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*Regional and rural development trends over the last
forty years*

Abstract book

29–30 May 2024



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PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 29 May 2024

9:00 –	Registration (Granary entrance)
10:30 – 12:50 (Bonipert room)	<p>Plenary session: Welcome and Keynote speeches (Bonipert room)</p> <p><i>Tibor Navracsics</i> (Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development)</p> <p><i>Roland Jakab</i> (Chief Executive Officer, HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network)</p> <p><i>Imre Fertő</i> (General Director, HUN-REN Centre for Economic and Regional Studies)</p> <p><i>Franziska Sielker</i> (Professor, TU Vienna & University of Cambridge)</p> <p><i>James W. Scott</i> (Professor, University of Eastern Finland)</p> <p><i>József Benedek</i> (Professor, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca)</p>
12:50 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Parallel sessions in 4 rooms
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Parallel sessions in 4 rooms
17:30 – 18:00	Coffee break
18:00 – 19:30	Roundtable (Bonipert room)
20:00 – 22:00	Dinner

Thursday, 30 May 2024

9:00 – 10:30	Parallel sessions in 3 rooms
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Parallel sessions in 3 rooms
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Parallel sessions in 3 rooms
15:00 – 16:00	Plenary lecture and closing of conference

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Special Session 1/A: Subnational diplomacy: a Fashion or an Opportunity?

Special Session 1/B: Quality of governance

Special Session 2: Social and Political Trust – Territorial Patterns across Europe

Session 3: Agricultural challenges

Session 4/A: Sustainability challenges I.

Session 4/B: Sustainability challenges II.

Session 5: Urban development characteristics in Central- and Eastern-Europe

Special Session 6: Cultural and Creative industry in the development of regional centres

Special Session 7: Initiating a change in perspective with images of the future & visions

Special Session 8: Rural tourism and agritourism

Session 9/A: Demographic challenges I.

Session 9/B: Demographic challenges II.

Session 10: Cohesion and cross-border development

Session 11/A: Economic development

Session 11/B: Economic development and digitalization

Session 12/A: Regional inequalities

Session 12/B: Regional inequalities and social integration

ABSTRACTS

Special Session 1/A: Subnational diplomacy: a Fashion or an Opportunity?

Brucker Balázs

ALTERNATIVE PLATFORMS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF INTERESTS OF SUB-NATIONAL ACTORS

Since the 1980th, regions and, to a lesser extent, local authorities, have become increasingly aware of the impact of the European integration and more assertive in European Union policy making. This is illustrated by the fact that their level of activism in Brussels – the location of the main EU institutions (the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee) – has increased. Although the most important “institutional” channel for sub-national authorities is the Committee of Regions, an advisory organ consisting of representatives of regional and local level, subnational authorities can also target the (national) members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to get support for their lobbying effort.

The European Parliament has not only formal fora (political groups, standing committees), but also semi-formal (intergroups) and informal channels (informal working groups) that can play a role in promoting the interests of sub-national actors. The objective of my research is to analyse the activity and working patterns of the different, subnational question related semi-formal (e.g. Urban Intergroup; Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas (RUMRA) and Smart Villages Intergroup; Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA) Intergroup, etc.) and informal channels (e.g. Finno-Ugric Forum, Conference of the Outermost Regions) of cooperation between subnational actors and MEP. My presentation intends also to analyse the lobbying activities of these channels towards Brussels’ institutions and to compare of the interest representation capacity of the EP intergroups with that of informal working groups.

Due to lack of scientific literature, my presentation, beyond the relevant document analysis, is based on semi-structured, in-depth (online) interviews with MEPs, chairs, and coordinators of these alternative platforms.

Zsuzsanna Zsibók – Petra Kinga Kézai

REGIONAL CENTRES' SISTER CITY NETWORK IN HUNGARY

City diplomacy, which is a form of sub-national diplomacy based on sister or twin city relations between settlements in different countries, has received limited attention from the social sciences in academia. Therefore, this recent paper aims to analyse the sister city network of regional centres in Hungary. The research seeks to answer the question: what kind of sister city networks have developed among the regional centres in Hungary? The analysis focuses on regional centres with spatial functions at NUTS2 level in Hungary. A total of 24 cities with a population ranging from 30,000 to 1,800,000 inhabitants were included. The research is based on the Hungarian Central Statistical Office's permanent population data as of 1 January 2022 and the Hungarian National Association of Municipalities' (TÖOSZ) database on sistering and partnership. The data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics 21 software.

The research results indicate that sistering partnerships differ considerably between the analysed settlements in terms of their geographic coverage, formality, thematic content and especially the number of relations. The presence of major higher education institutions seems to contribute to the intensity of international sister city cooperations. The paper argues that sub-national diplomacy activities in the form of sister city relations reflect the success of bottom-up partnering initiatives, thereby these cooperations may help long-term urban development and competitiveness through stimulating foreign investments and tourism. The paper also emphasises the need for a greater commitment and awareness of local actors to maintain effective international sub-national diplomacy relations.

Nóra Baranyai – Péter Balogh

TWINNING RELATIONS OF HUNGARIAN SETTLEMENTS WITH CONSIDERABLE ETHNIC MINORITIE

Twin-city relations of settlements with a larger number and proportion of ethnic communities may be organised on a significantly different basis and way as the national average. Drawing primarily on information from the TÖOSZ database, the presentation will conclude the initial results of international relations of the so-called ethnically significant settlements identified by the censuses, focusing in particular on the relations with the kin-state or other identity-based relations, their significance in comparison with relations with settlements in other countries, and which factors, ethnic-linguistic ties or geographical location, neighbourhood, seem to be more decisive in shaping the twin-city relations.

Special Session 1/B: Quality of governance

Ildikó Egyed – Réka Horeczki

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS AND CITY DIPLOMACY – WHERE IS THE COMMON INTERSECTION?

The concept of sub-national diplomacy covers a wide range of subjects, long-term and current goals. Culture plays a prominent role, but economic (investment, innovation, marketing, tourism, infrastructural, etc.) collaborations are also significant, and recently environmental protection and comprehensive societal goals have also gained prominence in the development of international initiatives. This holistic perspective can also be observed in Doughnut economics. Perhaps the newest and most illustrative strand of thinking of the decade is the doughnut economy, which functions as a kind of compass for 21st century human prosperity studies. The doughnut is composed of two concentric rings: a social base that ensures that no one is deprived of the basics of life, and an ecological ceiling that ensures that humanity does not collectively exceed the planetary limits that protect the Earth's life support systems. Between these two boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive. It is in this theory and approach that we examine the role of municipal diplomacy. At what levels and in what context can it be present; does

it promote socio-economic well-being, can it become a defining part of the doughnut economy in the long term?

Zoltán Hajdú

LOCAL-COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIPLOMACY DURING THE DISINTEGRATION OF HISTORICAL HUNGARY, 1918–1923

The defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in World War I brought with it the dissolution of the Commonwealth, and as part of it the dissolution and partition of the Kingdom of Hungary. Both the nationalities living in the country and the Hungarians were widely involved in the process. Counties and municipalities adopted resolutions for and against the territorial change plans. A dozen or so short-lived state formations were proclaimed. From the point of the peace treaty of Trianon, local and territorial self-governments two (Lajtabánság, Baranyai Szerb-Magyar Köztársaság) were very special cases.

András Igari

ROLE OF THE SOCIAL FACTORS BEHIND THE SPATIAL INEQUALITIES OF THE EUROPEAN VACCINATION

Within a year of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the first vaccines against the Coronavirus were produced and vaccination campaigns were launched in the developed centres of the world. Within the European Union, because of the EU's common vaccine policy, countries had access to vaccines more or less uniformly and at the same time. However, the social acceptance of vaccines varied from country to country, which have again drawn attention to the centre-periphery inequalities in territorial resilience. In my presentation I will show how the access and the acceptance of the vaccines evolved in different European countries. To do this I gathered country-level and regional-level datasets related to the vaccination as well as socio-economic, governmental and trust indicators from various data sources. After the data harmonisation process, I subjected these datasets to statistical data analysis. In addition to descriptive statistics, I used multivariate regression model: I used the vaccination rate as dependent variable and the socio-economic and governmental indicators as explanatory variables.

As a result, I got that the acceptance of the vaccines mainly followed the European centre-periphery inequalities: while the societies of most European countries were almost fully vaccinated by November 2021, in some East-Central European countries less than half of the adult population was vaccinated. This is also in line with the level of socio-economic development and well-being, the quality of governance and the level of public trust in legal system. That is, vaccination coverage is determined less by the availability of vaccines than by the structure of societies and public trust.

Special Session 2: Social and Political Trust – Territorial Patterns across Europe

Adrián Bene

EMPATHY, RECIPROCITY, SOLIDARITY: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF THE CONDITIONS OF SOCIAL TRUST

My presentation will focus on the theory of social trust. The theoretical approaches analysed by Delhey & Newton all offer a limited perspective on the concept. Personality theory; Success and well-being theory; Voluntary organisation theory; Social network theory; Community theory; Societal theory apply different interpretations of the concept, and are more or less at odds with empirical data. Based on recent phenomenological analyses on empathy and solidarity by Zahavi, Szanto and Müller, we attempt to clarify the concept which presupposes reciprocity, empathy and solidarity. We consider social trust as the basis for cooperation and a community approach that measurably improves social justice, equity and social well-being. In this theoretical framework, social trust is seen as a necessary but not sufficient condition for political trust.

After enumerating the above mentioned explanations of social trust as well as their empiric critique, we will review the phenomenological concepts of empathy, reciprocity and solidarity, suggesting a descriptive model of social trust, bridging the gap between sociological and psychological approaches.

Ákos Bodor

TRUST AND TRUST FUNCTIONS IN SWEDISH AND HUNGARIAN SOCIETY – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The paper aims to test a new approach for measurement of trust towards fellow human beings. In the literature, there are numerous criticisms of the empirical identification and interpretation of trust towards unknown others. Studies that try to reflect on these critical remarks by different kinds of refinements usually address only particular issues regarding to survey tools & techniques, operationalization, and statistical methods, without more comprehensive revisions. This paper, on the contrary, strives to support its reflections on how to reconsider trust measurement by theoretical contributions. In order to achieve

that, the proposed argument invokes Sztompka's concept about the culture of trust, and his distinction between trust and trust functions. At first, the paper elaborates on how the interlinked consideration of trust and its certain micro- and macro-level manifestations (identified as trust functions by Sztompka) can help to better understand the phenomenon of trust towards fellow human beings. Then, in the second part, a comparative statistical analysis presents a more complex empirical framework of trust, based on the open-source databases of the European Social Survey, comparing Swedish and Hungarian society.

Katalin Füzér

INSTITUTIONAL TRUST DYNAMICS IN PARTICIPATIVE TURNS: SYNODALITY, INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

This paper offers an institutional trust reading of participative practices in three very different settings, each experiencing crises of various scales and urgency. Most recently the Catholic Church has set out to walk a synodal path calling all baptised to (re)discover their vocations and services by interacting in small groups, bringing new impetus to their own religious practices as well as to traditional church hierarchies entangled in clericalism and shaken by abuse scandals. The second terrain is the participative turn in number of local development policy settings such as World Bank's Community and Local Development programs (CLD) in poverty-ridden low-income countries and disaster areas, or the European Union's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programs building on the LEADER program. These local development policies call on local actors to interact in co-planning, co-creating, implementing and sustaining complex development interventions in rural and urban areas in sharp contrast to the co-dependency that evolved in infrastructure-only developments planned and implemented by international development agencies. The third terrain is innovation processes unfolding in local/regional innovation ecosystems where a wide range of actors interact to create new value, a setting which transgresses the confines of Schumpeterian "superhero" entrepreneurial destructive innovation breakthroughs.

Even though facilitating participative collaborative processes requires quite a lot of effort, resources and time, we are witness to these practices becoming more and more widespread both in business-as-usual as well as in crisis-ridden

contexts. This goes against the professionalism, predictability and efficiency associated with large-scale institutional solutions offered by hierarchical, bureaucratic, expertise-based organisations both in the public and in the private sectors. Instead of impersonal interactions among professional experts typical in hierarchies, where “lay” actors are mostly situated outside the organisational confines (in their “lay” capacities as customers, clients, etc.), participative processes thrive on the very personal voice, vision, insight, experience of “locals” from various backgrounds.

This paper suggests that we need a more thorough understanding of how interpersonal and institutional trust mechanisms intertwine in the participative processes of synodality, innovation in local ecosystems and in local development interventions. In the larger context of participative turns proliferating in a variety of sectors and domains from politics to health care and the arts, the three settings we analyse stand out in their increasing commitment to realize their ultimate organisational objectives via the emphatically “lay” collaboration of “locals.” What kind of trust in “locals” is at the base of these participative processes? Does interpersonal trust evolve among “lay” actors or do participative processes thrive solely on pre-existing interpersonal trust dynamics? What is the role of the so called “institutional trust” we measure in surveys, if any? How is trust in abstract systems, expertise, professionalism reconfigured in the course of participative processes in these three settings? How does participation bear upon the fiduciary responsibility of professional experts who interact with “lay” “local” actors?

The trust of the paper is an invitation to debate: how can we conceptually refine interpersonal trust (particular and generalized) as well as institutional trust (in abstract systems, in representative professionals) in a way that captures professionals’ institutionalized trust in “locals” and their “lay” knowledge, understandings, perceptions, insights, experience, visions? As these lay-expert interactions no longer simply occur at institutional “access points” (Giddens 1990) but, as it were, open up organisational frontiers, how can we conceptualize the new kind of partnerships, institutional missions that emerge vis-a-vis varied groups of stakeholders. Do the three participative settings under discussion display absolutely unique features and merely happen to be connected via the common trait of trust in “lay” “locals” or does an improved trust reading of these three examples offer more generalizable conclusions on how organisations are currently reconfigured? Specifically, does this trust component of participative turns reveal a crisis of expertise, hierarchical organisational solutions and

leadership in more general terms? Or does each participative turn we study respond to a particular crisis momentum in their specific domains? Alternatively, does participation offer venues of collaborative organisational reinvigoration? What kind of trust dynamics would it take for such a process to unfold?

Zoltán Grünhut

TURNING TOWARDS TRUST: LATE MODERNITY, REFLEXIVE SCIENTIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL STUDIES/ REGIONAL SCIENCE

The paper is intentionally provocative and radical in its assumptions. It aims to shed light on a multilayered complexity of problems and facilitate a critical debate about the issues discussed. At first, the paper elaborates on late modern tendencies and their globally-locally interlinked structural dynamics and social impacts. It briefly draws up the processes of institutional abstraction and individualization. Then the argument points to the emergence of risks and the necessary reframing of trust. After broadly describing the general social context of our era enriched by late modern challenges and changes, the paper discusses the emanation of reflexive scientization, and identifies the main features of this pandisciplinary shift (such as the combination of multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary stances; the democratization of science; the eminence of intellectualism over expertisation; the reformulation of scientific profession, roles, and most importantly academic language; as well as the moving from objective Truth to justified truths). The argument emphasizes that, exactly like in the case of social perceptions and interactions, trust is the generative source to this reflexive turn in the field of sciences. Finally, the paper addresses the prospects in the horizon for Regional Studies/Regional Science.

Márk Hegedűs – Péter Szegedi

HELL OR HEAVEN? – NARRATIVES OF SWEDEN IN THE HUNGARIAN MEDIA

In recent times, there has been an increasing appearance of news related to Sweden in the Hungarian media, and definite viewpoints have emerged in political communication, often resulting in contradictory opinions regarding Sweden. Our research aims to gain a deeper understanding of these viewpoints

and to obtain a more precise picture of the facts and perceptions underlying these opinions. In this context, our research involved a media analysis. Our primary goal with this media research was not to analyse individual news pieces but to investigate which larger narratives about Sweden fit into in the Hungarian online press. We have used qualitative content analysis to examine how the storytelling of individual news pieces fits into broader narratives.

The media analysis examines what image of Swedes emerges in the media in Hungary, and what picture of Sweden has been portrayed in the Hungarian-language written online press in recent years – and based on these, what can we learn about Sweden? The tool used for our media analysis is qualitative content analysis, where the analysis dimensions emerge during the analysis process following a grounded theory approach. Coding is not done according to predetermined categories, but these categories develop during the analysis process, aided by framework theory, which has become increasingly prevalent in media analysis today. In this analysis, the extensive literature on comparative studies of trust and social capital was particularly helpful, which unanimously acknowledges the Scandinavian distinctiveness, whilst our focus on Sweden is fundamentally justified by Swedish immigration policies, handling of LGBTQ rights, reactions to the Covid pandemic, and the consequences of NATO accession.

Additionally, in response to the unique Hungarian media landscape, we categorized various media outlets into four main categories. Firstly, we distinguished the explicitly state-funded public media, openly maintained by the government; secondly, we differentiated pseudo-independent media outlets from the state, primarily associated with government-affiliated business circles or foundations, although indirectly connected to the state; thirdly, we separated online media outlets maintained by opposition parties; and finally, we delineated media products independent from the state both in terms of advertisements and ownership, often sustained by the advertising market or reader support. Through comparative methods between these categories, we aimed to uncover differences in narratives.

Session 3: Agricultural challenges

Koós Bálint

CHANGING FARMING EMPLOYMENT IN POST-TRANSITION HUNGARY

agriculture, employment, post-transition Hungary

Over the past fifteen years, Hungarian agriculture has undergone significant changes that have affected almost all aspects of the sector. These changes have been driven by a number of factors, including global commodity markets, subsidy policies and climate change. These factors directly or indirectly affect labour demand, quality, quantity and timing within the sector. This paper aims to examine labour market trends within the sector, focusing on its spatial dimension. (Data analysis is based on Hungarian public administration panel data: ADMIN 3)

Identifying shifts in the sector's labour demand, the fluctuating importance of different types of employment and the characteristics of the main groups of workers are the main objectives of the study. Cluster analysis on data from two distinct periods (2007–2012 and 2013–2017) shows that the main groups of workers associated with Hungarian agriculture have undergone a fundamental shift. While at the beginning of the period under study broad groups of society were linked to Hungarian agriculture with stronger or weaker employment ties, this changed markedly after 2013, with an increasingly narrow social group being linked to agriculture as workers, seasonal workers. This transition results in a growing separation between agriculture in Hungary and its rural population, which has notable implications for rural development. The paper uses a multinomial probit regression model to analyse the experiences of workers leaving agriculture in the sixth month after exit, examining factors such as age, gender and spatial effects that influence potential outcomes, including intra-sectoral re-employment, sectoral change, unemployment and public employment.

**Katalin Kovács – Eszter Hamza – Bálint Koós – Katalin Rácz – Nigel Swain
– Monika Mária Váradi**

FROM LABOUR GLUT TO LABOUR SHORTAGE IN A RESHAPED FARMING STRUCTURE: A SITUATION ANALYSIS OF THE POST- TRANSITION STAGE

The presentation introduces the outcomes of the main structural changes that have taken place in Hungarian agriculture from transition-related turmoil to the current, post transition stage, when, however, change is still far from complete. The authors apply data analysis to focus on two topics, the reshaped farming structure and related labour issues. Qualitative data derived from a recent empirical study will also be used to further highlight these aspects from the point of view of a specific group of “self-made” managers of entrepreneurial farms operating fruit and/or mixed farms in two field sites (in Pest and Tolna counties). Their current social positions and the trajectories leading to these positions will be briefly introduced, as will their shared struggle for employable labour. The theme of the Special Session will be addressed in this presentation through the lens of labour issues with reference to the social and demographic changes of the last decades.

Vera Iváncsics

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF URBAN SPRAWL PATTERNS AT THE EXAMPLE OF 18 FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREA OF HUNGARY

The study gives an overview about the change of new artificial land uses and green infrastructure in Hungarian second-tier towns and their Functional Urban Areas (FUA). Based on the Corine Land Cover Inventory, Land Use Changes (CLC CHA) database (1990–2018) and Urban Atlas (2012–2018) this paper is to fill this gap by analysing 18 towns affected by the emerging artificial surfaces. The study focuses on second-tier Hungarian towns, Budapest FUA represent an unique development path. Calculations were made by involving several databases and methodologies and differences were highlighted. The first results show the importance of structural changes and regional differences and identify the change of quality of green infrastructure. The intensive growth of urban living areas between 1990–2006, the dominance of motorway constructions and the marginal role of new urban green areas. Also, the study identifies the typical morphological pattern of urban growth.

Zita Izakovičová – Jana Špulerová – Andrej Raniak – Marta Dobrovodská

CHANGES IN THE RURAL LANDSCAPE OF SLOVAKIA AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION PERIOD

Slovakia, despite the fact that 56% of the population lives in cities, can be considered a rural country. This is evidenced by the landscape character and the structure of the settlement. The agricultural landscape of Slovakia is subject to permanent changes. There are a number of factors that change not only the structure and scenery of the agricultural landscape, but also significantly endanger and degrade its natural resources. Transformational changes can be considered as the main factors. The agricultural landscape is also significantly affected by the process of globalization. Structural changes in the territory of Slovakia brought several changes, which significantly affected the character of the agricultural landscape of Slovakia and caused a number of not only socio-economic but also environmental problems. It includes all scale of newly arising actual and till now not solved problems. The particular problems are often mutually connected. For example the change in land utilization influences in a considerable extent the biodiversity and landscape stability, the abandonment of agricultural land causes the spread of invasive species, the destruction of which requires certain economic resources, the restructuring of agriculture has conditioned increased unemployment and another social problem. Their solution requires the application of a holistic approach to the assessment and solution of agricultural land problems.

The paper will present analyses of the current problems of Slovak rural landscape and analyses of the basic drivers of these changes and their impacts.

This work was supported by the Projects: APVV-17-0377: DEMETRA

Session 4/A: Sustainability challenges I.

Tamás Hardi – Ádám Páthy – Andrea Uszkai – Júlia Tamás – Péter Csontos

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE EDGE OF URBAN AREAS: HOW DOES THE IMMIGRATION FORM THE GREEN AREAS OF URBANIZING VILLAGES?

The presentation focuses on the change in green infrastructure in rural areas, which have faced immigration (urban outflow) in recent decades. The role of residents is significant in terms of green spaces, ecology, and landscape transformation. In general, residents own domestic gardens and green spaces around their houses, which can cover 30–60% of the residential area in total. At the same time, they usually manage the public green space in front of their house, on the street. Many factors can influence how a property owner manages his green spaces: local and family traditions, lifestyle, income situation, knowledge of horticulture, ecology, and current fashion. These internal and external factors can contribute to the formation and alterations of the green infrastructure of a settlement and its ability to adapt to climate change. These include an increase in run-off at the expense of infiltration, changes in evaporation, a stronger heat island effect, the spread of many non-native and invasive species, and a reduction in native biodiversity. The results of our questionnaire survey will be summarized by comparing the attitudes of new and traditional residents. Our interviews highlight the typical conflicts and the municipalities' attempts to influence the inhabitants' attitudes.

Furthermore, related to land use, there is a wide variety of initiatives related to alternative, sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening and farming in Hungary. Our presentation highlights some good practices for thinking in complex ecological systems in Hungarian agglomeration settlements. These examples come from around Pécs, Győr and Budapest, pointing out the possibilities of preserving biological diversity and efficiently using environmental resources.

This research is supported by the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (NKFI). Reference number: NKFI-6-K-128703. Leader: Tamás Hardi.

Lilla Judit Bartuszek

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, or “Agenda 2030”, as it is often called, is an ambitious effort by the international community to ensure that “no one is left behind” in the fight to achieve sustainable development goals for all.

The Agenda contains 17 sustainable development goals, including 169 to be achieved, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, the promotion of equality and the fight against climate change, and the establishment of peace and justice. While the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015 gave priority primarily to poverty reduction and progress to low- and middle-income countries, the 17 SDGs are universal and cover all income-level countries.

Kata Varjú – Péter Zilahi – Donát Rétfalvi

THE ROLE OF ENERGY ACCESS AND USE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF DEPRIVED RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN HUNGARY

Sufficient and affordable access to energy is a fundamental social need in the modern age and, thus, a critical factor in determining well-being. There have been few energy-related studies focusing on energy poverty in Hungary, typically examining national data and identifying the main factors associated with the phenomenon. However, to reduce energy poverty effectively, it is suggested that studying smaller social groups categorized by specific methods (e.g.: region, housing type, or energy access) is necessary. This enables the development and application of policies that suit local specificities. This research aims to address a gap in the literature by examining energy access, use, and related circumstances in deprived rural settlements. The study analyzed two national representative databases and included 300 municipalities to define potential indicators of energy poverty. Additionally, a case study was conducted to identify factors beyond statistical data. The study presents a summary of the social, economic, and environmental aspects of energy poverty and their interactions based on the

sample and defines key performance indicators for the sustainable development of deprived rural settlements.

Elemér Szabó

GIS-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE QUANTITY AND COMPOSITION OF MATERIALS STOCKED IN BUILDINGS: CASE STUDY OF SELECTED AREAS IN BUDAPEST

Material flows from a system perspective involve the input flow of materials, which accumulate in the stock. As the stock grows, it generates outward flows, such as demolition waste, and constant flows due to use and maintenance. As infrastructure expansion demands more resources, managing material flows becomes increasingly challenging.

Based on a combination of material intensity factors unique to the building structure and various building types, the method described in this study is appropriate for estimating the mass and material composition of the building stock as well as its spatial distribution. GIS databases for building age and use types must be linked in order to characterise the entire stock of buildings. Depending on the building types, different material intensity factors should be assigned. The building stock may number in the tens of thousands at the metropolitan level. By introducing and utilising the concept of synthetic buildings, a tradeoff between accuracy and feasibility can be made. The 490 buildings that were considered have a synthetic volume of 9.3 million m³ and a total material stock of 3.674 gigatonnes, of which potentially valuable metals are around 70 kilotonnes. The findings show that the approach can be applied to create the resource inventory required for ongoing building stock monitoring and for a deeper comprehension of urban material flows and stocks (urban metabolism). Understanding the total material exchange of construction activities is crucial for determining the amount of material and energy needed for renovation. The procedure is suitable for any area, but its semi-manual data collection is not feasible for larger-scale analyses. An efficient, semi-automated method should be found for recording data, including spatial and temporal identification of buildings in aerial photographs, orthophotos, and digitised maps. Accurately determining material intensity for each building type is challenging due to limited data availability.

Session 4/B: Sustainability challenges II.

Gábor László Vasárus – József Lennert – Jenő Zsolt Farkas – András Donát Kovács – Edit Hoyk – Ádám Szalai

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN HUNGARY – THE CASE STUDY OF THE SAND RIDGE REGION

The environmental problems of the Sand Ridge Region in the Great Hungarian Plain are severe, and the region's climate sensitivity and social conflicts are critical even in European comparison. The environmental crisis in the area raises very complex ecological, economic, and social issues. The problems related not only to the unpredictable water balance, the decrease in the groundwater level, and the disappearance of the lakes but also to the breakdown of the balance of land use, nature conservation, and agriculture and also to the unpredictability of the scattered farms and the livability of the settlements here. Unfavorable processes have been known for a long time, despite this, no meaningful solution has been found to deal with the problems that have been going on for many decades.

Our work aims to present the factors that hindered or slowed down the region's development. To better understand the situation, we conducted in-depth interviews with specialists who know the area well and conducted a questionnaire with the relevant municipalities. Our results show that the long-standing conflicts could not be alleviated even by the European Union funds. The territorial policy could have intervened at many points, but no significant breakthrough has occurred in spatial development in the past half-century. The postponement of the strategies compounded the failure to mitigate the harmful anthropogenic effects and climate adaptation, the lack of cooperation between the policy and the social communities, and the limitation of regional advocacy. Efforts to find a solution and increase the region's competitiveness were hindered and slowed by the environmental awareness of the decision-makers and the local population. Deficiencies and errors in spatial planning led to reduced local autonomy and the polarization of settlements. Attempts at sustainable environmental and water management and climate adaptation did not bring a breakthrough, so the signs of socio-economic renewal are mainly visible only in one or more prosperous cities and their agglomerations. The developments so far were excessively economic

and agriculturally focused, and each sector was treated separately, so no comprehensive solutions were found for the complex regional challenges.

Mahla Shojae Anari – Ákos Jakobi

ILLUMINATING THE PREDOMINANT URBAN BIG DATA CHALLENGES OF TEHRAN: A GOVERNMENT AND URBAN SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

In urban and regional planning, data, information, and knowledge are crucial for decision-making and policy formulation. While big data is often associated with its vast scale, this study focuses on urban and regional data challenges, especially those from linked spatial and temporal contexts. Big data offers detailed insights into urban dynamics beyond traditional statistics, aiding decision-making. Integrating big data into urban planning enhances its effectiveness and supports informed decisions. This research focuses on obstacles faced by urban big data ventures in Tehran, Iran. Using interviews and questionnaires, challenges are identified and ranked using a fuzzy analytic hierarchy process. Key challenges include the absence of dedicated legislation, inadequate governmental support, financial complexities, and data management issues. The study offers policy and managerial recommendations to support startup initiatives. Additionally, it maps the geographic distribution of challenges across Tehran's districts using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Favorable conditions are found in districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 2, and 11, while districts 8, 7, 13, 10, 17, 19, 9, 18, 21, 12, 15, 16, and 22 face more challenges.

Viktória Czuppon

SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

DANube WETlands REStoration (DaWetRest) Lighthouse is designed to develop and demonstrate concrete solutions applied on the Danube basin to address the challenges faced by its inland and coastal wetlands ecosystems', on biodiversity, water quality and availability, climate resilience and/or neutrality and socioeconomic benefits for the local communities, and isolated communities as well. These transformative and innovative solutions will be validated by local communities and main Regional and European-wide stakeholders.

DaWetRest has the role to prepare and plan the replication, deployment and scaling up of the validated innovative solutions for the next mission's phase. For this important scope, DaWetRest project proposes several strong ideas, such as building and selecting interventions based on extensive and prior know-how (sibling sites and non-EU experiences), local, regional and basin scale integrated interdependent analysis of results from the planned interventions, merge DaWetRest own data, models and digital tools with existing and future ones, towards a centralized knowledge centre in the future and involve the managing authorities and a number of local actors in the entire process, from the very beginning.

The demonstration of innovative and result-oriented solutions is organized in 3 DEMOs – DEMO Middle Danube (MD), DEMO Lower Danube (LD) and DEMO Danube Delta (DD). Each DEMO offers main intervention sites, pilots, sibling locations, replications, platforms/services, local stakeholders engagement and methodologies to strengthen the innovation, knowledge and cooperation in and beyond DaWetRest in Danube basin and across Europe. Via a widely representative consortium as well as active cooperation (e.g. Community of Practices), DaWetRest will provide tools for a significant transformation in the Danube.

(Project number: 101113015; Project name: Danube Wetlands and flood plains Restoration through systemic, community engaged and sustainable innovative actions. Project acronym: DaWetRest. Call: HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01; Topic: HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02; Type of action: HORIZON Innovation Actions).

Zita Izakovičová – Marta Dobrovodská – Andrej Raniak

ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBANIZATION IN SLOVAKIA

The development of urbanisation is linked to qualitative and quantitative changes of the landscape and its components aimed at strengthening economic, administrative and cultural-social functions, which are associated with ever-increasing pressures on ecosystems and their individual components. These pressures are subject to various factors – socio-economic, political, environmental, etc. In this paper we present an evaluation of the environmental

impacts of the development of urbanization in Slovakia. Independent Slovakia belongs to young European states. The communist period lasted from 1948 to 1989 in the different political-administrative forms. Character of landscape was dependent on centrally managed economy. Slovakia joined the European Union in 2004 and this milestone had also enormous effects for landscape changes. The transformation of central planning into a market economy was the basis of these changes, which conditioned following strong pressure of investors on the landscape, construction of technological parks, shopping and logistics centers, transport infrastructure, but also construction of residential complexes, etc. According to the European Environment Agency's study on urban sprawl between the mid-1950s and the end of the 1990s industry, urbanisation, commercial and transport services have grown at a significant rate in Slovakia. On the other hand, Slovakia has areas where urbanization has the opposite trend. Rural settlements are abandoned as well as large areas of agricultural land. These changes not only have a spatial dimension but are associated with the emergence of various environmental problems. We assess the main ecological and environmental problems caused by changes associated with the development of urbanization.

Session 5: Urban development characteristics in Central- and Eastern-Europe

Ádám Páthy

TPOLOGIES OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The transformation and development processes of the second-tier cities functioning as regional centers in the period since the regime change show a heterogeneous picture in Central and Eastern Europe. Based primarily on the results of a research program examining the development characteristics of regional centers between 2018 and 2022 and their further reflection. The approach of the research sought to broaden the horizon beyond the need to identify the internal hierarchy and typology of the regional centers and the key factors determining development trajectories, focusing on the specific elements that show uniqueness compared to the urban network of the European core regions, or even make the cities of the region similar to it, and form points of connection to the European city competition and cooperation networks. Based on the accounting of the factors that have similar effects on the urban network as a whole (connecting) and the specific factors that distance the cities from each other (separating), and through the dynamics of the transformation of the last decades and the performance indicators of the cities the presentation outlines a typology that summarizes the conclusions that can be drawn from the diverse examination aspects of the metropolitan network of the region. The scope of the investigation covers 95 cities in 10 countries of the broadly defined Central and Eastern European region.

Szilárd Rác – Réka Horeczki – Stefan Bilasco – Ferenc Szilágyi

EVOLUTION OF URBANISATION AND METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

The study summarises the main features of the urban structure of Romania, with a special focus on metropolitan development. Romanian settlement development since the regime change has been essentially urban-focused. Concentrated social, economic and environmental problems are identified at the urban level, which

have facilitated the regional division and the designation of regional centres. These specific development areas have identified urban and rural problems for which coherent solutions have been sought. Urban areas of attraction are considered subordinate to the centre, with the exception of tourist destinations, where the geographical location of natural, historical, architectural or artistic assets opens up development opportunities for rural areas independently of cities. The Romanian system provides a starting point for further reflection on the spatial categories of Hungarian spatial development, as it considers the urban-rural functional area as the basic unit of development policy and does not rigidly adhere to the existing administrative structure. The paper presents a specific example of a regional centre, the gateway cities, as a changing development path.

Dóra Bálint

PLATFORM-ATTRACTED URBAN PLACES – A CASE STUDY FROM HUNGARY

Digitization has transformed how people live, work, and consume globally. One example is peer-to-peer, internet-enabled platforms, such as Airbnb or OSZKÁR.com matching supply and demand without a traditional service provider. Here, strangers interact with each other leading to spatial restructuring, especially in cities where population density is connected to increased platform interactions. In this presentation, I present a case study about the place-making process of a ridesharing platform using OSZKÁR.com data. The study focuses on meeting points where drivers and passengers start and end their journey within a settlement border. Moreover, I also highlight the connection between digitization and spatiality integrating space theories by Soja (2008) and Oldenburg (1982). The presentation introduces a new concept, called platform-attracted urban places based on the case study which attempts to answer the following questions: Is the platform creating new places in the aspect of material, firstspaces? What pull factors attract platform activities in urban space?

Boglárka Barsi

CITIES, TECHNOLOGIES AND HAPPINESS

Does city life make for happy citizens? What does a prosperous city look like? What was and what is the role of technology in the life of the cities? The

happiness and well-being of urban inhabitants have played a central role in urban thinking and politics since ancient times. Initially happiness was research subject of philosophy, then the subject of psychology, sociology and political science (Diener et al., 1999; Lane 2000), in economics happiness research started at the end of the 20th century, connected to Easterlin's research (1974). Although the empirical literature examining the most important economic elements of well-being and happiness is based on observations in spatial locations, the determination of spatial aspects and dimensions of happiness is rarely researched only with some exceptions (Clark et al. 2005; Aslam, Corrado 2007; Brereton et al., 2008; Ballas 2007) as cities become filled with more digital technologies – from wireless Internet to self-driving cars to the ubiquitous presence of surveillance cameras – it will be important to think critically about the values underlying these technologies and whether they promote or restrict people's agency. Previous studies have found evidence that not only are the people living in urban areas more likely to develop mental health problems (Peen et al., 2010), but they are also less successful in processing and coping with negative emotions than those living in the rural areas (Lederbogen et al., 2011). Developments in technology, coupled with the advancements in quantifying levels of happiness in social sciences, leaves room for a lot of improvement. Local governments can do a lot by providing the “happiness enablers,” by removing the sources of unhappiness, listening to what their citizens need.

Special Session 6: Cultural and Creative industry in the development of regional centres

Kinga Anna Gajda – Piotr Michałowski

AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE MODEL FOR HUMANIST PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN RURAL AREAS

Effective heritage management in rural contexts demands a comprehensive examination of a monument's architectural features, historical context, and the broader environmental setting. This paper underscores the critical role of cultural heritage in shaping social dynamics and human interactions. It delves into the significance of community engagement in the preservation and commemoration of heritage, highlighting the necessity of voluntary participation to foster connections and unity among local communities. Moreover, the study demonstrates that community engagement serves not only as a preservation tool but also as a means to reconstruct the identity of local society, facilitating a profound sense of belonging to the heritage site.

The authors introduce a participatory, humanistic, and open heritage management model, with a case study centered on the management of La Chartreuse de Neuville. This model places a strong emphasis on the active involvement of community members. Importantly, it highlights that the open, participatory management approach not only enhances operational efficiency but also garners greater approval and respect from the local community.

The research underscores the importance of making heritage sites promptly accessible to the public, transcending narrow interests in tourism or culture. To ensure the sustainability of heritage sites, the authors recommend a pragmatic, self-sustaining economic model that combines elements from the private, public, and civic sectors. They also advocate for the development of a comprehensive program of site activities that seamlessly integrate profitable endeavors with those of public interest, all within a sustainable economic framework.

This study makes a significant contribution to the ongoing discourse on heritage conservation, underscoring the pivotal role of community engagement and hybrid management models in the preservation and revitalization of cultural assets, particularly in rural settings. The insights gained from the experience of

managing La Chartreuse de Neuville provide valuable lessons for heritage management in rural areas, promoting a holistic and sustainable approach to heritage preservation and community involvement.

Júlia Tobak – Eszter Németh – Judit Sulyok

‘CULTURE IS IN THE AIR’ – CULTURE AS A TOOL FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE VESZPRÉM–BALATON 2023 ECO REGION

Access to culture has a cutting edge role in quality of life in present day world. Regular cultural consumption results in vibrant, pulsing places being attractive both for locals and temporary visitors. Local stakeholders put great emphasis on providing cultural services that can raise the image and competitiveness of cities, regions. Within the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture (ECOC) programme, local cultural events were supported by the so called ‘Pajta’ programme. The case study is based on the outcomes of the semi-structured interviews with stakeholders. During Spring 2024, 18 interviews were realized. The main objective of the study is to map the impacts of the programme, to identify strengths and weaknesses of this type of local cultural development. According to the results, this grant scheme has a positive impact, not only strengthening already ongoing processes, but also initiating new potential for boosting local community life. According the involved stakeholders, they will maintain the activities also after ECOC year. The implications of the study gives an input for policy makers about this type of development tool. In case of local stakeholders, the study contributes with valuable information about how to boost local culture, local community. The practical implications supports also service providers, how they can join such initiatives.

Gábor Lux – Dóra Bálint – Réka Horeczki

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN PERIPHERAL CITIES: THE CASE OF COWORKING CENTRES IN PÉCS

The transformation of urban spaces in post-industrial development has contributed to the rising significance of the creative economy in the city network. Coworking has emerged as a distinctive form of work for white-collar professionals and creative entrepreneurs alike, leading to new geographic patterns of employment and network-building characterised by a combination of global

connectivity and local embeddedness. While mostly concentrated in metropolitan areas, cities on the periphery have also experienced an expansion of coworking. However, strong centre–periphery relationships are apparent in the uneven geographies of creative activities, and peripheries struggle with scale-related, network-based, and institutional disadvantages in transforming cultural assets into successful creative ecosystems. Based on empirical research and theoretical insights, this paper examines the growth of peripheral creative economies on the example of Pécs, a city in Southern Transdanubia. Pécs was Hungary’s first provincial city to pursue creative urban development strategies, and it is the cradle of the country’s coworking movement outside the capital. However, early mover advantages have not translated into sustainable development paths in creative entrepreneurship, and the city’s creative class has suffered from contraction and disembedding. The research results show a variety of development patterns among coworking centres with respect to profile, development strategies, and funding sources, which nonetheless jointly point at slow integration into global coworking systems. Contradictions between the city’s cultural attraction and its peripheral status highlight the difficulties of cluster formation, and creating mature cultural ecosystems with distinctive local cultural products and sustainable business models. This points towards the continuing significance of centre–periphery relationships, and the difficulties of moving beyond a pre-formation development stage.

Special Session 7: Initiating a change in perspective with images of the future & visions

Ágnes Varga – Szonja Ondrik

RURAL IMMOBILITY: EXPERIENCES IN A HUNGARIAN SAMPLE AREA

While one of today's most pressing problems, the depopulation of rural villages, is dealt with by countless researches and a wide spectrum of publications based on them, the literature pays less attention to those who stay in place and who choose immobility instead of mobility. The reasons behind the decision are often more nuanced than we think. Individual decisions can be voluntary, but even the lack of individual competencies and opportunities is an obstacle to moving. Researching the topic, that is, getting to know the motivations of the generation that stayed there, can bring us closer to the nuances of our image of rural emigration.

In our research, we are looking for an answer to whether essential differences between the motivations for immobility can be demonstrated in a sample area of Nógrád County in Hungary. In this regard, we map out the main theoretical frameworks and the differences between micro- and macro-factors affecting the individual in the light of the literature. From the individual's point of view, we present the four "selectable" mobility options that define the meeting of the individual's possibilities and desires as a whole. While in our empirical research, with the help of questionnaires and in-depth interviews, we look for the answer to the retaining power of the individual's relationships, social class, and the economic development of the villages.

Aleksandra Gajić Protić – Nikola Krunić – Danijela Srnić

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RECENT TRENDS IN RURAL AREAS OF SERBIA

This study investigates the spatial dynamics of rural settlement development in Serbia, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing both development and population distribution in these areas. Employing a multidisciplinary approach, we integrate recent typological

classifications to analyze geographic, demographic, and spatial functional relationships. By exploring these connections, our research unveils patterns and trends in the spatial development of rural settlements. The findings contribute valuable insights for policymakers, spatial planners, and researchers, offering sustainable strategies to foster rural development within the context of Serbia.

Kerstin Schmid – Benjamin Altrichter

INITIATING A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE WITH IMAGES OF THE FUTURE & VISIONS

What happens to a rural, central European border region when a university establishes a lively anchor point for research and teaching for 2.5 years and focuses on the future of rural areas? In a region that has been undergoing change for decades, from a former textile industry stronghold to an area that is struggling with emigration, brain drain and many other challenges?

With the “landuni” project, the Vienna University of Technology has developed a format to create a new image of the countryside, initiate a change in perspective and make the potential for innovation visible. The “landuni” offers students and regional stakeholders the opportunity to work together on visions and images of the future using new, creative approaches in order to help shape the future development of the region.

The concept focuses on being on site and engaging in dialogue with civil society stakeholders. Since March 2022, public activities and over 40 teaching events at the “landuni” location in Drosendorf, Lower Austria, have led to a change in perspective among citizens and students. The dialogue has led to new topics and perspectives being addressed, a village renewal process being started and a vacant site being revived. What potential does the “landuni” format have as a future method of regional development in rural areas?

Hans Kramar

VULNERABILITY CHECK FOR AUSTRIAN CITIES: DESIGNING EVIDENCE-BASED PROFILES OF LOCAL VULNERABILITIES

Recent crises have proved that our society is increasingly confronted with a broad variety of challenges and threats, which need new approaches and strategies for developing adequate solutions. The impacts of drastic changes in our economic, social, environmental and technological frameworks, however, are unequally distributed: The ability of our cities and regions to cope with emerging risks and to overcome their negative impacts seems to be strongly different, depending on relevant local conditions. In other words, local vulnerabilities against sudden shocks (e.g. natural disasters, wars, pandemics) or against constant stresses (e.g. climate change, inflation, ageing of society) are not random but determined by selected spatial characteristics. From that point of view, cities and regions need customized planning strategies, which refer both to the built and natural environment and to socio-economic and institutional conditions, in order to be prepared for future challenges and threats.

In this context, the research project “VESPA” provides a prototype for a rapid vulnerability-city-check for Austrian cities, which can be used as a handy tool for political decision-makers and city administrations to get a rough overview on specific vulnerabilities against emerging risks, threats and challenges. Therefore, the main goal is to define and to implement a comprehensive system of relevant local criteria, which allows an evidence-based assessment of specific vulnerabilities of a certain city. For that purpose, subjective assessments of local stakeholders are combined with data-based indicators to provide local vulnerability profiles, which reveal the ability of a certain city to resist external threats. The experiences of this case study, which is implemented in 5 Austrian cities shall then be translated into a general concept for evidence-based vulnerability city-checks in general.

Special Session 8: Rural tourism and agritourism

**Drăgan Magdalena – Munteanu Gabriela – Cocean Pompei – Bilașco Ștefan,
Vasiliță-Crăciun Ileana – Nicula Gabriel**

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN TRANSYLVANIA – AN ANALYSIS ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF TOURIST RESORTS

Northern Transylvania (the North-West Development Region of Romania) has a remarkable tourism potential and has been continuously developing as an important tourist destination. Alongside other indexes, the increasing number of tourist resorts is also a strong indicator of this development. Several villages, towns or parts of larger cities have received the status of “tourist resort”, by several governmental decrees released throughout the past decades. The present paper first aims at analyzing these decisions and observe the gradual increase in the number of resorts, while also considering their spatial distribution. Discussions on the further implications that this distribution might have had, as well as the correspondence with the main tourism strategies regarding the analyzed region or certain parts of the region are included. A further step of the analysis refers to the factors determining these decisions, focusing on the main features that would support this “tourist resort” status: tourism potential (the presence of important natural or anthropic resources) and existing tourism infrastructures (accommodation units and other types of facilities). Rather large differences can be observed among the different resorts, declared as such at different points in the past 30 years. The paper concludes with an overview on the impact that receiving the resort status can have, and a discussion on the manner in which this status represents an opportunity for the development of the area, not just from a tourist point of view, but from a broader economic angle.

Nataliia Andreeva

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRITOURISM IN RUSSIA

Rural tourism contributes to the preservation of the rural way of life in Russia, the revival of traditions and customs, increasing the culture and social attractiveness of life in rural areas, as well as the level of income of the rural population by creating more jobs and developing rural infrastructure. Rural tourism becomes an additional source of income for farmers. The coronavirus

pandemic has demonstrated the viability of this type of tourism due to its small scale, rural location (away from cities where people are tired of being quarantined), healthy nutrition, and other unique features. Rural tourism offers local residents the opportunity to address socio-economic challenges, improve the level of education and culture, provide children with a good education, improve housing and gardening, become smart owners of their business and land, and provide family members with interesting, profitable and respectable work. Involving the local population in tourism also fosters interest in nature conservation and protection. Rural tourism is currently most active in several regions, including Altai, Buryatia, Karelia, Krasnodar, Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Vologda, Voronezh, Kaluga, and Moscow.

Agricultural tourism is a form of rural tourism and includes recreation in the countryside and participation in agricultural activities on the estate. Since 2022, Russian farmers have been receiving government financial support on a competitive basis for the development of agritourism. The development of organic agriculture, agrotourism, and folk crafts is given particular attention. Organizing meals and providing overnight accommodation for tourists is a crucial aspect of agritourism activities. In addition to these services, reception in a rural estate may also include recreational, health improvement, entertainment, and sightseeing services.

The National Association of Rural and Agricultural Tourism and the Russian Engineering Academy of Management and Agribusiness offer training courses, consulting and organize study-tours for farmers on the development of agritourism.

Dezső Kovács

THREE DECADES IN RURAL AND AGRO-TOURISM IN HUNGARY- HOW AND WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?

The main changes and sociological and organisational characteristics of three decades are summarised in this paper. The question is open in 2024: it is not clear where the development of rural and agro-tourism is heading in the changed socio-economic policy context.

In the 1990s, rural and agrotourism emerged as a spontaneous movement in Hungary. Its main actors were mainly rural women and families who had lost

their former urban or local jobs during the political changes. Their ancestors were peasant families who had farmed before the collectivisation of the 1960s, but who still had a garden, a press house, a stable, animals in the yard and backyard farming. Their children went to the city to study and work, and when the older members of the family died, this left several empty rooms in the house. This was combined with the housewife's cooking and housekeeping skills, which laid the foundations for hosting guests. For many village families, this was the starting point.

Initially, village tourism in Hungary was supported by the tourism sector. It was a kind of new color alongside the main tourist offer. In the agricultural sector, the privatisation of large farms and the compensation of the former owners were taking place. Instead of diversification, the creation of new private agricultural estates was the order of the day.

The 1990s saw a great learning process in rural tourism. A national umbrella organisation was set up to bring together and support the activity. Until the end of the 2000s, village tourism was surrounded by gradual development and positive discrimination. From 2009, changes in legislation meant that positive discrimination was abolished and rules were introduced that broke the growth trend of the previous decade and halved the number of village hosts.

EU accession and agricultural diversification have brought a boost to rural and agro-tourism, but this has been accompanied by political favouritism. In addition to those who actually wanted to develop the activity, many beneficiaries received significant support and built houses or holiday homes for their children or families with the funds for the development of rural and agri-tourism.

The COVID epidemic has put the countryside back in the spotlight. Instead of the previous downcast view, there is a reappraisal of the rural way of life. The question is: what will this bring for people in rural areas? Will it mean that urban people will take over rural spaces and values and sell them (gentrification), or will it bring opportunities for local people?

There is no clear picture and no clear formula in Hungary. In the last 3 decades, many different actors have been lining up under the flag of rural and agro-tourism tourism in the hope of financial support. In many cases, the main motive has been to get money and community cooperation has been pushed into the background.

Enikő Veress

(RE)INVENTION OF THE RURAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE: URBAN SPRAWL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF CLUJ-NAPOCA/ KOLOZSVÁR, TRANSYLVANIA

Cultural heritage as a potential endogenous resource for local and regional development has been “reinvented”, being used especially in areas lacking “traditional” economic resources, areas lagging behind or in search of a „new” cultural identity. As the approach of culture has been revised, the two concepts that were before considered as exclusive, culture and economy have become complementary, culture being seen in the last thirty years as a creative industry. The EU policies that have revised their strategy, stressing more on the role of the local endogenous resources in regional development have opened up new possibilities for countries lacking traditional economic resources. In Romania several urban and rural administrations have revised their development strategies, emphasizing the role of local cultural heritage in their upbringing. This paper intends to show through the case-study of the village of Aiton from the metropolitan area of Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania the way cultural heritage/identity is re/defined by the local actors and community as strength in their regional/community development strategy.

Session 9/A: Demographic challenges I.

Yaren Varol

CONTOURS OF POWER: IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCES IN HUNGARY AND THE NEOLIBERAL INFLUENCE ON LABOR DYNAMICS WITHIN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

This research paper aims to delve into the personal narratives of immigrants living in Hungary, examining their experiences in the context of the political discourse surrounding immigration. Employing a qualitative research methodology involving interviews and surveys, the study seeks to understand how immigrants perceive and navigate the political climate, shedding light on their feelings, challenges, and coping strategies within the Hungarian socio-political landscape.

The research will adopt a qualitative approach, employing semi-structured interviews to capture the nuanced experiences and perspectives of immigrants in Hungary. Additionally, surveys will be conducted to gather quantitative data, complementing the qualitative findings and allowing for a more comprehensive analysis. The combined use of interviews and surveys aims to provide a rich and holistic understanding of the immigrant experience. The study will be grounded in the theoretical frameworks of political discourse analysis, social identity theory, and resilience theory. By integrating these perspectives, the research aims to uncover the intricate relationships between political discourse, immigrant experiences, and the development of resilience in the face of challenges. This research delves into contributing to the existing literature by providing an in-depth exploration of the emotional and psychological dimensions of immigration experiences in Hungary. By amplifying the voices of immigrants through personal narratives, the study aims to foster empathy and understanding, contributing valuable insights for policymakers, advocacy groups, and the broader community. This Research objective is to analyze the prevailing political discourse on immigration in Hungary and its impact on public perceptions and policies. Also, the outcome of the research is to explore the lived experiences of immigrants through in-depth interviews, providing a platform and base for their voices and perspectives. After the interviewing process, I will examine how political discourse influences the sense of belonging, identity, and well-being among immigrant communities and investigate the coping mechanisms and

resilience strategies employed by immigrants in response to the political discourse. The research aims to demonstrate a comprehensive exploration of the relationships between power, immigrant experiences, labor dynamics, neoliberalism, and political discourse within the specific context of Hungary. It promises a nuanced investigation into the interplay of these elements, providing readers with an understanding of the complex landscape being explored in the research.

This research intends to contribute to the academic discourse on immigration, neoliberalism, and labor power by providing a nuanced understanding of the Hungarian context. The findings may inform policymakers, scholars, and advocacy groups about the specific challenges faced by immigrants and how political discourse and neoliberal policies intersect to shape their experiences in the labor market in Hungary.

Sumit Kumar

DECOLONIZING PANCHAYATS IN INDIA: EXPLORING GANDHIAN DECENTRALIZATION AS A MECHANISM FOR GRASSROOTS INVOLVEMENT

This paper firstly explores why despite having a long tradition of grassroots level institution like panchayat, Indian democracy remains centralized? Why do panchayats, despite regular five-year elections with affirmative action in favour of disadvantaged sections of society, face a scenario of decreasing participation with each electoral cycle? Secondly, this paper explores the possibilities associated with the application of a Gandhian model of decentralization and whether it could decolonize panchayats and regenerate participative mechanisms rooted in Indian society?

Postcolonial theory specially Dipesh Chakrabarty's concept of heterogeneity of the historical timelines of colonial societies and Bourdieu's concepts of Field, Practice and habitus is used to explain the colonization of Panchayats. In Europe, the 'maison du roi' differentiates into the bureaucratic field, juridical field and the political field giving birth to the modern democratic state. In pre-colonial India the 'maison du roi' does not exist, and therefore the birth of the so called modern democratic India is not a natural process. Whatever the state of pre-colonial Indian society; the social fields had their own struggles, the social forces that characterised the field were unique to the Indian society. Colonization transplants

new modern fields into the colonial Indian society and the agents within these new fields lose agency as they are unaware of the practice of these new fields.

When Panchayats get revived in post-colonial independent India, the structural corruptions of the post-colonial political, juridical, and bureaucratic fields are inherited by these new panchayats. Gandhi had already sounded a warning to this effect in his 1908 work 'Hind Swaraj'. He was quite wary of modernity and its violent repercussions and suggested a different model of decentralization, limitation of state and revival of Panchayats. It remains to be seen, whether the Gandhian model could have regenerated grassroots democracy in Indian Villages.

Gergely Tagai

GEOGRAPHIES OF UNEQUAL PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Regional differences within Europe do not exclusively imply inequalities considering demographic characteristics, social challenges or economic positions. European knowledge production also wears the marks of severe division. Forms of academic and technology knowledge production (such as publishing practices or research collaborations) produced a 'Western' hegemony in which besides agents from a certain number of core countries, other participants from the semi-periphery (e.g. from Central and Eastern European countries) only have a minor role in shaping frames of these processes, and more often they just follow the rules of play. The European Union has launched research and innovation programmes for decades. Although these research and innovation collaborations create indeed fruitful cooperation between different partners across Europe, they also contribute to the reproduction of European inequalities in the field of knowledge. The results of the paper contribute to the evidence-based interpretation of spatial differences of participation rates and access to financial support in H2020 and Horizon Europe research collaboration networks within Europe. Detailed findings on the presumed concentration of analysed attributes within Western countries, the unequal positions within networks between older and new member states not only could arouse the interest of the scientific community but could also provide important feedback from a policy point of view.

The paper is supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Session 9/B: Demographic challenges II.

József Lennert

EXPLORING THE SPATIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROSPECTS OF HUNGARY – UPDATED PROJECTION RESULTS BASED THE CENSUS 2022

The aim of this paper is to present the recent results of my ongoing research: creating spatially detailed demographic forecasts for Hungary. For creating the projections, I utilized agent-based methodology. Agents representing the inhabitants of Hungary, each assigned with individual set of attributes (e.g. age, sex, residency, socio-economic background). In each cycle, every agent faces two possible natural movement events (child bearing, passing away), and may participate in one of the four possible migration decisions (employment related migration, university related migration, suburbanisation, counterurbanisation). My earlier projections, based on the Population Census of 2011, indicated a significant reduction of the population for 2051 (high scenario: 9.1 million; low scenario 8.3 million), and a drastic shift in the age structure (old-age dependency ratio 2011: 25%, 2051: 61–65%). However, these general trends cover drastic and increasing spatial differences.

The modelling methodology now updated with data from the Census 2022 as a new baseline, along with other improvements. Besides presenting the general, country-level results of the projection (changes in the number of inhabitants and age structure), the paper will also explore on the regional, spatial patterns of the projection. To get a more detailed picture, the demographic trends will be examined along the settlement hierarchy as well as along the urban-commutable rural – remote rural division. The differences between the earlier and updated projection are also highlighted.

Acknowledgments: This work is supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (New horizons for agent-based modelling of the spatial processes of Hungary).

Tibor Kovács – Csaba Ruzska – Mária Vasvári

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LOSS MAPPING RESULTS IN TWO RURAL POST-SOCIALIST SHRINKING REGIONS – GREATER CUMANIA (EAST HUNGARY) AND ALTMARKKREIS SALZWEDEL (EAST GERMANY)

With the regime changes of 1989/90, the problems of demographic shrinkage also strongly surfaced on the (semi-)periphery of post-socialist Europe, and the development trajectories of these regions and their settlements (which had already been burdened with many difficulties) were changed. The clearly perceptible demographic changes (population decline, ageing society, ethnic restructuring) and their complex socio-economic-environmental effects on settlements and regions also pose significant development problems and challenges in large parts of East Hungary and East Germany.

In our research, we examined six Eastern Hungarian and seven Eastern German, demographically declining and shrinking settlements, which are considered to be two post-socialist inner peripheral rural regions.

The methodology used is very diverse: we applied loss mapping, a complex method of analysis for the multi-layered exploration of territorial characteristics, among the local prominent persons invited (mayors, deputy mayors, notaries, minority representatives, chief architects, heads of NGOs, school directors, cultural organisers, local clergy, entrepreneurs). The respondents assessed the cultural characteristics of their towns, local government management, production and service culture, in order to get a more comprehensive picture of the general situation and characteristics of the six Eastern Hungarian and seven Eastern German shrinking small towns, their similarities and differences.

Respondents rated the potential of their municipality on a five-point Likert scale (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) (increasing scores indicate increasing dissatisfaction). The results were coded and recorded in SPSS software and analysed using this software and MS Office Excel. The Kruskal-Wallis method was used to explore the functional range differences of the loss-of-function mapping. QGIS software was used for map representation. Relevant national and municipal statistics were used, municipal development documents were analysed, and the methodology of “lived geography” was applied to truly explore the deep layers.

In our research we explored the socio-economic situation and problems of the two shrinking rural regions, their similarities and differences, the possible future

paths that each settlement could follow, and the resilience of the cities under study.

Annamária Uzzoli

EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN HUNGARY

The COVID-19 pandemic has different effects and consequences on health and healthcare which will remain with us in the following years. Majority of them are in connection with health inequalities directly as well as indirectly. We have already faced the short- and medium-term challenges of the pandemic during 2020–2022. However, either the post-COVID syndrome, the long-term symptoms of COVID, or the digitization of healthcare are all phenomena and processes that appeared or intensified in connection with the novel coronavirus epidemic in the last years. The solution of new challenges and problems regarding the pandemic will present serious tasks to the national health systems in the middle and perhaps in the second half of the 2020s.

The aim of the presentation is to provide an overview of the direct and indirect short-, medium- and long-term effects and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and healthcare, primarily through a Hungarian case study. The most important task is to evaluate Hungarian health inequalities and their regional distribution regarding the pandemic. Methodologically, the examination is mostly based on literature review, while the statistical analysis contains the Hungarian epidemiological data with the focus on their regional distribution at different spatial level (NUTS 3 and micro-regional).

Among the most important results, it can be mentioned that the pandemic had a significant effect on non-communicable chronic diseases through the infectious disease, and that digitalization accelerated the spread of telemedicine in the healthcare sector. The other relevant finding is that regional pattern of the Hungarian health inequalities did not change in the light of the pandemic but their volume was increased. It is also worth mentioning that health inequalities and their regional distribution can describe especially in the context of socioeconomic inequalities.

This abstract was supported by the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (K 146833).

Session 10: Cohesion and cross-border development

Zoltán Pámer – Petra Buttinger – György Márton

THE EVOLUTION OF SME DEVELOPMENT IN EU'S CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION: THE EXAMPLE OF DIRECT FUNDING IN THE HUNGARY-CROATIA INTERREG PROGRAMME

Cross-border cooperation has become an integrated element of the European Union's Cohesion Policy. In line with the strategic objectives, priorities of cross-border cooperation have also been changed over time: more attention has been devoted to entrepreneurship and innovation. As cross-border programmes are generally understood as non-profit schemes, direct SME funding is a new practice. On basis of some Western European examples a pilot programme was implemented in the Croatia-Hungary border area in the 2014–2020 period that directly supported businesses. The paper, after providing an overlook on SME development in EU cross-border cooperation, summarises the particularities of the analysed instrument. Aim of the quantitative analysis is twofold: on basis of the scheme's conditions which sectors or industries were more compatible from cooperation point of view and what spatial implications these patterns have. Also, the paper provides a simple methodology to test how much innovation was in focus in the projects. For the analysis programme level data was used.

Bence Varga

THE ROLE OF THE CROSS-BORDER LABOUR MARKET IN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN PART OF THE HUNGARIAN-SLOVAK BORDER REGION

Boundaries may seem permanent and immutable in a given social context, but in fact their exact location, permeability, functionality and the rules assigned to them are constantly changing according to the ideas of the times. In the case of the central and eastern part of the Hungarian-Slovak border region, the role and function of the border (and the connections across it) is a cardinal factor for the future of the border regions. For border regions (re)organisation of transregional relations and cooperation can be a key factor, especially in the case of geographically and socio-economically marginalised and peripheral zones. In addition to many other processes, cross-border labour market processes are

becoming increasingly intense in the border region, but a number of development policy measures are still needed to achieve greater cohesion and integration. Treating the border area as a single entity is only at an initial stage, and integrated development (coordinated on both sides of the border) has been achieved only in a piecemeal way. In recent years, a series of events (such as the coronavirus epidemic, the Ukrainian-Russian conflict and the increasing wave of immigration) have led to (temporary but increasingly frequent) border closures and restrictions on border traffic, which have hampered and discouraged border movement. But how has this affected the future and development potential of border regions?

Anna Taraczközi

EUROPEAN UNION AT THE CROSSROADS OF CHALLENGES: COMPETITIVENESS, COHESION, AND RESILIENCE RELOADED

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the European Union's strategies in enhancing competitiveness, cohesion policy, and the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), with a particular focus on the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. It elucidates how these interconnected policies and frameworks contribute to the overarching goal of fostering economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development across the EU, while addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within the CEE countries.

In this analysis, I'll explore urban and regional development challenges, drawing on three EU reports: the Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report, the Cohesion Policy Report, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility Mid-Term Review. Focusing on the CEE region and Hungary, I'll analyze how these reports address current and retrospective development issues, emphasizing strategies for economic dynamism, regional cohesion, and post-pandemic recovery within the urban and regional contexts. These documents collectively shed light on the EU's strategic endeavors to enhance economic dynamism, foster regional harmony, and navigate post-pandemic recovery, with a focused narrative on the Central and Eastern European region's unique landscape.

The exploration kicks off with an in-depth look at the EU's competitiveness agenda, spotlighting initiatives designed to foster innovation, propel digital transformation, and deepen the integration of the single market. This segment

assesses the repercussions of such strategies on the CEE landscape, pinpointing areas of significant advancement and domains where intensified efforts are imperative to sharpen competitive edges on a global scale.

Subsequently, the focus shifts to the EU's cohesion policy, a cornerstone in mitigating regional disparities and promoting harmonious development. Through an analysis of the distribution and utilization of structural and investment funds, insights emerge on how these resources are channeled to advocate economic alignment, social inclusivity, and territorial solidarity in the CEE sphere. The efficacy of these measures in meeting cohesion objectives is critically examined, highlighting triumphs and pinpointing potential policy refinements to optimize impacts. Moreover, the discourse scrutinizes the RRF's pivotal role in countering the socio-economic shocks induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. It evaluates the deployment of RRF financial aid to catalyze recovery endeavors in the CEE domain, with an emphasis on investments steering green and digital transitions. The alignment of national recovery agendas with EU benchmarks and their foreseeable implications on the region's resilience and developmental arc are thoroughly evaluated.

Incorporating a statistical analysis of pivotal metrics, this examination quantifies the strides and lingering disparities in the CEE region's journey towards economic, social, and territorial cohesion. It also proposes targeted policy recommendations, aiming to fortify the CEE countries' contributions to the EU's collective aspirations and their sustainable evolution.

Gábor Lados – Réka Horeczki – Dávid Nagy

ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES IN BORDER AREAS: A CENTRAL EUROPEAN ANALYSIS

The European Union's cohesion policy has been successful in reducing disparities between countries. However, it has not been able to contribute to the upgrading of peripheral and rural areas in the countries of Central Europe, contrary to its original ambivalent objective. The disparities between regions are widening, such as: economic, social, demographic, regarding spatial or economic access to public services; with peripheralisation steadily increasing in many regions (mostly border regions). For this reason, it is particularly important in peripheral regions to operate horizontal and vertical networks, to dynamise low

economic performance and development, and to make recommendations for improving infrastructure and demographic indicators.

The difficult situation of border regions (e.g. negative demographic characteristics, lower economic performance than the national average) has long been a concern for researchers. The different causes and consequences of this peripheral location could be highlighted (e.g. transport geography, settlement networks, fewer jobs, emigration, ageing), while improving the living standards of border region residents has been a priority area for EU funding. Migration is one of the most striking determinants of population change in these areas which also influences the overall economic performance of these regions.

Our research has shown that the most deprived areas are mostly located in border areas. Although border regions have a very diverse demographic profile, the entire eastern part of the study area is also an external border with the Schengen area and part of the EU, where daily commuting is greatly restricted by border controls. Border demarcation seems to be associated with negative demographic trends mainly at the eastern and southern borders, i.e. Polish, Slovakian, Hungarian and Croatian borders, while the borders between the internal borders of the Schengen area (e.g. Czech-German, Austrian-Slovenian, Austrian-German) are experiencing population growth, partly due to international migration and partly due to suburbanisation processes.

Session 11/A: Economic development

Gergely Bogdán

FINANCIAL STABILITY AND FINANCIAL AUTONOMY OF MUNICIPALITIES IN HUNGARY

The municipal system in Hungary underwent significant changes during the 2010s. The reforms were necessary to consolidate the large debt accumulated by municipalities, to solve the financing problems of public service provider systems, and to reduce significant income and development disparities between local governments. The aim of the present study is to assess the financial stability of local governments in the new task financing system, and to take stock of the municipal resources available for urban and rural development. Using the available data, an analytical framework has been created to evaluate the level of financial autonomy and stability of the total 3,178 domestic municipalities of Hungary for the years 2015 and 2022. This framework allowed the examination of municipalities as individual institutions based on their specific operating budgets, but also made it possible to observe the municipal system as a complex subsystem in relation to the national budget. Through the use of GIS mapping tools, spatial patterns of municipal financial sustainability could also be investigated.

Looking at the aggregated budget data of local governments and companies under their control, it can be seen, that more than 40% of Hungarian municipalities had to deal with an operating deficit in 2021, compared to only 17% in 2015. Another important finding of this study is that territorial inequalities of financing sources of municipalities are also growing in Hungary. In terms of development funding, the local government sub-system received less aid in proportion to GDP each year between 2017 and 2022. While the introduction of the task financing system has helped stabilize municipal operations momentarily, we can draw the conclusion, that significant deficits, growing debts, and territorial inequalities still serve as major obstacles to local development.

Wencelaus Musyoka Muthama

FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION IN KENYA: THE IMPACT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS ON OWN-SOURCE REVENUE

Fiscal decentralization, a governance outcome of federalism and regionalism, aims to enhance governance, efficiency, and citizen participation. However, its varied implementation, spanning from full devolution to centralization, has yielded inconclusive impacts on efficiency, governance, and economic growth. The process involves devolving revenue and expenditure responsibilities to sub-national levels for improved fiscal responsibility and accountability. Despite these objectives, local fiscal discretion is often constrained in many developing nations, prompting a reliance on intergovernmental fiscal transfers as a crucial financing alternative due to vertical imbalance. While justified for public service financing, subsidizing externalities in service provision, and equalization, these transfers profoundly impact the decision capacity and behaviours in the entire spectrum of Public Finance Management. This study scrutinizes Kenya's fiscal decentralization journey since adoption of devolution in 2013, focusing on the dynamics of intergovernmental transfers on the generation of own-source revenue (OSR) in its 47 County Governments. Despite constitutional and statutory empowerment for revenue generation, actual OSR massively falls short of potential, revealing significant revenue gaps. Using a spatial-panel fiscal dataset from 2013–2023, the research investigates the impact of intergovernmental transfers on OSR. It delves into the influence of conditional and unconditional grants on subnational governments' incentives for OSR generation. The study offers valuable insights for the policy discourse on cultivating fiscal autonomy at the subnational level, providing recommendations for effective fiscal decentralization practices in developing countries.

Vu Trinh Nguyen – András Bethlendi

LOCAL BANKS STILL MATTER IN THE AGE OF DIGITALIZATION

Bank closures, Local economic development, Healthy banks, Unhealthy banks, Local population growth

This study explores the relationship between bank closures and local economic activity in Hungary. We investigate whether bank closures are followed by a decline in local economic activity, and especially whether local banks still play

an important role in the digital age. Using a panel dataset covering all 197 counties in Hungary for 2013–2019, we find that unhealthy bank closures have a short-term negative impact on local economic development, and healthy bank closures have a long-term negative impact on local economic development. This study shows that bank closures disrupt the supply of credit to local businesses and affect local economic performance. At the same time, national economic growth also contributes to increasing the growth of local economic activity. In addition, local population growth has a negligible positive impact on local economic development. Through these research results, we expect that this will serve as a wake-up call to bank executives to focus more on local strategies in the bank's business operations, aside from pushing the digitization of financial services.

Zoltán Gál – Gábor Lux

THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSIONS OF FDI DEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has played a key role in the transformation of Central and Eastern European regions. However, growing evidence suggests that the FDI-driven development model comes with persistent centre–periphery relationships, trade-offs, and limitations, ultimately jeopardising convergence goals and long-term resilience. The presentation thus explores the emerging, alternate political economy framework of economic (financial) nationalism to understand geoeconomic transformation within the macro-region, and discusses its implications within the context of future policy alternatives. A potential successor policy model is proposed to reduce the risks of FDI-dependent regional development and promote alternative sources of growth. The implications of this successor model are subsequently examined within three industrial and regional policy scenarios, offering alternatives to FDI-dependent development through increased FDI embeddedness, fostering the emergence of domestic multinationals via active industrial policies, and harnessing the development role of domestic small and medium enterprises. The paper thereby represents a contribution to the field of development studies and industrial policies in the CEE macro-region, and outlines a possible way forward from the FDI-dependent development model.

Viktória Józsa – Gábor Kozma – Tamás Szabó – Ernő Molnár

INVESTMENTS BASED ON INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT DECISION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN URBAN NETWORK

Strengthening the polycentricity of the Hungarian urban network by the development of both the internal and the external ring of cities around the Budapest Metropolitan Area is one of the major priorities of the Hungarian Regional Development Concept in force since 2014. This spatial goal is completed by economic development ambitions including sectoral priorities as well. However, the question emerges, how subsidies based on individual government decisions – as maybe the most characteristic element of investment promotion made by the Hungarian government – could contribute to this priority of the regional development document.

Our paper analyses the spatial pattern of investments subsidized by individual government decisions (VIP cash subsidies). We examine the share of projects carried out in the internal and the external ring of cities also compared to each other and the distribution of developments along the rings with special attention to the southern and eastern peripheries that have been dispreferred by the FDI for a long time. We also investigate the sectoral characteristics of the investments, comparing it with the priorities delineated by the Hungarian Regional Development Concept. Because of the timing of the concept we distinguish between the tendencies of 2004–2013 and 2014–2023. The research is based on a combination of quantitative data and qualitative content analyses. Content analysis is used for the identification of investment locations based on different press releases, government and enterprise homepages as well as for the selection of the relevant locations according to the typology of the Hungarian Regional Development Concept and the literature on functional urban areas and agglomerations. The main contribution of our study to the state-of-the-art is twofold: firstly, the in-depth analysis of the recently published database about the allocated VIP cash subsidies between 2004–2023 and secondly, the identification of the spatial and sectoral patterns of the allocation decisions and their relation to the policy level, namely the Hungarian Regional Development Concept. The research is very timely, with a potential to generate not only policy-relevant findings but also comparative studies in the Central and Eastern European region.

Session 11/B: Economic development and digitalization

Bennour Mohamed Hsin – Stefan Apostol – András Gyimesi

ADOPTION OF DIGITAL WEB TECHNOLOGY, INEQUALITY AND THE ROLE OF SPACE

Digitalization has become a crucial component in contemporary economies, offering tremendous competitive advantages such as network effects, rapid interaction, and scalability. One of the most important supports of any digitalization effort is web technologies that facilitate communication and allow for services to be traded securely between different agents. However, the skills to create and maintain such digitalization projects are not necessarily independent of space and the topology of regions. Thus, this study aims to investigate the spatial properties of digital web technology adoption and its socio-economic effects. To achieve this, we will use data on 26,000 Hungarian firms across 487 settlements between 2015 and 2020.

Boglárka Barsi – Melinda Smahó

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND PROFIT ORIENTED ENTERPRISES – HOW TO ENHANCE CO-OPERATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, social inequalities, as well as the crisis and instability of the global supply chain, there is increasing pressure on enterprises in the world to undertake obligations to develop a business model that respects human rights and helps protect the state of the environment, sustainable and has a social impact. In recent decades, social enterprises have proven that they are able to facilitate and accelerate the necessary changes with new ideas and new business models.

In our presentation, we would like to discuss what factors prevent the meeting of social enterprises and profit-oriented companies, and how they can be facilitated and supported so that a well-functioning relationship can be established between them, based on our empirical research. The research was carried out in 2020 among social enterprises and profit oriented enterprise in Central Europe. The aim of the research was to

obtain information about social entrepreneurs and profit oriented enterprises, which would allow conclusions to be drawn about differences and similarities regarding their ethical corporate values. We intended to find out more about the fundamental ways in which entrepreneurs run their companies and whether companies are already dealing with dimensions of social and/or ecological sustainability. This way, the basic characteristics of both social entrepreneurs and profit oriented enterprises were determined to subsequently find similarities in business models and market-relevant orientations of them. There are many reasons for profit oriented companies to partner: Social enterprises are inherently innovators and risk-takers, and – when done right – their models are built for sustainability and scale. They bring a unique understanding of emerging markets and traditionally underserved customers, and they can forge meaningful access to the otherwise hidden stakeholders who increasingly power global supply chains.

Melinda Smahó

HOW AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES ARE GOING TO RESHAPE OUR CITIES? EXAMPLES FROM EUROPE

Sustainable urban mobility, as part of sustainable transportation is a declared aim of both international (UN Sustainable Development Goals, New Mobility Paradigm) and European level (European Green Deal, EU cohesion policy objectives) strategies. Cities, however, face enormous problems and challenges regarded making urban mobility systems sustainable. Based on an in-depth analysis of the international literature, as well as on gathering and synthesizing facts and figures available through the internet, the presentation is going to paint a picture of where European cities are in their preparations for autonomous vehicles; what factors are hindering the process, and what recommendations and solutions are emerging to move forward.

First, urban visions concerning the deployment of autonomous vehicles are addressed; these represent the first step towards the integration of autonomous vehicles into cities. AVs – as part of the public transportation system as well as in case of their shared usage – may change the whole system of urban mobility in favour of sustainability, however, their implementation is going to comprise considerable urban governance challenges. Second, the presentation examines the

extent to which urban planners and policy makers of European cities are prepared to welcome autonomous vehicles in their cities. The mentioned harmonisation and adaptation process is going to require careful preparation and deployment from cities regarded urban transportation, infrastructure and land use planning, as well as restructuring the city budget and regulations, but urban planning methods should also be renewed. Furthermore, flexibility and willingness to change from individuals as well as from economic and social groups and actors are also needed. Third, the presentation summarizes the experiences of cities carrying out autonomous vehicles' tests. Cities and towns being in the urban road testing phase, represent the highest level of AV readiness at local level.

Katinka Tóbiás

THE IMPACT OF VIDEO GAMES AND THEIR PLAY ON THE SENSE AND PRODUCTION OF SPACE

The social production of space is a continually changing process affected by various elements. This study aims to analyse the effect of gaming on these processes. The cultural development of societies and the evolvement of the built environment contribute to the re-evaluation of different urban spaces; some is valorised while some depreciate. In the 21st century a new aspect – namely the digitalisation of everyday life – has had an impact on this process, too. Digitalisation and the augmented and virtual realities not only created a new dimension of space, the cyberspace, but also influenced people's spatial behaviour. Digital applications also have a great significance considering the value of different spaces. In the context of digitalisation, the role of game industry must be highlighted: the world of digital games is a rapidly growing industry. As a result, it affects the production of space of those concerned, thus, it can alter their space-time path and social relations. The effect of video games is manifold. Playing particular games can result in the development of spatial orientation skills. Some of the games are played in a replica of an existing city thus players can visit places virtually. On the other hand, these special locations can experience an increase in the number of tourist arrivals since they want to visit the real version of the game's environment. Furthermore, competitive gaming, (i.e. E-Sport), is also able to move mass crowds of tourists and fans. And ultimately, gaming results in forming new communities connected to a game (i.e. League of Legends, Ingress). These processes all have their impacts on the

individual relations to space and spatial processes –overall, it can therefore be said that video games have a profound impact the social production of space.

Henry Obaga Were

DETERMINANTS OF SMALL FIRM INTERNATIONALIZATION: AN AUGMENTATION OF URBAN-RURAL DICHOTOMY

Regional dynamics play an important role in influencing the competitive capabilities of small firms across the key competitiveness pillars. This study investigates the factors that influence the internationalization process of small firms as an aspect of competitiveness in distinct geographical settings in specific central European nations. In addition to assessing the impact of other factors that contribute to a firm's competitiveness, the study also examines how the classification of rural and urban areas, as well as the location of the country, affect the internationalization of small firms. The internationalization variable and variables representing competitiveness pillars, including technology adoption, online presence, product innovation, and networks, are developed using a configuration of factors in accordance with the firm's resource-based view of the firm and the configurational theory. A comparative methodology is used to determine the diverse impacts of pillar configuration and geographical features on the process of firm internationalization. Two perspectives on internationalization are investigated: the extent and dichotomy of performance based on the average internationalization pillar scores. The study contributes to the understanding of how regional dynamics impact the competitiveness of small firms by emphasizing the importance of location context in internationalization. The study's findings are anticipated to enhance the field of regional development by providing valuable insights into the influence of small business locations on their internationalization efforts. In addition, practical implications for policy and business community for fostering internationalization are expected.

Session 12/A: Regional inequalities

Judit Berkes – Tamás Dusek

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE HUNGARIAN NUTS3 REGIONS BETWEEN 2010–2020

The aim of the study is to analyse the changes in the socio-economic performance of Hungarian regions in the previous decade. The first part of the paper deals with the epistemological and methodological questions of the analysis of temporal change of spatial differences of various individual and composite socio-economic indicators. In the second part the empirical analysis will be conducted at the county level (NUTS 3 level, 20 spatial units), including a wide range of economic, social and demographic variables. The analysis is concerned with processes over an eleven-year period, 2010–2020. Our methodology combines the analysis of individual indicators with the use of complex aggregated indicators composed of several indicators. Some of the counties show higher level of socio-economic performance with more developed infrastructure, higher quality of education and stronger economic base. However, the picture is not entirely uniform, there are small, moderately positive and negative movements compared to the national average.

Gábor Bodnár – Izabella Szakálné Kanó – Zsófia Vas – György Vida

SPATIAL ASPECTS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN HUNGARY AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE OVER THE PAST DECADE

The primary factor influencing the sustained economic growth of subnational regions is whether they prioritize industries with higher value-added products. A key aspect of smart specialization strategies, which are highlighted in the EU's regional policy, involves encouraging tailored economic restructuring initiatives designed for specific locations. This focus is especially crucial for less developed economies in Central and Eastern Europe within the EU framework. The evolution of these regions and their efforts to align with Western markets are significantly shaped by their geographical proximity and the specific characteristics of industrialization.

In the first part of our paper we analyse Hungary and how stable the developed sectoral structure proved to be in the previous decade and what territorial specificities the changes are characterised by. We divide the change of productivity into an “between-sector” and a “within-sector” element.

In the second segment, we adopt a more comprehensive approach to provide context for domestic transformations. We examine shifts in the economic makeup of 239 NUTS3 regions across 11 post-socialist Central and Eastern European (CEE11) member states of the EU from 2010 to 2020. Utilizing data from the Eurostat database, we consider yearly employment and gross value added (GVA) statistics.

Bálint Gogolák M.– Ferenc Kiss Gábor

COUNTY-LEVEL ECONOMIC GROWTH – THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF DOMESTIC AND EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FUNDINGS ON GROWTH IN HUNGARY

The significance of research and development in Hungary has been steadily increasing since the 2010s, as evidenced by the data. Concurrently, the country's economic indicators have shown improvement, characterized by a consistent growth in GDP over the past decade. This study investigates the effects of county-level investment in R&D and innovation on economic growth within each county, as well as the correlation between R&D expenditure levels and GDP growth. Initial findings suggest a notable discrepancy in GDP growth between counties with higher R&D allocations compared to those with lower ones. Additionally, the data are nuanced by the substantial influence of Budapest on R&D expenditure and GDP, prompting a separate examination of the capital region to ensure county comparability. The examination uncovers a positive correlation between R&D funding and GDP growth in every county, albeit with a discernible delay in the effects.

Anna Csizovszky

SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN HUNGARY

The current period of crisis has been a stark reminder of the central role of resilience in sustainable regional development. Resilience studies have gained

prominence in scientific and policy-oriented discussions. Most research focuses on resilience to specific threats such as climate change or economic crises, a narrow focus that challenges the need for prioritisation in the face of multiple disasters or during planning. Recently, however, a broader scope of resilience assessment seems to be gaining importance. This research adapts the aforementioned more general approach and investigates the spatiotemporal evolution of community resilience in Hungary. Community resilience refers to the ability of different regional levels to face the negative impacts of shocks and stresses and to provide adaptive responses. The present study aims to explore territorial trends and implications by examining the resilience of districts. Using the internationally applied Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC) framework, the regional characteristics of the country between 2014 and 2020 are examined across five resilience dimensions. The results reflect the general regional disparities in development (east-west, urban-rural) at several points, but also highlight the unsustainable growth trajectories of the expanding metropolitan areas.

Session 12/B: Regional inequalities and social integration

Luca Sára Bródy

EXPLORING NARRATIVES OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION: CIVIC ROLES IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY

This paper seeks to add to the literature interrogating dominant accounts of social integration by examining the role of civic organisations in local development projects. Civic action often addresses various forms of crisis and is also a key element in achieving social change. The expansion of neoliberal policies at the global level, shrinking spaces for democracy, growing distrust in public institutions and social polarisation are all deepening the crises we are experiencing, which are particularly threatening to marginalised sections of society. While numerous civic organizations are actively engaged in mitigating these threats, the crucial question lies in how they strategically position themselves amidst diverse political and economic obstacles. The paper examines these strategies in Hungary through a historical perspective, tracing the evolution of civil society's involvement in poverty alleviation and local development efforts

since the 1990s. From grassroots movements to EU and international funds, examining key historical events provides insights into a critical analysis of the transformative power of civil society in addressing poverty. The aim of the research is to analyse social integration practices carried out by different NGOs. How are the challenges of social integration in Hungary affected by the transformation of the welfare state system? What strategies are used by different NGOs in response to these changes? What narratives are used to mitigate the negative effects of marginalisation? Overall, we advocate for a reconsideration of civic strategies in social integration, positing the need for a more encompassing perspective on the ways in which civil society can actively contribute to poverty alleviation.

Julianna Boros

PRESENCE WITH A THOUSAND FACES – THE SITUATION OF CATCHING UP SETTLEMENTS AND THE HELPING ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN SETTLEMENTS

Within the framework of the presentation, the presentation aims to present the helping activities in catching up settlements (hereinafter: FETE), social work and community development practices within the framework of the presence program in the light of 10 catching up settlements located in Baranya County. Another goal is to provide information on the society, economy and value changes in families of settlements where the catch-up programme is implemented. The presentation focuses on the results of the research started in spring 2019 in 4 catching up settlements of the Sellye district. The study focuses on disadvantaged households with children and their members at the bottom of the social hierarchy, family roles, values, conflicts, and cultural dimensions in their context. Within the framework of the study, quantitative (household questionnaire) and qualitative (semi-structured interviews, focus group interviews, life history interviews, observations) methods were used.

György Mikle – Katalin Fehér

GROWING REGIONAL DISPARITIES ON THE HUNGARIAN HOUSING MARKET (2011–2022)

After the monetary-economic crisis of 2008, the second half of the 2010s brought about a somewhat significant growth on the Hungarian housing market. However, the spatially uneven nature of housing processes remains clear both based on the volume of construction and the levels of real estate prices. Based on quantitative data, we aim to shed light on the regional differentiation of the housing stock (quality of housing facilities, new constructions, public housing) and the housing market (rental and owner-occupied housing units, real estate prices) from 2011 until 2022. In order to get a detailed picture of these processes, we include the most recent census data on the settlement level. The role of broader financial-economic mechanisms and governmental housing policy measures are taken into account to evaluate the key factors affecting the major changes on the housing market. It is revealed that during the past decade a multifaceted polarisation was observable which is in line not only with the regional development differences but also with the legal status of the settlements.

György Málovics

SOCIAL JUSTICE ORIENTED UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ITS SPATIAL ASPECTS IN HUNGARY

Nowadays, universities are expected to prove their usefulness towards the society that they are part of. A potential approach to do so is university community engagement (UCE), according to which universities cooperate with non-academic actors in a way that is mutually beneficial for all parties involved while also enriching conventional university missions. Present study deals with those Hungarian UCE initiatives that reflect the principles of the so called social justice approach to UCE. I introduce social justice and sustainability orientated Hungarian UCE practices that are directly connected to academic research and/or education activities, based on the results of a qualitative research process (semi-structured interviews with boundary spanners). The results of this empirical research show that social justice orientated UCE is not a widely spread practice

in Hungary, similarly to the international context. Still, initiatives show a diverse picture. UCE initiatives are far more frequently connected to social justice initiatives than to environmental sustainability ones. They also fundamentally change the aims of academic education and research and the way that these activities are conventionally carried out in academic environments: democratic relations, diversity and social usefulness become core elements of educational and research processes within the approach of social justice orientated UCE.

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