

## DATA PROTECTION PROTOCOL

for the survey "Competition and Negative Networks"  
administered by the MTA TK "Lendület" Research Center for Educational and  
Network Studies (RECENS)

### ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The MTA TK "Lendület" Research Center for Educational and Network Studies (RECENS), working as part of the Centre for Social Sciences at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, led by dr. Károly Takács, is beginning a survey research entitled "Competition and Negative Networks" among 5<sup>th</sup> graders in primary schools. The longitudinal research has four waves, and lasts two years. Almost 30 towns and villages, 35 elementary schools and approximately 1200 pupils are involved in the research.

The aim of our research is to set up a database that contains data concerning the achievement, positive and negative relationships, and conflicts of primary school pupils, and also their aspirations about further studies. We also aim to derive conclusions and articulate policy recommendations that are relevant scientifically and for education practice.

### DATA PROTECTION PROTOCOL

During the research, we are providing the protection of the personal data of the participants by ensuring the following:

- I. Those who administer the questionnaires in the classes are knowledgeable about data protection. The principals have given assent to our research.
- II. An information sheet is sent to the parents or legal guardians (through the schools), in which the parents are informed about the organisation that collects the data, the purpose of data collection, the purpose of the research, and how the data will be used. A consent form is sent to the parents. The consent of the parents is asked in advance also in order to collect grades and connect them to competence test results.
- III. The participants are informed on location about the organisation that collects the data, the purpose of data collection, the purpose of the research, and how the data will be used.
- IV. The participants take part in the research on a voluntary basis. All the participants have the right to partially or fully withdraw from the study by refusing to answer some or all of the questions.

- V. Upon starting to fill in the questionnaires, each pupil is given a unique code of five digits, which contains the code of the school, that of the class, and that of the pupil. This code allows for linking the form teacher questionnaire and the pupil questionnaire, and at the same time it ensures data protection.
- VI. Keeping the unique codes throughout the research is of utmost importance, given the longitudinal nature of the research. The codes are kept separately from the database.
- VII. All the pupils in all the classes fill in self-administered questionnaires on tablets. During this process network data are collected. When filling in the questionnaire, the pupils are identified by their unique code. Administering the questionnaires by this system ensures that neither the teachers, nor the classmates or the researchers can see the responses. Responses are automatically recorded in the database after finishing the questionnaire.
- VIII. In the case of the pupils whose parents have given consent to the researchers to use the pupils' competence test scores, the school, if possible, using the pupils' educational code (so-called 'OM' code), generates the competence code. Following this, the school selects the mathematics and reading competence test scores, and hands these results over to the researchers.
- IX. The questionnaires are anonymous, and do not contain any information on the basis of which the participants could be identified.
- X. The database that contains the participants' answers does not contain any information that could be linked to the participants on an individual basis.

In addition to the above, the MTA TK "Lendület" Research Center for Educational and Network Studies (RECENS) does everything to enforce data protection rules throughout the entire research project; the information and data are handled according to the data protection law; colleagues, researchers and the database are treated accordingly. The personal data of the participants will be handled according to the data protection law (Act no CXII of 2011 on Information Rights and the Freedom of Information). The database containing the data of the survey does not contain the pupils' name, only their unique identification code. The database which contains the names will be deleted as soon as the database with the data of the four waves along with the competence test scores is available. During data treatment, information that would make it possible to identify individuals is not stored; the scientific papers contain aggregated data only.