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ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT
2013

I. Main duties of the research unit in 2013

Before its reorganisation on January 1, 2012, the Institute for Regional Studies (IRS), Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of HAS operated as an independent budgetary organisation under the name of HAS Centre for Regional Studies (CRS). The Institute has basically kept the tasks, activities, research profile and network of its predecessor in its new organisational form as well.

The Institute considered its public tasks, i.e. basic research as its main priority in the year 2013 as well. To present its results, a number of publications was planned and achieved: 2 monographs, 5 volumes, some 80 research papers, the Discussion Papers series, the Regions of the Carpathian Basin monograph series and the continuous publication of its journal, *Tér és Társadalom*. These achievements were performed by sustaining the formerly developed complex institutional profile: basic research, applied research, higher education and consultancy. The number of references to the publications of the Institute was 1423.

As the basic Institute of regional studies in Hungary, IRS contributed to the survey of spatial principles and the domestic and international dissemination of research results; its research laid the groundwork for the territorial policies and development strategies of the European Union and Hungary. Its applied research has directly contributed to the establishment and management of balanced and sustainable spatial structures. The six decentralised research units of the Institute (Békéscsaba, Budapest, Győr, Kecskemét, Pécs, Székesfehérvár) considered the analysis of specific territorial features to be a major task beyond their own research profile.

In 2013, emphasis was placed on research on the following areas: specifics of spatial governance, European spatial visions, East Central Europe (spatial development, competitiveness, state boundaries, neighbourhood policies and europanization), complex development of rural areas (spatial capital, local development, territorial typology, rural policies), the territorial and network aspects of innovation (regional innovation development policy and network), spatial aspects of social issues (well-being, ethnic and non-ethnic poverty, segregation, education, health), spatial aspects of climate change and energy use (renewable energy use in cross-border regions, regional energy strategy, land use) and competitiveness of local public services.

Higher education was given high priority in 2013 as well, 31 research fellows of IRS – among them 8 professors – organised or participated as supervisors in doctoral and masters courses.

The Institute planned the organisation of 11 international, 20 domestic scientific, 15 educational lectures and 1 cultural event. In terms of international relations, the year 2013 brought about a great improvement in developing intense cooperation with research institutions especially in Germany and neighbouring countries, such as Slovakia, Romania, Serbia and Croatia. Among the international events, the most significant was the conference for the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Transdanubian Research Institute attended by illustrious participants from 20 European countries. Following a 20-year-old tradition, the 40 years old Békéscsaba research unit organised the 5th Great Plains Congress. The focus of this event was how to provide local and territorial solutions to issues such as crisis, dependence, and increasing socio-spatial inequalities.

II. Outstanding research and other results in 2013

a) Outstanding research and other results

Territorial governance

The ESPON programme (European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion) is a prominent territorial development research programme of the EU. The institution participated in three research projects. One of them was the Territorial Approaches for New Governance (TANGO) with a focus on territorial governance. The consortium consisting of international scholars and spatial research institutions developed a criteria system for territorial governance and its indicators as well. In order to test and apply these indicators, 12 European case studies were made including three with a relevance to Hungary. The institute carried out two studies: one on the European Capital of Culture project in Pécs and another on the circumstances of the implementation of the South Transdanubian Operational Programme with an outlook to the specifics of the regional policy adaptations of East Central European countries. These case studies emphasized the restrictive effect of centralised governance and political culture on the coordination of decisions on development policy, the involvement of stakeholders and the sensitivity to local specifics. However, this research also suggested that finding and operating models for integrative governance, which is especially important in territorial development, is not easy even in developed and decentralised countries. In general, the tendencies and the institutional and operational solutions revealed in this research forecast that the European model of territorial governance will be more resilient and more adaptive to local specificities. This might not be in line with the domestic centralising efforts in Hungary.

European territorial scenarios

Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe is a research project with the objective to prepare development scenarios until 2050. Policymakers in the field of territorial development and cohesion are in need of a future oriented and integrated vision on the development of the European territory. Therefore the ESPON Programme started a territorial vision-building process following a participatory process with the involvement of stakeholders. Scenarios and public policy visions for 2030 and 2050 are related to a number of policy fields and they determine the long-term framework conditions for the organisation of a specific sector. The Institute performed an analysis of the Danube region and made an adaptation of the “baseline scenario” to this region as well. Furthermore, it contributed to both finalizing some Eastern European scenarios and constructing models presenting the domestic interpretation of the functionalist urban area (FUA) and the polycentric urban network.

State borders and neighbourhood policies

The project EUBORDERSCAPES was carried out in the framework of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. This project applies social, economic and geopolitical analyses in order to reveal post cold war integration processes taking place in cross-border regions as a result of the changing and opening of state borders. In the framework of this research, studying historical processes of spatial restructuring, pre and post Second World War processes of territorial community engagements were studied. The new situation brought new spatial categories into the Hungarian political thoughts; however, con-

sensus has not been achieved. Another study, examining processes in the Balkans addressed a number of issues too: the relation between the experience of living in Federal Yugoslavia, efforts made towards European integration and impacts evolving between and around the new South Slavic member states. What gives relevance to this study is a number of certain issues having emerged in Croatia since its EU accession.

Directions of changes in East and South European national territorial development policies

Changes of national territorial development policies were given a focus in the project, entitled “New space shaping forces and development paths in Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 21st century” (OTKA). Beyond its objectives, sources and mechanisms of structural tools; the use of new forces of spatial development must also be taken into consideration in the course of the preparation for the new structural policy. The former ones are related to the representation of national interests, while the latter one is connected to issues of national policies and institutional structures. Changes of factors affecting spatial development require the reconstruction of the system of objectives, tools and institutes of regional policy. This also involves the representation of national interests. Long-term trends of European spatial development require the widest variety of institutionalised decentralization to be worked out in countries with different traditions. Central and East European member states can only meet the requirements set by the cohesion funds with decentralized institutes. It is not only a public administration issue, but the pre-condition of efficient R+D aiming to improve competitiveness.

Challenges of regional development policy for innovation in Hungary

The project of OTKA, closed in 2013, aimed to review the following issues: the theoretical framework of innovation governance, the institutionalist approach of innovation system models, the applicability of the governance-model for innovation institutes, frameworks of sectoral policies changed continuously during the last 3 years and the restructuring of domestic institutes of innovation. It seems that there has been a shift from the concept of developmental state – partially explained by the lack of central sources induced by the debt crisis – toward loose coordinative and indirectly supportive functions of the state. Innovation is not only determined by knowledge producers and the internal relations of firms, but states and their different governing bodies, and external environmental and social factors play a significant role as well. The research devoted special attention to universities considered to be key actors of innovation systems. The focus fell on studying their integration into the innovation governance system and the situation analysis in the South Transdanubian region. The project’s summary volume provided an analysis of innovation governance on a wide horizon. It presented the theoretical frameworks of innovation governance and the applicability of the governance-model to innovation institutes. These questions contained an institutionalist-economic approach, and are also embedded into the frameworks of the theory of governance and the sociology of knowledge.

Cooperation based innovation support for entrepreneurs

This project, financed by the Baross Gabor Programme aims at developing entrepreneurial innovation in the Central Transdanubian region where service and consultancy capacities have not been available so far. The general purpose of this project is to increase these capacities in order to encourage cooperations between small and medium enterprises and support generat-

ing interests in co-operation. In the framework of the project, a summarizing analysis of documents on international and domestic cooperation models and a review of best-practices in the realm of cooperation were made. In order to work out an innovative cooperation model for the Central Transdanubian region, a survey was conducted using a sample of 300 SMEs of the region. The sample was representative of their size, location and sectoral distribution. Besides the survey, structured-deep interviews were made with stakeholders involved in innovation works. Two methodological handbooks summarized the results of the preparatory phase of the project. In this phase, four cooperation models were developed and four areas were covered – economy, research and development, project based innovation and service and information – and were summarized in four case studies. The preparatory phase also revealed factors preventing enterprises from efficient and successful operation, cooperation and innovation. Based both on these issues and responding to concrete needs of the enterprises, the pilot service was launched in cooperation with the Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (KDRIÜ). In order to apply this service successfully, a detailed professional guide, available online (on the websites of KDRIÜ and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Fejér County) was made for the preparation of innovation audits and the definition of elements of development projects. The new innovation audit methodology and service developed for SMEs will be applied by the KDRIÜ.

Complex rural research programme

The Institute coordinate the comprehensive background research supporting the Rural Strategy of the Ministry of Rural Development. The project brought about as a result the cooperation between the HAS and the National Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Institute (NAKVI). The Institute had six complex projects ran by its six research units, while other HAS research units were involved through their own projects. The research was also based on the experiences of rural studies of HAS units. Their recommendations served as scientific foundations of planning and implementing the rural development programme in the following EU programming period. While the 6 units were carrying out their projects, their work had further outcomes as well. Revealing local specialities in their regions contributed to a differentiated approach to rural development. Moreover, consultations, workshops and conferences strengthened their role in local public life as well. Different scientific units previously operating in isolation shared their results and involved each other in implementation in the frame of the programme. The project studied the aspects of issues in rural areas that will be given a major significance in the next programming period.

There has been emphasis placed on redefining the role of locality and the best possible utilization of potentials in rural areas in the European development policy. In line with that philosophy, a separate project evaluated the status of Hungarian rural areas in the European space, studied the domestic processes of rural differentiation and revealed the possible types and different development needs of rural areas. During the work, the Institute made two recommendations based on theoretical and practical considerations, for re-defining rural areas: the first one studied NUTS3, while the second one the LAU2 units. Afterwards, new types of “rural-considered” NUTS3 regions were identified based on considering the most important characteristics of differentiation of rural areas.

To establish a differentiated and locally organised rural development agenda which is in harmony with domestic specialities and considers territorial features, recommendations were made based on the study and comparative analysis of the above mentioned types of territories,

while 9 case studies were made as well. The most surprising result of the project is that rural areas are not as differentiated as expected. Since their characteristics, problems and development objectives are not place-specific, rural development programmes cannot really solve them. Considering this, the research did not verify the hypothesis stating that time has come for territorially-differentiated rural development in Hungary. It seems that the most important element of local spatial capital is still geographical location. Currently and especially in the long-term, the greatest problems of rural areas are the exhaustion of human capacities and the lack of “locally rooted” financial capital. In addition, bottom-up developments based on local resources have produced limited results. Therefore, it would be important for the national sectoral programmes to consider the specialities of rural areas. Moreover, application calls should include elements concentrated on special rural issues, too. In order to achieve further progress, it is crucial for local actors to become strengthened, for local planning practice and culture of cooperation to be improved. Therefore, there is a need to increase the weight and role of rural development based on local initiatives.

Another subproject is aimed at applying the community-led local development (CLLD) approach and studying the applicability of multifund planning in Hungary. Focus is given to recommendations regarding the scale of CLLD and participatory methodological planning.

Among the objectives of the rural development programme for the next EU planning period, great emphasis is placed on issues such as environmental preservation and amelioration and climate change. Accordingly, five projects of this research concentrated on environmental issues of rural areas revealing complex relations between environment, economy and society. Relation between climate change and rural development was investigated in a project led by the Institute. It resulted in recommendations on how to improve tools of agricultural subsidies and rural development policies.

Encouraging social integration, alleviating poverty and supporting economic development in rural areas are also major objectives in the next planning period. In relation to these targets, there were two subtopics employing a wide range of empirical methods to examine the state of poverty, its reasons, territorial specialities, problems and solutions. Another project is aimed at researching economic, social, settlement and territorial components, conflicts, reasons and tackling marginalization that derives from living in rural areas. The conclusion was that the current development guidelines offered for marginalized areas could not lead to the realisation of the desired objectives because the current competition-oriented programme and project logic can only conserve their marginalized status. Since these areas are heterogeneous, the offered development guidelines have neutralized each other in many cases. According to local economic actors, resources identified in developing documents are not available and positive examples do not reach them; therefore, they produce only point-like impacts without spillovers. The solution is to reverse the planning logic at territorial level that is to develop planning documents by considering the opinion of local „bottom-up” actors as well.

Knowledge transfer and promotion of innovation are highlighted EU objectives. The research project associated with these targets developed a domestic innovation cadaster based on an empirical study. The most important finding of this project is not just that introduction of novelties and innovations in rural areas are not rare but they even have social and economic elements. The innovation map does not present the east-west slope that has been evoked many times to describe the economic development of Hungary. Innovations are even present in the

most disadvantaged areas, but national public policy should provide more assistance in the realisation of these initiatives.

Experiences of sectoral policy interventions aimed at the moderation of ethnic and non-ethnic poverty

This research addresses issues that make the implementation, sustainability and social utilization of poverty alleviating projects more difficult. The most crucial issue is that poverty is not a homogenous status. Deep poverty is such a complex and serious problem that it requires long-term complex programmes and interventions since it cannot be alleviated by short-term projects aimed at the accomplishment of certain indicators. The efficiency of any project depends on whether the domestic mainstream public policy strengthens, weakens or directly opposes the objectives laid down or whether new services (e.g. Sure Start Children's Centres) can be successfully introduced into domestic public policy. The government has used the public employment programme as a universal tool to tackle poverty and unemployment. Most of the settlement leaders welcomed the START public work programme; however, they pointed out the following deficiencies: planning and implementation anomalies, the lack of transparency, non-motivating wages only sufficient for survival and the impossibility of returning to the primary labor market. However, findings highlighted that public employment projects contributed to the sustainability of municipality-led model programmes aimed at developing self-sustaining villages. The public work programme has posed another risk for employers: being employed in this programme has become an alternative to their former legal/illegal, occasional and daily-labor working opportunities. This has resulted in that links to the market-base labor market of poor families have considerably weakened.

Faces and causes of roma marginalisation in Hungary, Romania and Serbia

UNDP finances the comparative research project entitled, Faces and Causes of Roma Marginalisation, which is being ran in three countries focusing on different forms and causes of Roma exclusion and marginalization. In case of Hungary, this research was performed in four sub-regions (Encs, Mátészalka-Nagyecsed, Törökszentmiklós and Sásd). The research activity included data collection and qualitative field research covering interviews with representatives of local public institutes and field observation. The latter one was made in neighbourhoods, described as Roma and/or poor by local public actors. The closing report of the project had the focus on education, employment and local political participation. It was presented how cohabitation and daily routines shaped the exclusion and inclusion patterns in the observed neighbourhoods. In addition, the research detected to what extent exclusion was linked to thesegregated areas represented by different forms and degrees of boundaries between Roma and non-Roma.

Territorial indicators of poverty and social exclusion in Europe

ESPN finances a project entitled Territorial Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe, which aims to define, map and analyze the indicators of poverty and social exclusion. Most of the tasks of this project were accomplished in 2013. A study defined proxy indicators of social exclusion, mapped and analyzed them in the European space. Both the first poverty maps (adapting the World Bank method) and the Slovakian and Hungarian case studies were completed.

Spatial differences of social well-being

What gives this research significance is the fact that spatial differences of social well-being have not been measured in Hungary yet. The methodology and the database developed for the project will enable not just the demonstration of spatial differences but the tracking of continuous changes of well-being in time at any territorial level as well. The first map was completed in 2013 using the objective indicator system of well-being. The model calculation made at the territorial level resulted in three versions of spatial structures of objective well-being. In the first version, each variable had equal weighting. In the second one, income and wealth variables were overweighed, while the third one was made by using statements on subjective well-being (quality of living, family structure etc.). However, different weightings constructed different spatial structures; the most important results are that none of these structures differ from the well-known domestic spatial representation of complex economic, social and development indices.

The role of crisis in domestic health-inequalities

Post-1990 economic crises in Hungary have had significant influences upon the labor market directly and indirectly. Of the social determinants of health, residence, gender distribution and educational qualification were investigated. It was underpinned by the results that during a crisis, unemployment was one of the most determining risk factors. Therefore, increasing availability of health services is one of the most successful tools to moderate social inequalities. In addition, revenues from public health insurance are decreasing, while costs of health care systems are increasing, implying that health care resources should be managed in the most efficient way.

Evaluation of developments supporting education in cultural institutes

The last few years have brought great changes in policy regulation and the financing environment of domestic cultural institutes. EU resources for lifelong learning and quality education developments have become available. Selectivity of these resources compelled cultural institutes to intense adaptation. As a result, a differentiating process has begun: intensively changing services of the beneficiaries and improving infrastructural features. Another important result is that, by means of supports, equalization has begun in terms of lifelong learning and quality education: these services have emerged in offers of small cultural institutes. They had been offered only by county and municipal institutes. One element of the changes is that disadvantaged groups and places are more and more valorised by cultural institutes, as sources became available to develop services for such places and groups. Cultural institutes provided a base for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups through developing adult education. However, in terms of the financial stabilization of these institutes, the contribution of visitors and users seems to be limited.

Social and settlement impacts of global climate change interpreted in terms of catastrophe management

In the framework of this project, entitled Risk Assessment and Preparedness in the Danube Macro-region (SEERISK), the institute accomplished the following: evaluating climate change awareness in a mid-sized town in Hungary and summarizing the preparedness of the institutional side. Topic-oriented analysis of the development documents and evaluation of their implementation were also part of the research. All of the results were synthesised in a

GAP analysis. Based on this, recommendations were made in the summary report referring to points of intervention.

Renewable energy use in cross-border regions

The Institute joined three IPA projects which resulted in both expanding its Croatian and Serbian partner networks and increasing its embeddedness into cross-border regions. The results of the REGPHOSYS project reflect the fact that, despite the advantageous geographical circumstances and the decreasing costs of the solar power technology, the economic and social status of the region does not provide enough receptivity to innovations in developing solar power use. The Hungarian involuntary (constrained) path, the tender-led social attitude combined with non-systematic and non-predictable subsidising system and the bureaucratic institutes are further weakening the opportunities. Any implementations and positive examples are attributed to personal competencies, the leader of the local community and persistent market actors. It seems that the major obstacle to solar energy developments is rooted in social specialities.

Pannon energy strategy

The project, titled the Austria–Hungary European Territorial Cooperation Objective Programme, in the framework of a 4-year-long ESPAN project, resulted in many activities revealing and supporting renewable energy use in cross-border regions. The task of the Institute was to design the methodology of regional renewable energy strategy, to contribute to the elaboration of the strategy, to evaluate the renewable energy potential in the West Transdanubian region and to prepare an energy balance for the region. Experts of spatial development in the region have been learning the best-practices from the partners in Burgenland for 20 years. The Austrian partners launched many pioneer initiatives which are applicable in the domestic environment as well: developing methodology of energy audit for settlements, assessing the solar power capacity by aerial photos and eliminating bio fuel plantations in favour of increasing potential of food production. The regional renewable strategy, worked out by the project, was accepted and passed by the municipalities of three counties: Győr-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala. Recommendations were introduced into the territorial development strategy of each county.

b) Dialogue between science and society

The basic principle of the Institute is that regional and settlement development based on solid scientific foundations is the guarantee to European competitiveness and economic growth. Therefore, the Institute lays great emphasis on the dissemination and discussion of research results with professional and civil actors. The majority of researchers actively participate in the work of spatial development and civil organisations. An important element of the dialogue between science and society is that all of our researchers holding a scientific degree are involved in teaching at ten universities and four colleges, and this contributes to the dissemination of the results of regional studies. Many researchers of the Institute were members of juries in a number of fields in the final of the 31th OTDK (National Scientific Students' Associations Conference). Those who contributed a lot to recruitment were granted books as an award.

Changes in development policy and new challenges of the programming period have raised the value of our experiences in spatial development, territorial policy and EU development practice. The intensity of our contribution increased in expressing opinions on new regulations, concepts and plans. In many cases, the institute contributed to their preparation especially in relation to their local and territorial aspects. Researchers of the Institute are actively participating in the preparation of strategic decisions and the local scientific public life (in the counties of Baranya, Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Győr-Moson-Sopron and the towns of Pécs and Kecskemét).

The dissemination of results is an important requirement in each project financed by EU sources. Besides presenting results on scientific forums, more distant target groups were accessed during the debates on social, settlement and regional issues. A good example for this in 2013 was the Ördögkatlan Fesztivál where our researchers took part in a roundtable discussion on rural poverty.

In terms of popularization of science, two departments of the Hungarian Geographical Society (Kisalföld – Győr and Körösvidék – Békéscsaba) organised lectures covering topics on social and environmental geography both as hosts and a co-hosts.

In 2013, there was one exhibition (Demeter Gui „Őszidő”) organised at the MTA MADI Gallery in Győr. This well recognised exhibition venue welcomes more and more visitors who are either fans, collectors of pieces of geometric art or just simply interested.

III. A presentation of national and international relations

Domestic co-operation

The unfavourable changes occurring in the 15-year long fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperative linkages with decision centres of spatial policy in 2010 took a favourable turn in 2012. However, the internationally recognised results of Hungarian regional studies: the innovation chain of research – development – competitive spatial policy implementation is being reconstructed. Interest was expressed towards the scientific foundations of spatial policy decisions in the fields of rural development and rural policy. Due to the Institute's scientific results gained in the previous rural and homestead research, the National Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Institute (NAKVI) charged the Institute with the coordination of a large-scale rural research programme and certain basic research tasks.

Partnerships with another major group of regional development research, i. e. settlement and territorial self-governments became more intense in 2013. The Institute was charged with the scientific foundation and elaboration of development concepts of its 'traditional' partners (the counties of Baranya, Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Győr-Moson-Sopron and the towns of Pécs and Kecskemét). In addition, Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Győr-Moson-Sopron County proposed the Institute a pilot project for the preparation of a quarterly report. IRS researchers are also developing the programme of surveying homestead areas in Békés County.

The most important scientific product of the Institute is the journal *Tér és Társadalom* (Space and Society). With its diversity and multidisciplinary nature the journal distributes the results of regional science and research. The new editorial board established in 2011 aspired to strengthen the theoretical nature of the journal and raise its professional standards; therefore, it made the revision process significantly more severe. '*Tér és Társadalom*' is the leading forum of the profession and the main organiser of regional studies in Hungary. At least one hundred and fifty professionals are involved directly in the work of the journal (authors, editors, peer reviewers). The number of subscribers was significantly increased by the fact that the Hungarian Regional Science Association provides the journal cost free to members.

The library base of the Institute operates in Pécs. This is where the most important social science journals dealing with space are available in full content. Therefore the services of the library are greatly demanded by domestic professionals of regional studies. The Institute runs a regional development professional library focusing on border areas in Győr, a Hungarian-Serbian regional development information and documentation centre in Békéscsaba and a smaller professional library in Kecskemét. Uniquely in Hungary, a scientific repository of regional sciences was launched in 2013 under open access.

There was no change in the factors influencing higher educational linkages in the reporting year. On one hand, the backwash effects of universities can still be felt among researchers of the Institute, primarily in connection with significant university projects. On the other hand, the positions of the Institute in regional scientific PhD schools remained strong and central. IRS researchers are involved in 10 doctoral schools both as lecturers and supervisors. Out of these 10 schools, IRS researchers are engaged as core members in 4 four schools, as programme leaders in 2 schools and as head of the schools in one case. The accreditation of doctoral schools is still a strategic interest of the Institute. Moreover, the presence of researchers

at every level of higher education is a priority too, since this can ensure the dissemination of results to a wider audience.

International relations

In addition to many European research units of regional studies, illustrious participants from 20 different countries attended the Transdanubian Department's (legal predecessor of Centre for Regional Studies) 70th anniversary international conference entitled, "Territorial Cohesion in Europe" in Pécs. Among the attendants, there were significant scholars such as Andreas Faludi, Anssi Paasi, John Bachter, Ricardo Cappellin and Robert Leonardi. Lectures of the conference were published in a conference volume edited by Ilona Pálné Kovács, James W. Scott and Zoltán Gál.

Besides the successful organisation of the conference in the first half of the year, academic grant-awarded James W. Scott joined a number of research projects as well. This will result in joint-publications and joint-applications for research proposals in the near future. One of these, the Cross border Research Group is already approved by HAS.

The Polish-Bilateral Cooperation was closed in 2013. With a new partner, the Romanian exchange programme started in 2013 in line with the Central European Strategy of the Institute. In addition, two applications were submitted for Polish and Russian exchange programmes. Both personal and institutional participation in international scientific societies, events, conferences are still constant and regular.

A number of new relations were established as a result of joint-projects and professional partnerships. Two significant partners of the Institute are the Leibniz Institut für Landeskunde (with a Marie Curie awarded application) and the Hungarian Geographical Institute of the Babeş-Bolyai Science University. The Institute joined the Hungarian Slovakian Planning Network, started in 2013 which will be organising professional forums for the Hungarian and Slovakian territorial cooperation in the framework of the next EU planning period. As a result of this, a new relationship was established between spatial development experts from the Institute and the municipalities of Nyitra and Nagyszombat.

Research groups of the Institute participated in an FP7 programme, 3 ESPON projects and 7 international cooperations. In addition, the Institute entered into negotiations with 8 consortium partners on future international co-operations. The Institute organised seminars, roundtable discussions, working group consultations with international attendants in relation to ongoing international projects on ten occasions in 2013. Organisation of international events was a major task for the Institute in 2013 as well. As a result of this, professional networking was successfully developed.

IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2013

IRS, as in previous years, has been actively engaged in the elaboration of project proposals. Due to the declining share of the basic financing of the Institute, participation in international programmes and projects has increased, which contribute to strengthening the Institute's foreign partnerships, its continuous international visibility, and the direct participation of research fellows in the global scientific public life. The number of winning proposals in the reporting year did not significantly alter from those of previous years.

The year 2013 was remarkable for the increase in the number of junior researchers' successful individual applications, pre- and post-doctoral scholarships and financial assistance for book publishing. Preparation and launching of some exceptionally successful research proposals (ÁROP and Marie Curie) also required significant capacities.

- The project entitled “Institutional and individual responses to structural transformations of the state in different geographical contexts” considers Hungary as a laboratory to study the continuously changing relationship between the state and the market. The research also assumes that Hungary is suitable for being studied as a nation state in a time period of 20-30 years, focusing on the following aspects: its reconstruction, its changing role during the adaptation to the successive crises, the impact of its interventions on the formation of settlements and neighbourhoods, its environmental values, its economic performance and development of its social relations.
- The bilateral research proposal, entitled „Developing R+D potential of regional centres in the framework of interregional cooperation” was accepted by HAS in 2013. The issue being studied in this research is the development of the new economy and the complex social and economic processes affecting it.
- An ÁROP project, entitled “Improving competitiveness of local public services through modernisation” poses a great research challenge for the Institute. Given its topic, it is rather like an applied research but it provides opportunities for basic research as well, because studying the organisation of local public policy requires a public policy approach. Rural research can benefit a lot from the literature and methodology of this approach, while data collected from empirical research will be comparable to findings of other rural research. Overall, this research will enrich the knowledge of the Institute by scientific, theoretical, and methodological bases as well as by empirical findings.
- “Well-being in the information society” is the title of a joint research proposal elaborated jointly by the University of Pécs and the Institute. It has been submitted and accepted already. In the framework of this project, the focus will be on spatial differentiation and specialities of the Southern Transdanubian region.
- “Social conflicts, social well-being and security – Competitiveness and social development” is the title of another TÁMOP research project that is being ran by a consortium consisting of the Kodolányi János University of Applied Sciences, the Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Széchenyi István University and the Institute.
- Due to the project, entitled RegPol² – Socio-economic and Political Responses to Regional Polarisation in Central and Eastern Europe being carrying out in the framework of the Marie Curie programme, the Institute managed to create an international employment network. The Great Plain Research Department was given the opportunity to gain two doctor-

al and one post-doctoral positions. These junior fellows are working on a given topic assigned by the department but they are also participating in the events of the Institute and working at secondary research departments as well.

- In the framework of the survey of homestead areas in Békés county, 8600 outskirts dwellings will be surveyed individually. Beyond this task, the training of homestead wardens and education of college students will be organised within this project.
- The National Cultural Fund financially supported the publication of the monograph entitled *South Pannonia*, which is 13th monograph of the Regions of the Carpathian Basin monograph series.

V. List of important publications in 2013

BOOKS

- Gál Z (szerk.) Innovációbarát kormányzás Magyarországon: A regionális innovációs fejlesztéspolitikai kihívásai. Pécs: MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete, 2013. 243 p. (ISBN:978-963-9899-61-2)
- Hajdú Z, Nagy I (szerk.) Dél-Pannónia. Pécs: MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete, 2013. 552 p. (A Kárpát-medence régiói; 13.) (ISBN:978-963-9899-71-1)
- Jelinek Cs, Bodnár J, Czirfusz M, Gyimesi Z (szerk.) Kritikai városkutatás. Budapest: L'Harmattan, 2013. 507 p. (Társadalomelméleti Könyvtár) (ISBN:978-963-236-772-9)
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