

## MTA-ELTE Environmental Education Research Group

### Professional report on the 2021/22 grant year

The establishment of our research group is linked to the support of the Public Education Development Research Program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The main goal of our research group is to monitor the effect of integrated environmental education in the lower grades of Primary schools. The environmental education changed with NAT2020, so our preliminary works could not be included in this project.

We planned two survey periods for all involved classes. The first survey period, at the beginning of Year 3, measures the efficiency of the traditional and integrated education system in the field of environmental studies. At the end of Year 4 (also the end of the lower grade) the second survey period measures how these two education systems reach the outcome requirements.

In the 2021/22 grant year, we prepared the questionnaires for Year 3 pupils: 1) measure the Skills, abilities and knowledge of pupils in the field of environmental studies, 2) measure the attitude toward the environment, nature and of course environmental or natural science, 3) measures the sports activity of pupils and parents and there are some questions about the use of electronic devices too, 4) measure the eating habits of pupils. The first two questionnaires were prepared for pupils, the last two for parents. In the autumn of 2021, 470 pupils (and parents) from 18 classes and altogether from 7 schools filled out these questionnaires. This was our first survey period when we measured the effects of traditional environmental education (non-integrated).

We also compiled the questionnaire for teachers who were involved in integrated environmental education. This online survey can be found: <https://forms.gle/hEy4Gqdjfir4UMLj9>. This survey period started in the summer of 2022 and we are going to close the data collection period in December of 2022.

Our second main aim was to create good samples of integrated themes of Environmental studies into other subjects. We try to build a system of good integration with the common work of practising primary school teachers and university methodological teachers. In the 2021/22 grant year, we prepared materials for Grade 1. Three main themes were developed: Perception, Observation of Living things (on the example of a snail) and a Healthy Lifestyle. Our materials are continuously uploaded to the website of the Research Group (<https://www.tok.elte.hu/content/mta-elte-kornyezetismeret-tanitasi-munkacsoport.t.6850?m=456>).

The School Garden Project also started. This year we cleaned the place of school garden from overgrown shrubs and invasive saplings. The pupils of the Primary School were involved in this project. We finished cleaning the root zone in the summertime, so the filling of the raised beds with soil was moved to autumn of 2022.

There are no antecedents of integrated environmental education in Hungary, so we cannot write new publications about this theme, especially since the first grade studied this way finished Year 2 just this summer. In this granted year we showed our work and plans at conferences.

Compiled by Erzsébet Szurdoki  
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