more fields, developing test banks, creating a platform for computerized (online) testing, meta-analysis of data gained from national and international assessments and training teachers and other stakeholders. The project is supported by the Social Renewal Operative Program of the New Hungary Development Plan (TÁMOP 3.1.9/08/01-2009-0001).

- **Hungarian Educational Longitudinal Program – HELP**

The research group pioneered in launching a longitudinal national large-scale assessment program with primary school students in Hungary. The aim of the program is to outline the developmental processes of some important skills, analyze the factors influencing students' performance, map out the reasons for students' failures and analyze the predictive value of tests.

The first data collection started in autumn 2003 with 1st, 5th and 9th graders. By the end of the first 4-year period we had collected data that covered 12 years of public education. These data enable us to characterize the changes and developmental tendencies occurring in the three phases of public education: lower primary school, higher primary school and secondary school. The eldest sample has already left the compulsory education, however, the assessment of the two younger samples continues.

The second phase of the data collection was launched in autumn 2007 with 1st graders. The dataset allows us to characterize the impact of the educational and social changes that occurred during the 4-year period elapsed between the two studies.

- **Assessment and differentiated education of disadvantaged students**

The main objectives of the research and development program carried out parallel with the longitudinal program is to develop, test and analyze the efficiency of teaching methods that may contribute to tackling some well-known bottlenecks of the Hungarian educational system. The program is primarily carried out in schools where the number of disadvantaged students is higher than the average.

Developing methods of motivational teaching and learners' motivation, creating a positive attitude towards schools, establishing appealing learning situations and activities and developing methods that facilitate the catching up of children left behind form the core of the program. The program is run by the joint efforts of numerous researchers and practicing teachers.

- **Classroom of the Future**

The Center for Research on Learning and Instruction established an innovative, state of the art teaching and research unit meeting all the requirements of the 21st century with the support of Microsoft Hungary. The classroom, being the first milestone of a long-term research and educational program, serves the following functions: (1) teacher trainees and practicing teachers attending our trainings or refresher courses can acquire the utilization of the latest technologies and methods, (2) the laboratory study of the new technology-based teaching and learning methods and (3) research for further development are carried out here.

The equipment, the mobile desks and chairs provide an opportunity for creating an ideal environment for individual learning, pair work, group work and frontal teaching. A wide range of portable computers (traditional notebook, interactive whiteboard-PC, Ultra-Mobile-PC), wireless internet access, projectors, and the student feedback system make it possible to put various novel teaching and learning models into practice.