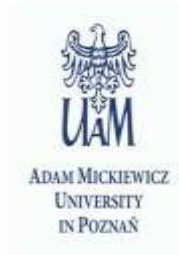




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IS IT THE TIME TO CENTRALIZE?

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ABSTRACT

Managing the pandemic is a crucial challenge everywhere, in Hungary also. Scholars of Centre for Economic and Regional Studies conducted a survey in spring of 2020 on the situation and role of local governments in the first months of the outbreak of Corona virus pandemic. The survey covered 50 settlements, the results showed many capacity, financial problems and conflicts, lack of information, missing (ignoring) civil support, lack of trust, less ability for change.

Now we are suffering already from the second wave of pandemic and the local and central government relations are getting worsen, especially in the “free cities” where the parliamentary opposition parties won in 2019.

The paper analyses the turbulent process of central-local relations in Hungary and the efforts of local governments to cope the local capacity problems making some comparisons with other countries based on the literature. The paper tries to provide empirical evidence on the impact of power position of local governments on the chance for getting European and domestic development subsidies based on an ongoing empirical researches.