

In this paper, we ask to the impact of the EGTC on territorial governance by improving cross-border cooperation, thus laying the foundation for innovative interregional policies, with a special focus on CEE After firstly presenting the evolution of the EGTC as a kind of top-down legal innovation, secondly, we discuss the conditions which promote the adoption of innovative policies and how the EGTC relates to them. Thirdly, we analyse how the EGTC works under different forms of inter-jurisdictional competition, which is of utmost importance for disseminating successful policy innovations. We distinguish between four different types of inter-jurisdictional competition depending on the main factors that are mobile between different jurisdictions: 1) information and knowledge (yardstick competition), 2) goods and services (regulatory competition), 3) mobiles factors of production (locational competition), legal arrangements (free choice of law). By applying these four notions of inter-jurisdictional competition, we find that the EGTC as a legal innovation may improve both yardstick and locational competition by advancing innovative regional policies. In contrast to that, there is no clear evidence that it also impacts regulatory competition or competition among different legal arrangements so far.

MARGINALIZED ELEMENTS AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING STRUCTURES: THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOTIONS OF LIVED SPACE AND THE EVERYDAY LIFE

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Post-World War II functionalist urban planning was subject to severe criticism on behalf of spatial theorists related to the „spatial turn” in social sciences in France. Urban philosopher Henri Lefebvre, a fervent critique of technocratic urbanism and the ideology of spatialism (Bousquet 2012) characterizing the Trentes Glorieuses proclaimed what he called the annihilation of the city by the urban and the simultaneous advent of an urban revolution giving birth to a new, collectively re-appropriated urban space where freedom and creativity might become possible. Not everyone was equally optimistic: Jean Baudrillard viewed existential territories jeopardized by hyperspace lacking atmosphere, while powerful private actors were granted immense power from the state to shape urban life according to their vision (e.g. Disney’s Val d’Europe).

Social status is a non-negligible factor in determining to what extent social actors guided by their heterogeneous perceptions of space may participate in the production of space. Rationalized structures reflecting the spatial representations of dominant groups (planners, architects, urbanists, the state) in control of space increasingly dominate lived spaces where spontaneous phenomena such as unanticipated encounters, sensual and tactile experiences, disruptive spatial events may occur. However, existential territories corresponding to individualized approaches to the construction of space might provide a chance to experience urban life in non-alienated forms. Despite the various determinisms (spatial, social, cultural) constraining action, there is always a certain realm for personal liberty: a „residuum” Lefebvre equates with the notion of everyday life. The uniformization of everyday life is what repressive powers seek in order to eliminate „other spaces”, the possible loci of bottom-up forms of resistance. Lived space in its particularity centered around subjective experience (pertaining to the individual’s lifeworld) assumes a marginal position in relation to the uniform/abstract, which implies that the appropriation of space is highly unequal between developers (planners) and users of space. Whilst acknowledging the overwhelming role abstract power (embodied by the state, capital, etc.) plays in shaping the individual’s lifeworld, a number of approaches in the field of social sciences focus rather on human (subjective) experiences of space. Existential and phenomenological approaches map the neglected realm of (dynamic) lived spaces

which represent the multilayered different worlds constituted by heterogeneous actors. In the closing part of the presentation, the mutations of the spatial experiences of inhabitants of anthropological spaces, new town developments, and users of emerging spaces (cities without qualities, non-places, simulacra, hyperreal space, etc.) will be illustrated by practical examples.

THE ROLE OF SMALL TOWNS IN STRENGTHENING RURAL DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY: OLTENIA PLAIN

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Small towns (with population under 20,000 inhabitants) represent a distinctive category of the Romanian urban system, having, theoretically, the role of a liaison between rural settlements and the urban ones at a superior hierarchical level. In Romania, on the background of a decreasing economic activity, after the year of 1990, and the subsequently socioeconomic changes, many of these current small towns gained similar characteristics to the ones of the rural settlements. Oltenia Plain is located in the South-Western Romania, the local economy having a strong agricultural feature. In this plain, there are nine small towns in three counties (Mehedinți, Dolj, Olt). The objective of this paper is to investigate the characteristics of these small towns in Oltenia Plain from the perspective of the polarizing potential of rural settlements and their capacity to generate a territorial development. The methodology used includes the following phases: (a) the analysis of the characteristics of small towns by calculating certain representative indicators; (b) identifying the rural degree of the urban settlements, including the comparison with the development level of the adjacent rural settlements; (c) identifying the polarizing potential of the rural settlements; (d) individualization of the development perspectives of the small towns as a consequence of the national policies and strategies. The results highlight differences as regards the development level of small towns in Oltenia Plain. Moreover, some of them no longer reflect the minimal indicators corresponding to the town status, in accordance with the legislation in force. In this context, there is much talk of a tendency of small towns' 'ruralisation', meaning that they are not capable of keeping their population. Consequently, the small towns present a reduced polarizing potential of the nearby rural settlements. The situation is all the more alarming as there are many demographic and socio-economic vulnerabilities in the respective rural area that will increase if the current situation does not suffer any changes. In this context, it is necessary to implement certain policies and strategies focused on small towns both for their recovery and increase the capacity to induce development in the adjacent territory.

MATERIALITY AND SPATIALITY: CHANGING SPACES OF ELECTRICITY PROVISION IN HUNGARY

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The recent 'material turn' in spatial theories has been hardly followed by empirical studies. Simultaneously, the ongoing uptake in social science interest in infrastructures breaks with the view that those just provide passive backgrounds of social life. Infrastructures are sociomaterial entanglements. Infrastructure studies often focus on either globalised infrastructures, such as IT networks, or the urban infrastructures constituting cities. This presentation, however, puts spatiality