Between 2004 and 2005 Hungarian specialists organize a survey to obtain information about the use of maps by teachers and pupils in the elementary schools. Previously, a research was finished to study the presence of cartography in the Hungarian study plans and School Atlas, examining in particular how are taught and used the thematic maps in the elementary schools.

The survey includes two questionnaires. The first one was designed for pupils of 7th grade, to measure their abilities reading thematic maps. This questionnaire contains four questions, each one of them asking about different practical aspects of the thematic cartography (reading of thematic maps, filling a text based on map information and how pupils represent information on a outline map). The second questionnaire is to be filled by the teachers, which included a total of twelve questions asking them about the use of thematic maps in the classroom, what kind of difficulties face the pupils during the use of thematic maps, etc.

The collected data is stored in digital format and the results of the data analysis are presented using different types of charts. A national report was written for those institutions related to the educational activities in the country (Ministry of Education, Research Institutes, Geography teachers Association, etc). All the data, results, and documents are stored in a website, to facilitate the free access to the data and experiences acquired during this research.

This survey was planned on the scope of an international research project in collaboration with Argentine specialists, who organized a similar survey to compare the results obtained in both countries.