

Medium-term Strategic Plan of the Institute of Ethnology of the Research Centre for the Humanities (2020–2023)

- **Analysis of the external environment and review of the internal capacities**

Over the past decade, the Institute of Ethnology carried out excellent research – as also shown by the latest international screening – while receiving less and less subvention in real terms. Since September 2019 the Institute of Ethnology, as a member institution of the Research Centre for the Humanities from 2012, has been maintained and directed by the newly established Eötvös Loránd Research Network. Amid these essentially changed conditions, the Institute of Ethnology strives to remain an authoritative and opinion-shaping central institution of ethnology. The main argument for the structural transformation was that the government wished to give more support to excellent research, so there is hope to believe that in the near future, our research would be allocated a part of the national product proportionate to the European expectations.

The Institute of Ethnology is the most important, leading research centre of Hungarian ethnology. Its more than 40 qualified researchers make up a potential that compares to the limited research staff of neither museums, nor university departments. The tasks undertaken by the research teams of the Institute embrace significant areas of Hungarian ethnology, European ethnology, folkloristics, and cultural and social anthropology. Moreover, in accordance with the Institute's mission statement, they also focus on issues touching upon both historical dimension and present-day important aspects of applied science.

- **Mission statement of the Institute**

Ethnology plays a leading role in determining national cultural heritage, shaping national identity, and ensuring that folk culture remains one of the cornerstones of modern national culture. As the central institution of Hungarian ethnology, the Institute of Ethnology cooperates with domestic and foreign research centres. It initiates joint projects, its researchers contribute to the operation of the national system of institutions of ethnology, take part in the direction of professional bodies, in academic qualification, and in the graduate and postgraduate programmes of this discipline. In addition, the Institute's compendiums, book series, regularly appearing yearbook (*Ethno-lore*), as well as its various events provide opportunities to discuss new findings and ideas. All of the above have enabled this research centre to serve as the cradle of the comprehensive works of this discipline ever since its establishment. This impressive scientific potential – indispensable for major professional endeavours – constitutes an internationally competitive research capacity among the leading foreign institutions of the discipline.

The main tasks of the Institute of Ethnology are the following:

- do research on the culture and society of the Hungarian people and peoples living in Hungary, monitor changes, explore their relations with the neighbouring peoples; carry out socio-ethnological studies based on ethnological fieldwork in local communities that differ from each other in terms of geography and type, especially in topics such as cooperation and the challenges of sustainable development, present-day forms of rural life in different regions, the perspectives and social relevance of sociology in the 21st century;
- do historical research on Hungarian and non-Hungarian peasant culture forming part of the national cultural heritage, and the society and culture of local and regional

- communities; investigate the transformation of the agrarian and industrial society of the Carpathian Basin in a historical context; explore historical and visual sources in different topics of social history, material culture, lifestyle, devotional life and church history; research topics such as the periods and phenomena of Hungarian folk art and the contemporary design and art inspired by the folk art of the Carpathian Basin;
- collect, explore, systematize, publish and research the historical and contemporary phenomena of the Hungarian folklore in an international context; interpret the characteristics of Hungarian folk poetry, folk religiousness, beliefs, customs, holidays and the transmission of folk traditions on the basis of folklore collections and 19th-, 20th- and 21st-century folklore text corpus;
 - expose the relations of the Hungarian people to the peoples of Eurasia in connection with the social and cultural processes relevant on the continent; research tradition and modernization, cultural reflexes and ideologies, religious phenomena, landscape and environmental perception on the basis of ethnological fieldwork in Siberia and in Central and Southeastern Asia in connection with the 21st-century trends of globalization, moreover, performance of ethnological history examinations and research the science history of anthropology;
 - edit and publish compendiums (*Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon, A Magyar Népi Kultúra Enciklopédiája / Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Culture*), and journals (*Acta Ethnographica Hungarica, Ethnographia*), and the yearbook of the Institute (*Ethno-Lore*) and its series;
 - keep in touch with national and foreign ethnological institutions, organize conferences and debates, and join international research programmes;
 - undertake an active role in the propagation of science, juries, professional consultancy, organize professional exhibitions, book shows and popular science lectures, and provide an expert opinion in relation to the awarding of the *Master of Folk Art* and the *Young Master of Folk Art* titles as well as in that of the certificate of applied folk arts.

- **Setting strategic objectives for the Institute**

The objectives of the Institute are in harmony with the decisive role it fulfils in the Hungarian ethnological research, with the requirements, challenges and opportunities of the age – as well as the scientific ambitions of the research staff. Through the publication of the compendiums of the discipline, i.e. the five-volume *Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon* (1977–1982), the nine-volume *Magyar Néprajzi Atlasz* (1987–92) and the equally nine-volume *Magyar Néprajz* (1988–2011), the Institute of Ethnology has contributed outstandingly to the creation of comprehensive works of this genre, even in comparison with domestic and European institutions of several other co-disciplines. The Institute is planning to publish additional compendiums in the years to come. On the one hand, the folklorists of the Institute are working on compiling a folkloristics compendium (*Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*) reflecting a modern approach. Their aim is to create a modern and representative overview in which they will revisit the core concepts of folklore studies, provide an overview of the genres, works and authors of folk poetry, as well as of the researchers and research history of the Hungarian folklore, using the latest research results published in the national and international professional literature. Additionally, depending on the availability of the necessary financial resources, the Institute is also envisaging the publication of another compendium series (*Magyar Népi Kultúra Enciklopédia / Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Culture*) in English, with abundant illustration. The Institute has made serious efforts with a view to the materialization of this project. This representative work will be the first compendium to present the recent research findings of Hungarian ethnology, folkloristics and anthropology to foreign professional and lay public.

Also depending on the availability of the necessary funds, the Institute of Ethnology is planning to carry out a comprehensive research project with the involvement of each of its departments that would bring together the ongoing studies, and eventually publish a synthesizing work the aim of which is to explore historically, but also in its relevance for the present, which components of popular and public culture and tradition have served the past and present practice of nation-building and to what end.

Besides such major syntheses, the fellows of the Institute focus primarily on basic research and the examination of present-day changes, carry out regional and thematic research, and publish their findings through international and national lectures and publications.

- **Performance indicators**

The Institute of Ethnology applies its own internal habilitation criteria to monitor and check from time to time whether its research fellows meet the requirements corresponding to their position (assistant research fellow, research fellow, senior research fellow) along four basic considerations: 1. Quality (domestic and international recognition, scientific potential, innovative efforts). 2. Efficiency (scientific achievements, degree obtainment, publication indices, citation/impact factor, participation in domestic and international academic life, other scientometric data). 3. Relevance (scientific as well as social and economic impact of the researcher's work, participation in the popularization of science). 4. Willingness to cooperate (engagement in the running of the research organization and of the institutions of the discipline). The MTMT (Hungarian Repository of Scientific Works) allows the Institute to keep track of the publication activity of the researchers and of the citation index of their works.

- Annual breakdown of planned research and projects

As a member institution of the Research Centre for the Humanities, the Institute of Ethnology will be able to prepare more accurate and more detailed medium-term plans once it becomes familiar with the intentions of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network as maintainer and controller and the funds allocated by the latter. The Institute constantly looks for international and domestic tendering opportunities in order to implement its research plans.

2020

- Write the remaining entries of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*, review and edit the volume.
- *Párhuzamos ruralitások; A vidékiség mai (lét)formái négy erdélyi (romániai) kistrégióban* [Parallel Ruralities. Rural Realities in Four Transylvanian (Romanian) Micro-Regions] – The participants of this research project reveal the contemporary trends of post-communist economic processes through the complex study of the changes in the local economic practices, households and lifestyle on their selected sites. In conclusion of research carried out with NRDIO funding (2016–2020), study volumes will be prepared in English and Hungarian.
- *Védett területek a szlovén–magyar határ mentén. Az együttműködés és a fenntartható fejlődés kihívásai* [Protected Areas Along the Slovenian–Hungarian Border. Challenges in Cooperation and Sustainable Development] – This Hungarian–Slovenian joint NRDIO SNN project 2017–2020, which has been studying the situation of the Slovenian Goričko Krajinski Park, located near the Hungarian–Slovenian national border and the Hungarian–Slovenian ethnic border, and that of the Hungarian Őrség National Park,

social life, the economic opportunities of local farmers, as well as the challenges posed by the border, will culminate in study volumes and an English-language thematic journal issue.

- *A gyermek közétkeztetés társadalmi beágyazottsága. Kérdések és lehetőségek* [The Social Embeddedness of Public Catering for Children. Questions and Opportunities] This NRDIO project (2018–2022) is an applied ethnological research project on present-day children’s communal catering in Hungary that is completed by analyses of historical background based on archival sources. Researchers carry out intensive ethnological fieldwork in the subject year on sites of various kinds and among different actors of school catering.
- *Tagányi Károly (1856–1924) jogszokásgyűjtő programja és hagyatékának tudománytörténeti jelentősége* [The Legal Tradition Collection Programme of Károly Tagányi (1856–1924) and the Significance of Its Legacy in Scientific History] NRDIO project (2020–2024).
- *Néphit, népi vallás, mentalitás, 16–21. század: digitális adatbázisok, enciklopedikus összefoglalások* [Folk Belief, Vernacular Religion, Mentality 16th-21st Centuries: Digital Databases, Encyclopedic Summaries] NRDIO project (2020–2024).
- The Institute has been making continuous efforts to modernize its Repository, as well as to digitize the collections and research materials stored on various data carriers within the museum registration and publication system of MúzeumDigitár. Organization of an international conference under the title *Creative Heritage in the Making – Contemporary Folk Design* on artisan heritage and modernization, local creative design as national heritage, and folk art inspired contemporary art and design.
- Edition of year 2020 of *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, *Ethnographia*, and of the Institute’s yearbook, *Ethno-Lore*, as well as the other series of the Institute. The topic of the Institute’s yearbook will be *Rétegg kultúra, életmód, tárgyi környezet és a fogyasztás terei a modernizáció korában* [Subculture, Lifestyle, Material Environment and the Spaces of Consumption in the Age of Modernism].

2021

- Editing of the pictures and sheet music material of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*, proofreading of the entries, preparation of the publication.
- *A gyermek közétkeztetés társadalmi beágyazottsága. Kérdések és lehetőségek* [The Social Embeddedness of Public Catering for Children. Questions and Opportunities] NRDIO project – 2018–2022. Examination of the social embeddedness of the state-promoted “healthy” diet, study of the operating mechanisms of the familial nutritional culture of children and school catering through case studies. Organization of a Hungarian conference, publication of a study volume. Creation of an international researcher network the long-term aim of which is – in addition to information exchange – the organization of a conference with a view to getting an international outlook on the topic.
- Depending on the Institute’s possibilities, compilation of a 1100-entry encyclopaedia titled *A magyar nép kerekese járművei és fogatai*.
- Digitization of the Institute’s Repository in the framework of MúzeumDigitár. Depending on the Institute’s possibilities, publication of a volume from Gyula Ortutay’s heritage at the Institute.
- Edition of year 2021 of *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, *Ethnographia* and of the Institute’s yearbook (*Ethno-Lore*), as well as the additional series of the Institute.

2022

- Publication of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*.

- Following the publication of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*, which is a priority commitment of the Institute, and depending on the Institute’s possibilities, editing of *Magyar Népi Kultúra Enciklopédiája / Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Culture*.
- *A gyermek közétkeztetés társadalmi beágyazottsága. Kérdések és lehetőségek* [The Social Embeddedness of Public Catering for Children. Questions and Opportunities] NRDIO project – 2018–2022. Organization of an international conference. Closing of the research by the publication of study volumes in Hungarian and in foreign languages.
- Edition of year 2022 of *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, *Ethnographia* and of the Institute’s yearbook (*Ethno-Lore*), as well as the additional series of the Institute.

2023

- Publication of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon* online, then the reworking of the oeuvre for an English-language edition.
- Publication of *Magyar Népköltészeti Lexikon*, depending on the financial support received for the works of *Magyar Népi Kultúra Enciklopédiája / Encyclopaedia of Hungarian Folk Culture*.
- Edition of year 2023 of *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, *Ethnographia* and of the Institute’s yearbook, *Ethno-Lore*, as well as the other series of the Institute.

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