

## ADULT EDUCATION IN THE SOCIETY FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

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*Abstract:* The Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge (T.I.T.) is the oldest adult education organization both in Hungary and in the world: it has a history of 170 years of activity. TIT was founded in 1841 by the most outstanding scholars of the time, who believed that the dissemination of knowledge for the public interest was indispensable for the progress of the nation. At present the Society consists of regional and professional Associations (38) which are wholly independent and constitute a Federation with more than 10.000 members. The main fields of activity are as follows: vocational training and retraining; courses in social and natural sciences like biology, astronomy, history and literature; promotion of talented young people; organization of Summer University Courses, combining study programmes and holidays; organization of conferences, exhibitions and professional visits; publishing magazines and journals, teaching and testing foreign languages. Our association is the unique representative of TELC (The European Language Certificates) exam system in Hungary, which belongs to TELC Gmb.H. in Frankfurt, Germany. The association is also the unique representative of XPERT (European Computer Passport) training and exam system in Hungary, which belongs to the European Exam Centre in Hannover (Die Europäische Prüfungszentrale Hannover).

Our major activities at present are as follows:

1. two types of state- accredited trainings in the adult education field, financed by EU for 2009-2011:

1. 70 participants in Transylvania (in Gyergyószentmiklós) with the title: „*Foreign language and Marketing in Domestic Tourism*”.
2. 100 participants, experts working in the field of culture, with the title „*Cultural Project Management*” címmel.

2. TELC language exams: TELC (The European Language Certificates) has more than 3000 test centres throughout Europe, being recognized by many institutions (state, universities) in Germany, Austria, Hungary, The Czech Republic, and Poland. Teaching foreign languages by T.I.T. began in 1957 with founding its first Language School. Soon it developed into a national network with more than 11 000 students a year. In the 1970's T.I.T. started to print its own teaching materials and became a centre for state language exams. By 1989 the importance of foreign languages quickly grew and international certificates were issued for students. In 2000 TELC was admitted as a state-accredited exam and in the last 10 years have had more than 175 000 candidates.

**Keywords:** TIT, Adult Education, Hungary

The Society for the dissemination of Scientific Knowledge is the oldest adult education organization in Hungary. It was founded in 1841 by the most outstanding scholars of the time, who believed that the dissemination

of knowledge for all the people was indispensable for the progress of the nation.

This task is the most important even today and this has helped the Society to survive different political and social changes in the past 163 years. At present the Society consists of regional and professional Associations which are wholly autonomous and constitute a Federation. The representatives of the Associations form the General Assembly, which is the highest body of the Society and which elects the president and the Executive Committee and defines the main trends in the activity of the Society.

The Bureau of the Federation of the Association has a Director and a small office that coordinates the activities of the Associations. The main tasks of the Bureau are to provide the Association with important pieces of information and to represent them on national and international level.

The association has got more than ten thousand members, who deal with educational and professional dissemination of knowledge and organize programmes in the field of adult education. They provide the intellectual background for the small staff, who run the administrative part of the activity. The association has got a national network system, with the necessary infrastructure and is well equipped. It also has got a library with more than 30.000 volumes in the field of adult education.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The main fields of activity of the Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge are as follows:

- vocational training and retraining,
- courses of public interest in all branches of natural and social sciences like biology, astronomy or history and literature,
- teaching foreign languages, this society has the oldest network of language teaching, the association is the unique representative of the TELC (The European Language Certificates) exam system in Hungary, which belongs to WBT (weiterbildungssystem gmb.H. in Frankfurt, Germany).
  - programmes of national importance like the cultivation of good Hungarian language, protection of the environment, safeguarding of public health,
  - organization and promotion of folk high schools in the provinces,
  - programmes for handicapped social groups.
  - promotion of talented young people,
  - organization of Summer University Courses, combining study programmes and holidays,

- vocational trainings for the unemployed.
- organization of conferences, exhibitions and professional visits,
- publication of educational and information materials.
- Special lectures on the EU.
- Publishing magazines and journals in the fields of natural sciences and social sciences.

These activities can be classified within five groups:

### 1. *Dissemination of knowledge*

-A three-semester open university course, organizing lectures and conferences, selling video-cassettes of those lectures

-Organizing The Hungarian day of Science, having a series of programmes

-Taking part in the work of the European organization of dissemination of knowledge (EUSCEA)

-Cooperating with adult education centres for the Hungarians living outside the border

-Running institutes dealing with disseminating knowledge

-Publishing magazines and journals

### 2. *Adult education*

-Organizing trainings, which provide certificates accepted in the EU member states

-Organizing trainings, which are indispensable for the Hungarian inhabitants, as becoming members of EU

-Exchanging knowledge, which establishes „the civil conversation”

-Dissemination of modern skills and knowledge which , as part of the universal culture and knowledge, can be part of creating a society on the basis of knowledge

### 3. *Accredited trainings*

-Further training of language teachers in the frame of English and German language teachers’ retraining program

-Further training of pedagogists, in the fields of computer technology, theatre and film esthetics

-Further training of experts in the field of culture (e-learning, e-learning marketing, e Europe, informational society for everybody, etc.)

-Xpert (European Computer Passport) training and international exam. The association is the unique representative of the exam system in Hungary

#### 4. *Language courses, exams*

-The association is the unique representative and licence holder of running the TELC (The European Language Certificates) exam system in Hungary. The owner of the exam is WBT(weiterbildungssystem gmb.h. in Frankfurt, Germany)

- Having examiners' training programs
- Having developed a software for administrating the exam

#### 5. *Cooperation with non-profit organizations*

- Strong cooperation with the national non-profit organizations
- Taking part in the 'National non-profit program'
- Being present at different exhibitions and organizations in this field, like CIVICUS and CIVILIÁDA exhibitios and professional meetings

#### **Language exams at the society**

ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE, MONOLINGUAL	8720	
ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE, BILINGUAL	616	
ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE, ONLY TRANSLATION	63	
ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE, ALTOGETHER	8783	
ENGLISH ADVANCED MONOLINGUAL	385	
ENGLISH ADVANCED, BILINGUAL	64	
ENGLISH ADVANCED ONLY TRANSLATION	12	
ENGLISH ADVANCED ALTOGETHER	397	
ENGLISH ALTOGETHER	9180	
GERMAN	654	
ITALIAN	24	
FRENCH	26	
The number of examinnees at TIT in 2003.		9884

#### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- ❖ Association for Cultivation of Hungarian Language
- ❖ Gypsy society of Arts and Science
- ❖ 'Life and Science' Association

- ❖ Györffy István Folklore Association
- ❖ Association for Dissemination of Knowledge on National Defence
- ❖ Jelky András Association for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge
- ❖ Hungarian Leisure Time Society
- ❖ Hungarian Society of Natural Sciences
- ❖ Hungarian Association of Language Teachers
- ❖ Nagyváthy János Farmer Training Association
- ❖ Society for Dissemination of Knowledge Natural Sciences
- Studio
- ❖ The Budapest Planetarium of the Hungarian Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge
- ❖ The Budapest Urania of the Hungarian Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge

### **REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- ❖ Baranya Society for dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **PÉCS**
- ❖ Bács-Kiskun Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge **KECSKEMÉT**
- ❖ - town Association **BÉKÉSCSABA**
- ❖ Jedlik Ányos Society for Dissemination - **MISKOLC**
- ❖ - Society for Dissemination of Knowledge **BUDAPEST**
- ❖ Pál Bugát Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **EGER**
- ❖ Koch Sándor Society for dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **SZEGED**
- ❖ Society for Dissemination of Knowledge **DUNAÚJVÁROS**

- ❖ Fejér Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge  
**SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR**
- ❖ Hajdú-Bihar Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **DEBRECEN**
- ❖ Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Society for Dissemination of Knowledge - **SZOLNOK**
- ❖ Jurányi Lajos Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge **NYÍREGYHÁZA**
- ❖ Komárom-Esztergom Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge- **TATABÁNYA**
- ❖ Nógrád County Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **SALGÓTARJÁN**
- ❖ Society for Dissemination of Knowledge **OROSHÁZA**
- ❖ Öveges József Society for Dissemination of Knowledge  
**ZALAEGERSZEG**
- ❖ Teleki László Society for Dissemination of Knowledge -  
**BUDAPEST**
- ❖ Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge  
**SIÓFOK**
- ❖ Somogy Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge -  
**KAPOSVÁR**
- ❖ Town Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge  
**SOPRON**
- ❖ Tolna Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge-  
**SZEKSZÁRD**
- ❖ Vas Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge -  
**SZOMBATHELY**
- ❖ Vajda Péter Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge - **VESZPRÉM**