

## Report 2

HAS Public Education Development Research Programme 2021. SZKF-1 2021

*„Preventing learning failure by changing the learning environment at the beginning of academic carrier”*

Planned research period: 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2025

We planned to carry out the implementation in five phases:

1. Preparation period: 1 September 2021 – 28 February 2021.
2. Teacher preparation period: 1 March 2022 – 31 August 2022.
3. Programme period: 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2024
4. Impact assessment: 1 September 2024 – 31 January 2025
5. Data processing, analysis and reporting: 1 February 2025 – 31 August 2025

We are currently halfway through phase 3. We are on track with the research plan.

Website: <https://tanulas-kutatas.hu>

Research email: [tanulaskutatas@gmail.com](mailto:tanulaskutatas@gmail.com)

## Activities and outputs

The number of methodological units developed is 17.

The aim is to help pupils develop their skills at the start of school, during a developmentally intensive phase. The methodology units are used in the so called “developing” schools. The control groups are used to demonstrate the developmental impact on pupils and the methodological change in teachers’ approach through input and output measures.

**Methodological units and their delivery:** 1 February 2022 – 31 August 2022.

- ✓ We finalised the groups of development and control schools and the preparation system.
- ✓ The training of the teachers in the development group was carried out online and face-to-face, in two groups, in order to prepare them more efficiently.
- ✓ During the online coaching 1 and during the 2 days of the on-site coaching 16 methodological units were presented to the teachers.
- ✓ Online preparation: 17 / 19 March 2022.
- ✓ On-site preparation: 23 April / 30 April 2022 and 20 and 21 June 2022.
- ✓ On-site preparation to test students – both for teachers in the development and control groups were held 22 June 2022 /25 August 2022, where they received written instructions and took trial testing.

**During the research work, teachers received continuous professional support.**

We regularly updated the research website with information on the main steps of the project. Communication took place via the research email address and bi-monthly online consultations were held to provide updates and to respond to needs and questions.

**Development and selection of testing tools: 1 February 2022 – 31 May 2022.**

Testing of the first-graders

- Online Sensorimotor and Cognitive Profile Test (<https://kognitivprofil.hu>)
- Coloured Raven Matrices
- Psychosomatic Symptoms Questionnaire
- Aspects for teacher observation of students

Teacher survey

- Mental Health Test Aspiration Index
- Mini Oldenburg Burnout Questionnaire
- Subjective Physical Symptom Scale
- Socio-economic status questionnaire

**Testing period: 1 September 2022 – 30 June 2023.**

Organising and conducting the input measurements of the development and control groups.

- Data processing, analysis, summarisation; class profiles and tables showing individual results by cognitive domain were prepared for each development class and interpreted during group online consultations.
- Development group teachers follow the process by observing students in the developmental learning environment and present their work and children's progress through written reports, photo and video documentation.

**Vienna Study Tour – organisation of space: 22 June 2023.**

A study trip to Vienna, at the invitation of the Technische Universität Wien, gave 12 teachers involved in the research the opportunity to learn about the project "Innovationslabor für Bildungsräume in bewegung (BiB Lab)" (Innovation Workshops for Education).

The group was guided by the project leader Dr Karin Harather, Associate Professor.

**Preparing for the second year of methodological developments**

On 20 June 2023, the first year of development of the research programme came to an end.

On 27 June 2023, a preparation day was held to familiarise teachers with the new developments and to analyse the old and new methodological units using the Skills & Methodology Unit Table.

The flashcard mobile app is up and running and the teachers are familiarized with it.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hu.forstner.kartyak>

A blueprint for Mondrian block-based cognitive training is ready to start in 20 classes in 18 schools in autumn 2023 to create a supportive learning environment.

**Finance**

We spent 4,894 thousand HUF instead of 5,300 thousand HUF on staff allowances and contributions, because teachers' salaries depended on the number of methodological units they choose and fewer methodological units were chosen than we expected.

We spent HUF 3,705 thousand on material expenses instead of HUF 2,500 thousand, because we bought some tools for the implementation of the methodological units, plus, the amount of paper-based support materials increased, as well as the publication costs not planned for this period, and the trip to Vienna increased the expenses.

Detailed information: <https://tanulas-kutatas.hu/en>

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