

Governance challenges in Hungary, especially in Baranya county

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The problem of economically-socially lagging regions is becoming more significant within Europe, since this problem is the cause of social-political tensions as it hampers the territorially homogenous development of a given nation state. In a European comparison two third of Hungary's regions belong to the lagging areas and the region of South-Transdanubia is in the lastten even as compared with those. The target of the presentation is therefore to explore why the region of South-Transdanubia and within that Baranya county is characterised more by the trends of lagging and not by catching up despite of several intervention attempts. We will examine and identify the factors that can hinder or strengthen the successful implementation of development policy targets. The focus of the presentation is the investigation of internal resources, forms of local governance and types of external interventions in lagging areas, since previous research point out that these factors basically influence the heredity of peripheral character or the potential for change itself. The expected research outcome will help the better understanding of social capital and the characteristics of endogenous resources, and the levers of local participation-based decision-making, development and governance mechanisms in peripheral regions. All these may enhance the success of external interventions like the "Hungarian Village Program" or the European "Smart Villages" initiatives in the peripheral areas of the country. In addition we will be show one part of the research: the questionnaire of the Baranya's elite during the COVID-19.