**Press release**

**More than HUF 400 million spent to improve university courses**

The Department of Community and Social Studies of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Pécs, as the main applicant, in consortium with the Department of Social Work of the Faculty of Health of the University of Debrecen and the Department of Social Studies and Sociology of the Faculty of Apáczai Csere János of the Széchenyi István University, implemented the EFOP-3.5.2-17-2017-0002 project "Innovative, dual and practice-oriented development of higher education courses for social workers and community support. Transformative-dialogical learning in the service of cooperation."

In some segments of higher education, there was still a marked predominance of theoretical training pathways, with the participation of practitioners in education being marginalized. Thus, there were insufficient opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills directly applicable in practice, while there is a strong demand from employers for professionals fulfilling practice-oriented training programs. In line with this, and in line with the guiding development programs and the strategic objectives of higher education, the overall professional objective of the development, which was carried out between 1 September 2017 and 31 March 2021 with a grant of HUF 405 587 346, was to optimize the adaptation to the world of work and to improve the professional and methodological competences of students and trainers.

In order to increase effectiveness, new services were developed and implemented in these higher education institutions, as well as curricular and methodological reforms based on research results. The project has also strengthened cooperation between training and practice institutions, facilitated the sharing of professional experience, and promoted development work beyond the project.

Due to the COVID pandemic and the associated constraints in the implementation of the project, many of the pre-committed activities requiring face-to-face contact could not be carried out as planned, but after introducing significant modifications and reorganizing the programs into an online space, the project was successfully implemented and achieved its objectives.

More information about the project, photos, videos, teaching materials, and more can be found on the project website: http://szockepzes.hu/

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