

# **2007–2013: HUNGARIAN MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE WITH OR WITHOUT REGIONS?**

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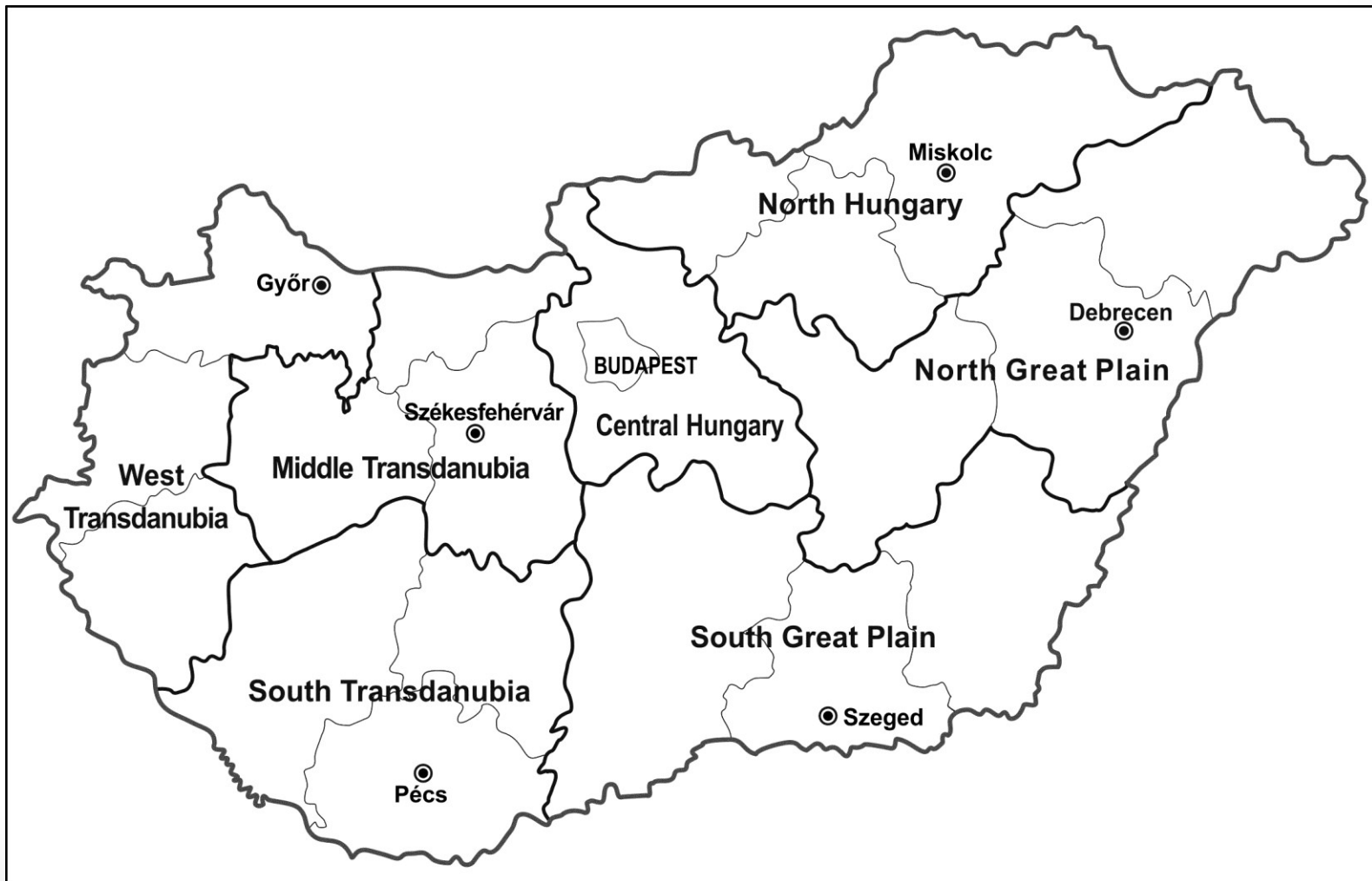
# content of the presentation

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# foreign and Hungarian scholars + the CoR on MLG

Scholar	MLG as	NUTS 2 relevance
Hooghe and Marks Kjaer	tool for EU integration subject of European integration studies	NUTS 2 regions <b>contribute to the operation of the state</b> at sub- and supranational levels
Van der Kolk	concept according to functional and territorial dimensions	NUTS 2 regions – in subsidiarity – <b>exercise state functions</b> at the territorial level where these functions are the most effective
Schmidt	tool for Europeanisation	NUTS 2 regions <b>play smaller or bigger role in EU policy</b>
Pálné Kovács	place for the regional aspects of exercising power	Hungarian NUTS 2 regions <b>are better suited for EU Cohesion Policy</b> than regional administration
Kaiser	choice between democracy and effectiveness	Hungarian NUTS 2 regions with <b>possibilities towards regional administration</b>
CoR	building Europe in partnership	NUTS 2 regions <b>are supported by the MLG culture CoR proposes</b> for regional decentralisation

# Hungarian processes influencing the NUTS 2 regions in 2007–2013



# strengthening the Hungarian NUTS 2 regions (1996–2011)

Law	NUTS 2 level bodies	Competences
1996/XXI	regional development council	bodies of <b>bottom-up nature</b> (more members from territorial than from central level – in South Transdanubia: 3 counties, 3 chambers of commerce and industry, 6 local government associations, 11 line ministries: 12 territorial vs. 11 central), the establishment of the council is <b>optional</b> ; operate <b>in concordance with the county development councils</b> ; <b>elaborate regional development concepts</b> , take part in the preparation of spatial plans
	regional development agency	defined as the “ <b>working organisation of the regional development council</b> ”
1999/XCII	regional development council	– bodies of <b>centralised nature</b> (more members from central than from territorial level – in South Transdanubia: 3 counties, 3 cities of county rank, 3 local government associations, 1 regional tourism committee, 11 line ministries: 10 territorial vs. 11 central), the establishment of the council is <b>compulsory</b> ; + <b>co-ordinates the economic development</b> of the region; + <b>harmonises the interests</b> of the different (level) stakeholders; + takes part in the <b>implementation of development programmes</b> (intermediary body tasks, allocation of grants), for this purpose enters into contracts with the competent line ministries; + <b>intervenes</b> in the case of <b>social and economic crises</b>
2004/LXXV	regional development council	+ right to express <b>own opinion on the allocation of the domestic and EU grants</b> (in the case of EU grants the highest level involvement was expressing its own opinion, allocation decisions were not taken by these councils); + for the purpose of developing the region it may <b>enter into agreement with foreign regions</b> and could be partner in such projects; + makes proposals for the (central) government on the <b>representatives of the CoR</b> ; + can take part in the <b>implementation of the EU co-financed Operative Programmes</b>

# Centralisation and weakening the Hungarian NUTS 2 regions (2012–)

Law	NUTS 2 level bodies	Competences
2011/CXCVIII	regional development council	– ceased to exist
	new: regional development consultation forum (successor, in some respects, of the regional development council, but without legal personality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– manages issues in need of regional level decision, position</li> <li>– co-ordinates the decision-making of county self-governments</li> <li>– advocates the common decision of county self-governments as the position of the region</li> <li>– makes proposals for the (central) government on the representatives of CoR</li> </ul>
	regional development agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ceased to exist as a working organisation of the regional development council, became a background institution of the Ministry for National Development – actually, before the 2011 amendment, through different contracts, it was de facto subordinated to the NDA</li> <li>+ keeps continuous contacts with the bodies of administration, in order to map development needs and resources</li> <li>+ organises the management of (development) programmes, keeps up-to-date record on their implementation</li> <li>+ in the framework of separate agreements, manages (development) programmes</li> </ul>

# Hungarian NUTS 2 regions after 2014?

- stronger „decentralisation” towards NUTS 3 units
- counties as target areas for EU funding (Territorial and Spatial Planning Operational Programme)
- regional development agencies will further support the EU (cohesion) planning and programme implementation
- weak, but still existing NUTS 2 regions prevail for only statistical purpose

**Thank you for your attention!**