

# **REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES IN THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES**

**Pécs, 24–25 February 2011**

## **Invitation**

Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences,  
Hungarian Regional Science Association and the  
Faculty of Business and Economics of University of Pécs cordially invites you to the

### **Conference on “Regional transformation processes in the Western Balkan countries”.**

The Conference will take place from 24-25 February, 2011 in the Great Hall of the Faculty of Business and Economics of University of Pécs.

Participation at the Conference is free of charge, however, registration is required.

The Conference is organised in the framework of the project titled „The socialisation of regional science”, whose beneficiary is the Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The Conference is supported by the European Commission, and co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Ministry of National Development.

## **Objectives**

The Conference analyses the transformation of the spatial structure of the countries of the Western Balkans as well as the factors contributing to it. A notable feature of recent decades has been an increase in spatial disparities, and, clearly, a detailed study of these disparities is invariably needed before the implementation of modern spatial policy.

The earlier (tenfold) differences in income between regions in the former Yugoslavia continue to grow, but, more favourably, in addition to the relatively peaceful political conditions, other key factors in the development of the Balkans may be the strengthening of cohesion and the effective implementation of structural policy.

The Conference organised jointly by the Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Hungarian Regional Science Association and the Faculty of Economics and Business of University of Pécs, will be held at the University of Pécs.

The objectives of the Conference will be to:

- give an updated analysis of the regional differences of Balkan countries,
- exchange experience on reasons of strengthening inequalities,
- summarize political and institutional consequences of change of regimes in the Western Balkans,
- outline the development perspectives for the regions,
- identify future research topics for scientific co-operation.

Presentations will build upon results of the research project undertaken by the Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences and OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, Employment and Labour Markets.

The conference aims to foster opportunities for discussion and dialogue among policy makers, researchers, students, tertiary education practitioners, professional associations, representatives of academic staff and other stakeholders.

### **Provisional programme**

Three plenary sessions, including one for keynote speakers, will be organised. In this way, participants will be able to follow experiences presented in the Conference. The languages of the Conference are Hungarian and English, interpretation into Serb will be provided.

### **Keynote speakers**

BARBIERI, STEFANO, head of OECD LEED Trento Centre, Trento  
*The new Balkans in the new Europe*

BECSEY, ZSOLT, secretary of the state, Ministry of National Economy, Budapest  
*Balkan policy of the Republic of Hungary*

DUBARLE, PATRICK, former principal administrator at the OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, secretary of the OECD Working Party on Regional Development Policies, Paris  
*Regional development and enterprises*

HAJDÚ, ZOLTÁN, scientific advisor, Centre for Regional Studies HAS, Pécs  
*Political changes and new states in the Balkans*

HORVÁTH, GYULA, professor, University of Pécs, director, Centre for Regional Studies HAS, Pécs  
*Forms and reasons of inequalities in the Balkan regions*

PÁSZTOR, ISTVÁN, vice-president of the Executive Council of Autonomous Province Vojvodina and provincial secretary for economy, Novi Sad  
*The development difficulties of a region in the Balkans: the case of Vojvodina*

SCHAUSBERGER, FRANZ, professor, Chairman of the Board, Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Salzburg  
*Subsidiarity, regionalism, decentralisation in the Balkans*

Representative of the European Commission (to be requested)  
*EU negotiations with the Balkan countries*

### **Topics of the further sessions**

- Territorial and local government
- Urban and rural development
- Regional supports and aids
- Labour markets and demography
- Local economic development
- Regional components of main sectors of the national economy (agriculture, industry, transport)
- Tertiary sector development (banking, tourism, higher education and R&D)
- Natural resources and environment

## **Conference venue**

University of Pécs, Faculty of Economics and Business, The Great Hall  
Pécs, Rákóczi street 80.

## **Registration**

Participation at the Conference is free of charge, however, registration is required at the internet site of the Conference: [www.rkk.hu/en/balkan\\_conference.html](http://www.rkk.hu/en/balkan_conference.html)

## **Local organization**

Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, [www.rkk.hu](http://www.rkk.hu)

MS KATALIN SÜLE, chief executive-expert

E-mail: [sule@rkk.hu](mailto:sule@rkk.hu)

Phone: +36 72 523 824

Fax: +36 72 523 803

## **Accommodation**

Applicants from non EU27 Balkan countries:

Accommodation costs will be covered as required in individual circumstances, which you may indicate on the registration form.

Applicants from other countries:

To be booked individually.

The conference service provider: the [Hotel Palatinus City Center](#) \*\*\*.

More information about the opportunities at [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com).