

included. The research concludes that terrorism has a negative impact on the foreign direct investment inflows. In addition, it is argued that certain specific characteristics of the recipient countries are determinant factors for foreign investors. The study concludes with a series of suggestions for policymakers.

"It's Volunteering, if it's Good for you". About the Potentials and Limits of Pensioners' Civic Engagement for Service Provision

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In many rural regions in Germany functioning basic service provision is challenged by population decline and limited public budgets. Against that background researchers as well as policy makers evoke the potential of civic engagement for supporting public authorities. Such rhetoric of mobilization especially targets 'young elderly' pensioners, with their alleged professional experiences and time resources. Based on two regional case studies in eastern and western Germany, I aim to critically reflect those assumptions, specifying the potentials and limits of public service provision supplemented by senior volunteers. My sample consists of elderly people, which took part in courses on civic engagement and active retirement, offered by adult education centres, as well as regional key actors in the field of pensioners' volunteering. My results show a wide range of motivations and forms of local participation. Whilst multiple engaged key players need relief, 'contact-seekers' just search the company of others instead of further engagement for the common good. Most respondents are strictly prioritising, how they want to invest their time resources and which forms of volunteering fit to their personal needs and wishes. Hence, they are very aware of not being exploited for filling gaps in public service provisions. Furthermore my data illustrates the dilemma that essential regional challenges concerning public infrastructures, social cohesion and collective mentalities hinder civic engagement, which could probably lead to improvements in exactly those fields. I conclude, that pensioners' volunteering for basic service provision is ridden with prerequisites and requiring revised instruments of political support.

Changing Governance and Adaptation Strategies in Waste Management: A Case Study of Pécs

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According to community based economic development researches, while the local capability based approaches are widely spread in the European planning and development practice (see S3 strategies, EU2020 etc.), in Hungary the subsidy driven local and regional development remains the dominant trend. Several times the local resources remain unused in Hungarian towns and villages, and from outside or from above driven developments lead to path dependency at the settlements.

In the place based bottom up development concept local governments need a local resource based approach for the good strategic planning processes, for which they require exact local information about the groups, quality and amount of local resources. But which are the local resources? Nowadays the waste is one of the newly discovered and more widely spread local, regional resource, that could make connections towards Circular Economy. Due to the Europeanisation trends, the subsidies, the multinational companies and the good knowledge transfer in the waste sector, the Hungarian waste management system became "European" in the last few years. However, the change of the

governance structure resulted in challenges for local governments and waste management companies too.

The paper focuses on the “possibility” of Circular Economy concept in Hungary by analysing the change, reaction and adaptation strategies of the waste management practices of Pécs. The main challenges of the sector are the centralization process of the Hungarian waste management and local governmental systems, the average environmental attitudes of stakeholders, and the lack of participative planning and cooperation practice at local and regional level.

Does Geographical Proximity Matter for Business and Technological Knowledge Flows between SMEs? The Case of Polish IT Service Companies

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In classical geographical thought, the distance has played the crucial role. Since the mid-1990s, the significant role of geographical proximity for local and regional development, interorganizational interactions and knowledge flows has been strongly questioned. However, it’s been argued there is still a space for geographically close relations in creating and enhancing interactions in a specific organizational and institutional context. The paper aims to identify determinants of the role of spatial proximity in stimulating business and technological knowledge flows between small and medium companies offering IT services in Poland. In order to conduct such research, the operational aim to identify the most important channels of knowledge flows must have been fulfilled.

This regression analysis (80 independent variables) was carried out based on CATI research conducted in 215 enterprises operating in IT service sector. Firstly, the most important knowledge flow channels were identified: market relations and hiring specialists. Secondly, the judgement of the role of geographical proximity (perceived proximity) play for knowledge flows clearly shows that its role is rather neglected. The rare context of its larger role takes place only in the case of younger companies. Social proximity to partners in the capitol city matters. Institutional proximity measures explain perceived proximity well – the larger institutional proximity, the better perception of the influence of spatial closeness on knowledge flows.

From Abstract Theories to Tangible Actions: How Sustainability Practitioners Interpret and Apply Academic Buzzwords

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Over the past decades, academics have produced numerous theories, which explain, categorise and provide solutions to the climate change issues. The problem is well evidenced, and embedded in the international agreements. Still, there is a significant gap between the available theory and the practice applied on a local scale. There is a disagreement on the discourses surrounding climate change: their political agenda, capacity for shared understanding and feasibility to apply in the local policies. This paper discusses the experiences from the local policy co-design in Bristol, UK using popular, yet highly contested academic concepts of “Water-Energy-Food Nexus” and “Urban Climate Justice”. The researcher invited practioners from the public, private and community sectors to participate in the focus groups asking about the recent successes, challenges, priorities, and dilemmas related to water,