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**CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STUDIES**  
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**ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

**2014**

## **I. Main duties of the research unit in 2014**

The Institute for Regional Studies (IRS) of the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) considered its public tasks (i.e. basic research) its priority in the year 2014 as well. To present its results, a number of publications were planned and issued: 2 monographs, 10 books, 2 volumes, 60 scientific articles, an additional 150 papers, the Discussion Papers series, the Regions of the Carpathian Basin monograph series and the continuing publication of its journal, *Tér és Társadalom*. The IRS achieved this goal relying on the previously developed complex institutional profile: basic research, applied research, higher education and consultancy. The number of references made to the publications of the Institute was 1651, 1168 of which were published in 2014.

The main feature of the basic research of the IRS is analysing the spatial processes with an interdisciplinary approach, connected to the latest trends and topics of the regional studies. This way the basic research is able to provide an increasingly valuable contribution to the achievements of industry, innovation regarding the spatial aspects of the structure of the economy, spatial marginalization (from sociological, critical geographical approach), border researches (geopolitical approach) and governance (from the point of view of political science, public policy).

The natural environment and the dimension of social capital played a key role in the research profile. The senior research fellows of the Institute have summarised their theoretical results related to theories of spatial analysis, regional policy, good governance, in several monographs and notable papers.

The need to verify scientific results by empirical research conducted in the field is an immanent feature of regional science. The departmental organisational structure of the IRS – with local branches in Békéscsaba, Budapest, Győr, Kecskemét, Pécs and Székesfehérvár – is very suitable for the fulfilment of this methodological requirement. Thanks to the local embeddedness developed in recent decades, the departments could adjust to the special characteristics of their area, thus covering the very different processes of the dynamic development of urban areas and the decline of lagging rural regions, border regions and internal peripheries. The results of empirical research conducted in various areas of the country in the year 2014 proved that regional disparities grew. The domestic regional and social polarization particularly strengthens the conditions of the effectiveness of public policy intervention in matters of governance, planning, local economic development. Though government interest has undoubtedly decreased, the Institute remained loyal to its profile, and important researches were carried out on regional governmental institutions and instruments. The research results and organisational practices of the Institute continue to command notable interest in the Central and Eastern European scientific community. As a new element to its activity, the Institute took the initiative to organise an international conference abroad.

Higher education was given high priority in 2014 as well. 29 researchers of the IRS – among them 6 professors – were taking part in courses at 8 domestic universities, 3 colleges and 2 universities in neighbouring countries, thus also spreading the results of regional science.

The Institute planned the organisation of 15 international and 30 domestic scientific lectures, 20 educational lectures and 2 cultural events. In terms of international relations, the year 2014 brought about a great improvement in developing intense cooperation with research institutions especially in Russia, Finland, in addition to those in Central and Eastern European

countries, such as Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Croatia. Among the international events, the most significant one was the conference titled Regional development in Central Europe and Russia – Territorial Disparities of Science and Innovation, organised within the framework of the EU-Russia Year of Science program held in Moscow.

In the reporting year, the Institute celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The anniversary conference titled Regional Science and Territorial Cohesion was held with the cooperation of the HAS Committee on Regional Studies at the main building of the HAS in Budapest. The scientific meeting has summarized the position and research fields of European regional science and presented the results and position of Hungarian regional science in the international scientific community, including the position of regional science in higher education and the results of workshops held abroad as well.

## **II. Outstanding research and other results in 2014**

### **a) Outstanding research and other results**

#### **The long-term evolution of European spatial structure, spatial processes of Central and Eastern Europe**

*European spatial scenarios:* The 2014 Final Report of the ESPON research titled Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe (ET2050) prepared scenarios for European spatial development on the time horizon of 2050. The report included not only the baseline and exploratory scenarios, but presented the results of the impact assessment of the Eastern-European scenarios as well. These forecasted impediments to the catch-up effect and relative decline in the development of Central and Eastern Europe. Based on the forecast of MULTIPOLE and MASST models, 84 of the examined 132 Central and Eastern European regions, will show relatively lower development in 2030 than in 2010, and only 48 cases can be expected to experience growth. The disparities between countries barely decreased, the models forecast stagnation in this regard, but spatial disparities within the countries are expected to significantly increase. If the policies, which can influence these processes, do not change, we may expect a more pronounced divisions in Europe and the development of its Southern and Eastern regions being finally outpaced by the Northern and Western ones. In Europe, the competitive regions with cities of considerable size and a polycentric urban network will be the beneficiaries of EU structural policy and a faster growth rate. In the Central European regions, the gap between capital cities and secondary centres remains wide and polycentricity dramatically declines, which intensifies centralization efforts.

*State borders and neighbourhood policies:* The Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World (EUBORDERSCAPES) FP7 project is searching for the consequences of the border changes in European border regions. The scientific results of the year 2014 are related partly to the border changes that took place after the collapse of the bipolar world on one hand and in the case of Hungary, to the radical change of the neighborhood environment on the other. The great shift after 1989, then the integration processes in the years 1999 and 2004 brought fundamental changes in conditions in the Eastern part of Europe, including Hungary as well. The rearrangement and the adaptation to these new conditions hasn't been smooth and continues to pose difficulties. This is what determines the current distracted nature of our geopolitical situation and characterises the disturbances of our integration.

*The development of regions in Central and Eastern Europe:* In the framework of the OTKA (Hungarian Scientific Research Fund) research titled *New Space Shaping Forces and Development Paths in Eastern Europe at the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*, the work summarizing the important social, economic, spatial characteristics and the competitiveness of the 65 NUTS2 regions of Central and Eastern European countries has provided many promising results. The values of the produced income per capita show significant differences between regions. Indicators corresponding to capital cities are not only two or three times higher than those corresponding to the most underdeveloped regions, but this difference is becoming higher and higher. Expecting spatial disparities to decrease in the first decade of the transition to market economy seems to have been an illusion. The still growing inequality in the second decade indicates governmental, economic and social organizational shortcomings. The process of accession to the EU – with the exception of Poland – had a centralizing impact in the Central and Eastern European countries. The national development plans were built with a top-down approach and predominantly identified sectoral development tasks. Instead of being based on the development concepts outlined for specific regions, regional operative programmes, only assigned regional significance to the elements left out from the sectoral operational programmes. The centralized decision-making mechanism did not support the reduction of spatial disparities in the Central and Eastern European regions either, it rather caused their growth.

### **Research on urban and industrial districts**

The high-budget research project titled *The Győr Automotive Industrial Region and the New Trend and Means of Spatial Development* was conducted by the consortium formed by the IRS, the Széchenyi István University and the Edutus College. The general goal of the project was the study of the operation of the so-called “Győr model” of urban development. The research was conducted on two levels, one building on the other. The theoretical research block (with 5 subtopics) aimed to determine the growth poles based on the industrial district and to conduct a scientific analysis of the impact-system related to this new development level. The empirical analysis (8 subtopics) included surveys conducted in Győr and its surroundings on the population, local governments and businesses. The Institute was responsible for 2 theoretical and 2 empirical subtopics.

The main finding of the theoretical research topics is that geographical location has become a key explanatory factor in urban development in the 21<sup>th</sup> century. While in Western Europe, especially within the pentagon-shaped area formed by London, Paris, Hamburg, Munich and Milan, cities are undergoing a new phase of urbanization, experiencing polycentric development, population increase and economic growth, in the Eastern part of Europe urban development has come to a stall with a substantially more sparse network, of which only few growth islands rise out, including capital cities (port cities) but the centres of automotive industry as well.

In the empirical research, the emphasis was placed on the study of the historical development of the Győr agglomeration, which helped understand, what the spatial impact of Győr looked like over the course of the last 20 years. It was important to follow the development of the Bratislava agglomeration – which is located closest to Győr – as well as to investigate its impact on Hungary. The fast development of the Bratislava agglomeration and its direction point out that the Győr agglomeration has no detected impact on the Bratislava agglomeration, the infrastructural and social connections are missing.

The results show that Bratislava and Győr are not partners. The study of complex gravitation areas proved that the impact-space of Győr extends to large parts of Northern Transdanubia.

Besides the Budapest agglomeration, Győr and its surroundings are an important domestic migration target area, receiving population from all over the country moving to the city and the region primarily because of the pull of workplaces in Győr, and secondarily for the possibility of employment in Austria. Building on this gravitation area model, and modifying it, one can set a prognosis for the future extension of the impact-space, and thus support the work of transport-organizers and -planners. Moreover, it is also necessary to study the lack of links between Győr and Bratislava and to undertake the strategic planning of cooperation schemes between the two cities, possibly within the framework of a joint CBC program.

In the empirical part of the research, the economic structure and the direction of labour market changes in the Győr Automotive Industry Region were explored between the change of regimes and nowadays, a monitoring system was established for the region's economic press, which has become a key factor in the economic and labour market report pilot projects.

The results of the research provided direct input for the economic chapters of the county and city level development documents drafted for the 2014-2020 European Union program period. In addition to attempting to develop and apply the calculation method of dynamic industry weight, the research also set the foundations for conducting creative economy and smart city research in Győr, which are priority research fields in the H2020 program.

### **Social, economic and spatial impacts of public administration and the public service system**

*Territorial governance:* The Territorial Approaches for New Governance (TANGO) ESPON research aims to contribute to the renewal of European territorial governance. Territorial governance is basically the multi-level and multi-sectoral institutional management and operational model of spatial development which is expected to live up to the following requirements: integration, participation, spatial coherence, flexibility. The Institute primarily focused on the presentation of the special features of Central and Eastern Europe, pointing out the limits of centralized governmental systems and their low administrative capacity in using cohesion policy funding.

*The guarantees of governmental decentralization in Hungary:* The research aims use the empirical analysis of domestic spatial reform processes in order to find out why the vertical authority structure and model has changed so radically in the 25 years since the change of regimes. The results achieved so far, during the ongoing research are the assumption that the domestic political class is typically not committed to local autonomy and the external pressure to decentralize in the local government and legislation can prevail only temporarily.

*Institutional and individual responses to state restructuring in different geographical contexts:* The ongoing OTKA research on the changing role of the state has undertaken the study of distinct spatial reactions on the level of several different agents considered to play an active role in shaping spatial relationships. To attain the appropriate conceptual framework, the relevant national and international scientific literature, various approaches and adaptations were reviewed with a comparative method. In view of this, one can say that the countries on the Southern and Eastern periphery of the European Union are going through a similar development path due to the global crisis of 2008.

*Comprehensive analysis of local public services:* According to the theoretical starting point of the applied research project processing a large amount of empirical material titled Improving the Competitiveness of Local Public Services Through Modernisation, public services provided by local government are more suitable for an integrated, comprehensive approach and a flexible regard for local characteristics and the effectiveness of the organization of public services can be improved not only through organizational innovations and techniques,

but with the tool of spatial optimization as well. The role public services play in shaping local and national competitiveness is indisputable, because the indicators used to measure the performance of governments, such as trust, social security, quality of life, happiness, quality of environment contribute to economic growth and sustainability. The timing of the State Reform Operational Programme (ÁROP) priority project enabled researchers to make a report on the changes in the field of local services and to illustrate the expected effects of their direction.

The accumulated experiences have confirmed that the decentralized public service model which widens the discretion of local authorities, has many advantages, while the over-decentralized new public service system, which represents an excessive expansion of the state and limits the discretion of local governments, has significant drawbacks. We have to find the right balance between these two extremes. The changes aimed at size efficiency, enforcement of professional standards and management discipline can be combined with the protection and reinforcement of framework conditions ensuring local discretion, flexibility and cost sensitivity. The project – with its concrete financing models and the professional foundation of an integrated public service information system – contributed to the modernization of the government and local level administration of public services in practice as well.

### **The spatial dimension of social problems**

*Territorial indicators of poverty and social exclusion:* The ESPON-financed research titled Territorial Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion (TIPSE) was based on a Europe-wide comparison, examining the spatial differences regarding poverty and social exclusion. One of the most important results of the close cooperation between the Swedish, British, German and Greek partners was modelling the relative standards of poverty and the at-risk-of-poverty rate of the population on a NUTS3 level basis, which is one of the key indicators of the Europe 2020 strategy. The nationwide and international study of spatial characteristics of poverty is setting the foundation for territorially more accurate sectoral policy intervention. The examination of the territorial indicators of social exclusion had a similar intention, by evaluating and showing the territorial display of different social risks, like employment problems, housing deficiency, inadequate qualification, aging, disadvantages from household structure and lack of citizens' rights. The research identified a number of different types of regions – primarily in the Mediterranean, East-Central Europe and the Balkans – which are in an excessively unfavourable position compared to the Western and Northern parts of Europe. The study of the causes and specific local characteristics of poverty and social exclusion was based on 10 case studies, two of which were made in the institute. According to the case studies, the depth of poverty and the risk of exclusion differ among the countries. Due to the crisis unemployment as one of the most important cause of poverty spread both in Portugal and in Finland, but it did not generate social exclusion in any examined settlement, even though the extent of its impact and the concerned social groups varied. This is in sharp contrast with the close relationship of poverty and social exclusion as verified by the examination of segregating rural areas in Hungary and Slovakia. The case studies also uncovered different mechanisms with respect to the effects of segregation. In Athens the spatial segregation did not accompany the social exclusion of the immigrant groups in question, but in the German urban areas such a connection was detectable, and according to the Hungarian and Slovakian experiences, the spatial isolation of Roma communities in rural areas significantly defined their social exclusion also.

*Social exclusion:* The project titled Causes and Faces of Social Exclusion of the Roma in Local Communities coordinated by the Romanian Desire Foundation and financed by the

Open Society Institute examined the coexistence of Roma and non-Roma population as well as the forms of exclusion in three East-Central European countries by using qualitative measures on the settlement level. The anthropological fieldwork among poor families (Roma and non-Roma alike) raising children provided an opportunity to determine the structures and processes maintaining and reproducing poverty and identify the different degrees and their characteristics between social integration-inclusion on one hand and extreme poverty-exclusion on the other. The research identified different structural factors in the examined domestic settlements as the basic reasons for the poverty of the families, like absence from the primary labour market of varying duration, low income, and the low level education or qualifications not deemed valuable by the labour market. Besides these identical structural factors, the research discovered many differences between the affected areas which can only be interpreted, when embedded in the local relations.

*Marginalization in rural areas:* The rural research continued in 2014 and the professional discourse was focused on the disadvantaged rural areas and the process of their marginalization. The research was based on the understanding that the concept of marginalization provides a relevant explanatory framework in order to understand the social problems of the rural areas. Four empirical research projects were carried out in the field, which contained many components of social and spatial marginalization. According to these examinations, it may be established that social marginalization and spatial disadvantages cannot be separated from each other: the marginalization of rural spaces leads to the marginalization of individuals and groups living in the affected area, thus worsening the position of the area even more. Living in this frame of existing social and spatial structure, marginalized social groups, living in these rural areas are forced to reproduce their own marginalized position through the practices of their daily routine.

*The concept of work in the Hungarian economic geography and spatial policy:* The research explored, that the definition of work is being used in a simplified way both in the national economic geography and the mainstream economics discourse, and it needs to be broadened in order to better interpret the current Hungarian social reality. On the other hand, the research also pointed out that there are non-declining spatial disparities in the world of work under free market conditions. Thirdly, it drew attention to current public policies that very rarely take into account the spatial disparities in the labour market, and therefore, they also take part in reproducing them. The research done is essential for the critical evaluation of the public policies of the so-called “work-based society”, and in order to provide a more equal and solidary alternative.

*Health geography studies:* The health geography researches carried out with co-researchers, primarily analysed the spatial aspects of domestic disparities in health. The research incorporated both qualitative (analysis of the literature and the discourse) and quantitative (statistical analysis of the parameters of the diabetes blood tests) research methods, and it confirmed, that in Hungary, the social-economic disparities led to the reinforcement of spatial disparities in the health status after the change of regimes, and that as a spatial aspect to the national epidemiological crisis spatial disparities in health barely changed in the last 25 years. The escalation of the disparities experienced after the economic crisis brought the deterioration of health status (for example life expectancy) primarily in undeveloped areas (North-East and South-West Hungary), furthermore an increasing difficulty was observed in access to healthcare.

## **Well-being studies**

At the institute, two researches were focused on the issue of social well-being. The project titled *Well-being in the Information Society*, ended in 2014 was aimed to examine the spatial differences concerning the definition of the information society. By comparing the social relationship systems affecting the operation of the network society at the European level, it established that in the case of Hungary particularly unfavorable tendencies can be observed. Using the available statistical databases and a local information society index developed within the framework of the very project the settlement-level study of the South Transdanubian region's information infrastructure showed that the local disparities of the information infrastructure reflect the fundamental socio-economic differences between the settlements.

One of the most important results of the consortial Social Renewal Operational Programme (TÁMOP) research titled *Social Conflicts, Social Well-being and Security – Competitiveness and Social Development* was the formation of an objective well-being index, adapted to the national conditions, which made the examination of the spatial structure of well-being possible. The analysis of a database containing the answers to comparable questions collected by way of a questionnaire survey proves that among the objective indicators included in the linear regression models, which are explaining the subjective judgment of happiness, satisfaction and individual success, the role of material well-being is determinative, which also shows the linkage between the subjective and the objective dimensions of well-being. In the case of two dependent variables, the happiness-scale and the success-index, the regression analysis also proved, that residence in disadvantaged villages of the geographical periphery means a significant, negative explanation, overtaking the educational background and – in the case of the happiness-scale – labor market status also. In the measured objective well-being dimensions a marked deficit can be observed in disadvantaged subregions. People living in peripheral areas not only have worse educational, labor market and material status than those living in cities and their surrounding, but the disparities also suggest a definite decline in the development of the settlements. The research also addressed the Hungarian adaptation of the theoretical model, as well as the empirical study of the presence of the well-being functions in undeveloped areas. The researchers conclude, that although the literature on well-being has explosively risen since 2005, a single, universally accepted index with unified content (list of the subindices, basic indicators and weighting) still cannot be put together. There are some competing indicator-systems, which are elaborated according to the particular needs of different countries which try to keep the fundamental items of the original key-indices, while also trying to validate their national characteristics. The empirical research undisputedly proved, that life situations in peripheral areas are not susceptible to the issues of well-being. Undeveloped regions and their societies are burdened with such dependence, vulnerability and breakaway in terms of income generation and general access to goods, therefore these kind of problems are imperceptible and invisible to them, thus the presumable advantages (natural environment, exemption from the negative effects of urbanization, direct and more personal social relations) do not figure in their everyday lives.

## **Border region studies**

Border research, which count is a traditional topic of study in Hungary, is currently a booming topic worldwide. This is what inspired the completion of the bibliography of border researches done by the Institute. In view of the list containing more than 400 scientific publications one may confidently say, that the IRS has been one of the leading organizations when it comes to Hungarian border studies since 1986.

The institute closed three successful cross-border cooperation programs in 2014, which contributed to the expansion of the Croatian and Serbian partner network, and to the intensive transboundary embeddedness of the research units. From the Croatian-Hungarian IPA-projects the REGPHOSYS research on the potential of photovoltaic systems focused on the environmental, economic and social proceeds of these energy producing systems. The increase of the renewable energy utilization plays a key role in the EU2020 strategy. Emphasizing the issue of renewable energy does not only have an environmental effect, but it strengthens the R+D+I sector through research and innovation, and through the production of the equipment it also impacts the development of the green economy. The results of the research show, that the effects are not in all respects positive and uniform on the two sides of the Croatian-Hungarian border. The Hungarian regulation still contains more barriers than the Croatian, and this is the biggest obstacle for the spread of photovoltaic energy producing power plants. However the Hungarian regulatory environment is favorable when it comes to small, household level power plants. The capability of forming the environmental consciousness is present in Hungary, however one has to take the danger of deepening the social inequality into account.

The project titled *Drava Region Unified Planning Toolkit* dealt with two possible development methods for peripheral rural areas characterized by unfavorable social and economic indicators: the production and sale of local products and the opportunities offered by local tourism. Agriculture plays a determining role on both sides of the border, but in accordance with central policy, small-scale developments have bigger support in Hungary, while the local product market is not developed in either of the areas. The extensive nature conservation areas could make the otherwise not excessively attractive cross-border region an interesting site for alternative tourism. Tourism in itself cannot serve as the basis of regional economic development unless it is linked with local production. Three strategies can be connected to the local production in the area. In the poorest settlements it could be used to supply local demand for food, without market access being a priority. One of the two strategies connected to the market, is a local economic development strategy (the formation of local supply chains), and the other is the production of specialized, high value-added goods for global market gaps. The DUPLO project set up a common, further developable platform for stakeholders, which assists the promotion of the region and its producers, as well as spatial planning.

The most important aim of the research titled *Toward a Local Labor Market Policy Based Approach in a Cross-Border Rural Regions* was to contribute to the elaboration of a development policy based on the local labor market, which can put peripheral border regions on the path to sustainable development. In order to achieve this, the research examined the situation, characteristics of the social groups excluded from the labor market along the Serbian-Hungarian border, as well as their potential to reintegrate, the possible role of cross-border relations, the differences between the two sides of the border and it also collected good practices and examples of reintegration and submitted proposals on the utilization of the capacities of those excluded from the labor market. The research confirmed, that the social and labor market problems on the two sides of the border are grave, even critical in a number of cases. The biggest problem of the area is in general the lack of workplaces, although signs of structural unemployment can also be observed. The success of labor-market interventions aiming to solve these problems is questionable, and local initiatives only brought temporary success too and are not able to compensate for the main issue, i.e. the general lack of workplaces. However it is partly the available workforce's social characteristics which are limiting development opportunities. Part of those, who have been excluded from the labor

market are still active in various segments of the grey and black economy, although these possibilities are also contracting nowadays. The almost only chance to break out is working abroad, which further weakens the regions' chances to catch-up. The LOLAMAR research established that without serious national reforms and targeted support for local economic development local initiatives (which the project gave concrete proposals on) will not be successful in the long term on either side.

## **b) Dialogue between science and society**

The target group of the dissemination of the ÁROP project was composed of professionals in the field of local public services and politicians alike. The dialogues, training courses and workshops contributed to their scientific knowledge related to the organization of local public services and management methods.

Results of the complex research of rural areas was published via several scientific and informative forums, particularly in the special issue of "A Falu", and the Rural Development Booklet series issued by the National Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Institute (NAKVI). The series included 10 booklets of which 5 were prepared by researchers of the IRS. The booklets summarised the practical knowledge of the characteristics of the Hungarian rural regions and their development potential, the features of rural marginalisation and poverty and the potential tools of intervention, the cases of rural innovation, and the organisational framework of multi-sectoral rural planning. The results of this rural research got countrywide publicity e.g. the article ("Ablakon kidobott milliárdok") of the daily newspaper Magyar Nemzet.

All researches of the IRS which dealt with the problems of the periphery, marginalisation and the changing role of the state analysed the regions affected by increasing spatial and social disparities and the local response, and the strategies formulated by local governments and communities, households and enterprises. This way the empirical studies themselves carried out a dialogue between the world of science and society.

The INNOVAL project promoted ITC based pilot products and services in elderly care, utilising the methodology of open innovation, and supporting the participants in turning their project ideas into a market product. At the final conference of the project, where these pilots were introduced the representatives of elderly care institutions were also participating and gave a positive feedback confirming their usefulness.

The aim of the INVOLEN project is to encourage children and members of the older generation to create a locally based ICT game located on a nature conservation site. The project raises awareness of environmental protection, the nature and the climate through the involvement of experts and the knowledge transfer by the senior participants. Students from five primary and secondary schools took part in the pilot phase held in Győr. According to the methodology, the project partners from five European countries announced a competition, for which 11 groups registered from Hungary. The publication summarizing the results of the SEERISK project can be used by the settlements as a handbook on the daily practise of disaster management.

The public got some basic information on the reasons why labour disparities also have a spatial dimension, and on the way these differences originate from the dispersed spatial development of capitalism, and on the reason why this structure remained unchanged after the change of regimes in Hungary, and how the national public policies reproduce these disparities. The results were presented at the event of the Budapest Science Meetup which received wide publicity in the online media.

In terms of the popularization of science, two departments of the Hungarian Geographical Society (Kisalföld – Győr and Körösvidék – Békéscsaba) organised 9 lectures (5 in Győr, 4 in Békéscsaba) covering current social and environmental geography topics both as hosts and a co-hosts.

In 2014, there was one exhibition (Szabadvári Attila graphic artist “Pars Vitae”) held at the MTA MADI Gallery in Győr. This well recognised venue has a growing number of visitors, some of them interested fans, others professionals or collectors of geometric.

### **III. A presentation of national and international relations**

#### **Domestic co-operation**

The fruitful and mutually advantageous co-operation between decision-making centres of spatial policy and the IRS has more than 20 years of history. Government and sub-government institutions related to regional development have continuously demonstrated an interest in the research topics outlined by the founding document of the institute, getting new scientific support for their actual development activities. The social utility of regional science and the IRS is strengthened because the professional background of government decisions requires the permanent study of the issues related to regional development and regional policy which not only provides practical results, but also offers valuable contributions to the basic researches of the institute. The IRS is a key actor of the innovation chain made up of the stages of research, development, and competitive spatial policy application. Based on this background the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies signed a framework contract with the Ministry for National Economy on March 5, 2014. The objective of the contract is the promotion of the mutual exchange of knowledge and experiences through planning, strategic and professional co-operation and contribution to the professional establishment of spatial planning. The Centre for Economic and Regional Studies is represented by the director of IRS in this project.

Especially because of the planning activities, the IRS paid particular attention to the beginning of the new EU programming period which also required increased social activity, direct involvement in programming and program evaluation. The institute worked on the county development concepts and programmes for Baranya and Győr-Moson-Sopron counties, and on the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy of Győr and Kecskemét. The four subsidiaries of the institute were the co-organizers of a series of workshops where local governments, enterprises, higher education and development experts discussed the potential future directions of the development of Budapest, Kecskemét, Pécs, Székesfehérvár.

The most important scientific product of the Institute is the journal *Tér és Társadalom* (Space and Society). With its diverse and multidisciplinary nature the journal spreads the results of regional science and research. *Tér és Társadalom* is the leading forum of the profession and the main organiser of regional studies in Hungary. At least 150 professionals are involved directly in the work of publishing the journal (authors, editors, peer reviewers). The number of subscribers significantly increased when the Hungarian Regional Science Association opted to provide it to its members free of charge.

The central library of the Institute operates in Pécs. This is where the most important social science journals that deal with space are made available in full in Hungary. Therefore the services of the library are facing great demand on behalf of Hungarian professionals of regional studies. The Institute runs a regional development library focusing on border areas in

Győr, a Hungarian-Serbian regional development information and documentation centre in Békéscsaba and a smaller library in Kecskemét.

The position occupied by the Institute regarding higher education in regional studies is decisive. Researchers of the IRS are involved in 10 doctoral schools as lecturers or supervisors. The IRS researchers are engaged as core members in 2 schools, as programme leaders in another 2 and in one case as head of the schools. The accreditation of doctoral schools, and getting core members are still a strategic interest of the Institute.

### **International relations**

Research groups of the Institute participated in 2 FP7 programmes, 3 ESPON projects and 10 international cooperations. In addition, the Institute entered into negotiations with 6 consortium partners on future co-operations concerning H2020 applications. The Institute organised seminars, roundtable discussions, working group consultations with international attendants in relation to ongoing international projects in 2014. The organisation of international events was a major task for the community of the Institute as well.

In 2014 the IRS established closer relations with the following partners: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Nordregio (Stockholm), Institute of Geography and Spatial Management Jagiellonian University (Kraków), University of Economics in Katowice, Faculty of Economics Technical University of Košice, Department of Public Administration and Regional Development University of Economics in Bratislava. Within the framework of the RegPol<sup>2</sup> Marie Curie-project there is a regular ongoing co-operation with the consortia partners.

The international publication activities include the results of large scale consortial projects as well as the already established research relations. Based on the success of the co-operation, the IRS expects further joint research opportunities.

The IRS was involved in two academic bilateral co-operation schemes with Romanian and French partners in 2014. Within the Romanian-Hungarian program there was a large scale conference held on regional disparities. The French-Hungarian joint research dealt with the differences between the two countries in the potential of local economic development in rural regions.

The IRS and its researchers continues to be actively involved in international scientific associations both individually and on the institutional level by participating in main events and annual congresses related to regional science (RSAI, ERSA, RSA, IGU).

Due to the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014 program an international conference on Regional Development in Central-Europe and Russia – Regional Disparities in the Science and Innovation was held at the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Moscow. The event was organised in co-operation by the IRS, the Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Novosibirsk), and the Halle Institute for Economic Research (Leibniz Association). 85 people participated in the conference which provided a detailed overview of the factors shaping the competitiveness of the Central and Eastern European transition, the regional characteristics of R&D policy, the relationship of research management and regional governance, and the tools of regional policy regarding innovation. One of the objectives of the event was the preparation for conducting joint research later on within the H2020 programme.

James W. Scott, visiting professor in Pécs in 2012-2013 supported by the HAS, has taken over the leadership of the Research Group in Border and Borderlands Studies of the IRS as starting in 2014. The group organised its first conference in Nyíregyháza where Professor

Scott held his presentation in Hungarian. The Centre for Economic and Regional Studies submitted a successful international co-operation application to OTKA in which researchers from all subsidiaries of the Centre participated. The novum of the research is that it integrates the formerly individual border studies into a common framework.

#### **IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2014**

The IRS, as in previous years, has been actively engaged in the elaboration of project proposals. Beside domestic financial opportunities, participation in international programmes and projects has increased, which contributed to strengthening the Institute's foreign partnerships, its continuous international visibility, and the direct participation of research fellows in the global scientific life.

Due to the beginning of the new Structural Funds programming period and the resulting scarcity of relevant tenders, the number of passed and winning proposals slightly decreased in the reporting year. At the same time, the number of individual scholarship applications and financial assistance for book publishing has increased significantly. Preparation of some larger scale projects (e.g. H2020) has already required substantial capacities. Until the end of 2014 two consorcium applications were passed. The successful research proposals and contracted projects in 2014 are the following:

- The OTKA research titled Change and Continuity in Hungarian Spatial Imaginaries: Nationality, Territoriality, Development and the Politics of Borders is implemented in an international cooperation with the University of Eastern Finland. The socio-economic development of Hungary has to face many challenges by border and geopolitical issues. Due to the new European situation, Hungary has to rethink its regional and economic relationships, cooperations within the Central European space, and the evolution of the rights and interest of Hungarian ethnic minorities of neighbouring countries.
- Another three year OTKA research titled International Migration from Hungary and its Impacts on Rural Societies deals with the cross-border migration of labour from rural regions lagging behind. The research focuses on the types of migrations and the effects of migration on the family level and on that of localities.
- Due to the bilateral French-Hungarian partnership application of the HAS, a research titled Local Economic Development and Territorial Capital in France and Hungary in an Institutionalist Approach has begun.
- Based on the successful public tender issued by the Ministry for National Economy, the IRS has carried out the monitoring of the national spatial and regional planning system.
- The West Hungarian Research Department of the IRS had a successful application on the pilot project titled County Economic Development Report set by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Győr-Moson-Sopron County.
- Due to the restricted tender by the Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority the IRS is working out a model to evaluate the local benefits of projects on energy efficiency and utilisation of renewable energy resources.
- The financial background of Tér és Társadalom, the quarterly scientific journal of the IRS was based partly on applications (HAS IX. Section of Economics and Law, National Cultural Fund) and partly on individual support (Hungarian Regional Science Association, Vasi Volán Plc., BHF Európa Ltd.).

## V. List of important publications in 2014

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