

INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES

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OF THE
HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

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ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT

2012

I. Main duties of the research unit in 2012

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

2012 was a year of changes. With the reorganisation, the autonomous functioning of the Institute ceased. In May, Head of Institute Gyula Horváth resigned after 15 years. The staff reduction caused by the reorganisation affected mostly the administrative staff. The Debrecen Institute had to be closed. The founder of the Hungarian school of regional studies and the CRS, György Enyedi passed away in September, his demise is an enormous loss for the Institute. The decreasing budgetary financing was compensated by funds received from research projects. However, funds received from research projects played an overly predominant role in the operation of the Institute. The continuous elaboration of project proposals and the realisation of projects require significant capacities, therefore the individual performance and scientific promotion of researchers are affected in a negative way. Despite the unfavourable circumstances, public officials of the IRS managed to perform their duties with honour.

The Institute considered its public tasks, i.e. basic research as its main priority in the year 2012 as well. To showcase its results, it planned the publication of 3 monographs, 10 other volumes, some 300 research papers, its Discussion Papers series, the Regions of the Carpathian Basin monograph series and the continuous publication of its journal, *Tér és Társadalom*. These tasks were successfully accomplished despite the difficulties surrounding the reorganisations. The number of references to the publications of our Institute was outstandingly high, 1799 in 2012.

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 laying 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 seven decentralised research units of CRS considered the analysis of specific territorial features to be a major task beyond their own research profile.

In 2012, emphasis was placed on research on the following areas: East Central Europe (spatial structure, competitiveness, Centroepe region), homestead areas, the territorial and network aspects of innovation (role of governance, linkages between universities and enterprises), the spatial aspects of the current questions related to society (urban network, institutionalisation of agglomerations, brownfield zones), the specifics and further development of territorial governance, the European Territorial Vision (scenarios concerning the Danube area) and investigations contributing to the international competitiveness of Hungarian spatial development.

Higher education was given high priority in 2012 as well, 35 research fellows of IRS – among them 8 professors – organised or participated as supervisors in doctoral and masters courses.

The Institute planned the organisation of fifteen international, twenty-five domestic scientific and five cultural events. The year 2012 was highly significant from the aspect of international events and cooperative linkages with Switzerland, and cooperation with several East Central European countries has also intensified.

II. Outstanding research and other results in 2012

a) Outstanding research and other results

Specific problems related to the institutionalisation of agglomerations

The HSRF basic research whose objective was the modernisation of spatial policy was concluded with the publication of an individual volume in 2012. The analysis fills a gap in the area of the quite modest urban research available, since there is a shortage of empirical results on the way domestic large cities have fulfilled their spatial organisational role during the recent decades. The research performed in three large cities (Győr, Miskolc, Pécs) highlighted the fact that the domestic public administration does not dispose of efficient governance tools facilitating a closer cooperation between cities and regions, and informal networks comprised of economic stakeholders and self-governments are not able to fulfil this function either. The research demonstrated that the role of cities in economic organisation is dominant only in the more advanced areas, but overall, the domestic centralised management system hinders the development of a polycentric urban network which could serve as an important factor of economic competitiveness and innovation.

Innovation-friendly governance in Hungary

The objective of the HSRF research was to survey the central and regional governance of innovation during the past decade. The theoretical frameworks were tested on empirical databases compiled during the research. The empirical results verified the hypotheses. One of the most significant premises was that modern governance theories, economic and innovation development paradigms necessarily reflected the value system of the society in which they were born. It was justified that innovative performance was closely related to the quality of governance, the conditions provided by the system of governance and the scope of action of innovation policy. Centralisation in the national innovation system is also dominant in the areas of management, planning and strategy elaboration; therefore, regional governance has remained strongly subordinate to central control. The innovative role of universities and the attachment to their region, beyond the area of training and research, manifests itself in regional institutions and local governance as well. No positive changes have occurred in the partnerships of innovation stakeholders, nor from the aspect of trust; growing centralisation resulted in a diminution of initial regional institutional developments and network building efforts.

University-industry research and development linkages

On the basis of the empirical analysis performed in three Hungarian universities about the collaboration of universities and enterprises in R&D programmes, it can be stated that participation in R&D programmes has broadened the partnership network of universities, while cooperation with foreign companies remained rare and occasional, and showed no increase during the past years. Research on foreign R&D outsourcing has justified that albeit the R&D outsourcing activities of multinational companies have increased towards China and several other developing countries, Eastern European countries and among them Hungary have maintained their initial strong positions. The R&D activities outsourced in more underdeveloped countries tend to use highly qualified employees in the area of development and not in basic research, in a sectorally and spatially differentiated manner. The economic crisis has affected multinational companies' R&D sourcing activities; in certain cases there has been an increas-

ing activity on their part (such as basic research in OECD countries), while in other cases a reduction of development activities was detected. In Hungary, where the growing role of Hungarian firms and the decreasing role of foreign companies can be observed in the case of every index since 2004, foreign capital still has an exceptionally predominant weight in research and development.

Spatial processes in Budapest

The investigation of the spatial structure and processes of the capital city and its agglomeration constitutes a traditional research area of the Institute. Researchers' areas of interest were focused on questions related to reindustrialisation, competitiveness and governance. The basic hypothesis of the exploratory research related to the competitiveness programme *Creative Economy, Creative Region* was that creative and cultural economy and high added value activities were not only categories of analysis but political categories as well, providing the basis of economic policy decisions, sectoral and spatial development in Budapest. The analysis of district development policy documents demonstrated that these expressions were present in development policy ideas and discourses on district-level development. The research explored the spatial location of the creative economy and set up conclusions about the dangers and possibilities inherent in the inclusion of the creative economy in urban policy.

The transformation of the brownfield areas of Budapest

The research on brownfield areas related to the competitiveness programme demonstrated that the upgrading of brownfield areas was linked to the effective, expected or anticipated emergence of the creative economy in the local policy practice of Budapest and district policy. On the basis of the results of qualitative analyses it can be stated that the nature of the transformation does not necessarily guarantee quality upgrading; brownfield functional change does suggest evident spatial revaluation which would be significant from urban structural aspects. The spectacular construction of shopping malls and offices in the proximity of the downtown and the spreading residential areas point towards this direction; however, in the external districts involved, functional change does not evidently lead to the creation of a high-quality urban environment and labour force at the same time. This is the case when commercial service functions are implanted in former industrial, depot zones and are scattered in a disorganised manner, without any major facility development, which leads to the destruction of the city landscape. The question of development potential (rate of built area) and parking facilities is not resolved, and even if functional change occurs, the quality of land use does not show an evident upgrading. Value creation is not obvious in case of the residential function either; life quality often remains at the level of building estates. However, a transformation occurred in the case of former industrial zones maintaining their functions, which upgraded the area through the continuation of the original activity in a quality environment. This mainly characterises the traditional industrial districts where larger industrial areas remained in the property of a single owner. Certain spatial structural elements proved to be dynamising factors in brownfield transformations. Such factors are proximity to the city center, or in some cases the physical distance between public traffic arteries. The greatest surprise was caused by the Danube, which, against every expectation, is not an absolute dynamising factor according to the interviewees and the explored facts, moreover, due to its difficult accessibility it is sometimes considered a hindrance in terms of modernisation opportunities.

Experimentation projects in the Centrope region

The Centrope region covering four countries with Vienna as its centre is the hub of Central European spatial development. The experimentation projects were aimed at attaining emblematic and visible results in the objectives of Centrope, providing in-depth knowledge and contributing to the creation of operable structures. The Győr Institute played a dominant role in two out of the three experimentation projects. In the framework of the Triennial Regional Development Report project, four thematic and three regional development reports were prepared in English, German, Czech, Hungarian and Slovak languages. The Institute collaborated in the elaboration of each report and assumed the coordination of one regional report and the compilation of the thematic research and development reports. This type of cooperation provided a regular transnational analysis which depicted both economic and labour market changes. The strategic proposals elaborated during the project may provide an adequate basis for the further expansion of the region as a highly integrated economic area. The region's satisfactory performance has been maintained in 2012, post-financial crisis as well, with good prospects for the coming two years. The added value increase in the area still exceeds the 2% limit, and Centrope's attraction of foreign direct investment does not show any oscillation either. The possible continuation of the project may provide the monitoring of the area's economic and labour market. The biennial project *Infrastructure Needs Assessment Tool* (INAT), after reviewing the strategic documents and identified the infrastructure needs of cross-border areas involved, elaborated strategic frameworks for political decision-makers in view of promoting the integration of the region during the coming one and a half decades. The study registered by researchers provided the basis for the document titled „Strategy and Action 2013+” which was approved by the political body of Centrope on October 15, 2012 in Pamhagen.

Researching homestead areas

A new opportunity arose in 2012 for investigating a traditional research area of the Institute, the transformation, situation and development opportunities of homesteads in the Great Plain. Concerning the National Homestead Development Programme, the researchers declared that even though the programme in itself was unfit for tackling the grave ecological-natural and socio-economic problems of exterior urban areas, it offered excellent opportunities for emblematic local initiatives, whose spillover effects could exceed the direct impacts of the programme. During the work, new data describing the features of the homestead economy were compared with the Institute's results on the investigation of homesteads in 2005. As concerns the development tendencies of homestead farms it can be declared that the transformation of the economic organisation of homestead firms is in harmony with the national tendencies, which is due mainly to the administrative changes affecting licensed traditional small-scale producers. The position of the various forms of economic organisation in land use has basically remained unchanged. In case of homestead farms, the spectacular process of the concentration of farms is visible; meanwhile, the growth of incomes does not attain the growth rate of farm size. According to the opinions of individual small-scale farms and official statistics, they are unable to employ sufficient labour, and consequently, their significance is higher in terms of self-employment. The majority of firms which submitted their project proposals to the homestead development programme are situated at the threshold of social and competitive agricultural firms; therefore, they can only be assisted in the process of becoming real market oriented farms. Kecskemét and its region have shown significant changes in terms of exterior urban areas, its world of homesteads has become a mosaic-type area. There is a decreasing proportion of „classic” Kiskun homesteads which concentrate both residential and economic functions. The exterior areas of the micro-region are diverse; the population inhabiting the

homesteads is quite heterogeneous. The situation of homestead-type exterior areas has significantly deteriorated during the recent years; it has become more and more difficult for their inhabitants to earn a living. Notwithstanding the unfavourable processes, the homesteads dominating the area may become significant settlement factors as excellent terrains of European-type rural development. The exterior area of the microregional centre, Kecskemét, constitutes a special spatial unit in the homestead world, which is one of the most complex and diverse scattered settlement area in national terms as well. Here, the problems related to landscape use, social conflicts of exterior urban areas, problems arising from the heterogeneous demands and expectations of the population, questions related to the separation of segregated neighbourhoods are much more acute than in smaller settlements. In fact, the problem of homesteads along the large town's internal and external borders currently belongs to the realm of urban development.

Selective migration and unbalanced gender rates in rural areas

The ESPON programme's SEMIGRA research was motivated by the fact that selective migration of social genders causes a „female shortage” in the age groups of young people in the peripheral, mostly lagging rural regions of Europe. The research investigated the causes and impacts of this phenomenon, the expectations of young people living in urban areas in five regions of four countries, and elaborated proposals concerning the formulation of social and gender-sensitive regional policies. The project provided opportunities for researchers to approach the problem of social exclusion and spatial backwardness from a special aspect, i.e. selective migration. Due to selective migration, the previous structure of local labour markets was disrupted, the more mobile active young males have almost completely disappeared from the supply side, while in the case of families, the outmigration of wage-earning males resulted in the transformation of the traditional family model (assimilation of father and mother roles, elder children fulfilling adult roles at an earlier stage and becoming breadwinners, inability to live according to the classic family model, frequent difficulties of earning a living). In contrast with more developed European regions where the outmigration of young women is due to a heterogeneous levels of service provision, in our country, the cause behind the migration of (highly qualified) women in the Northern Great Plain is the labour market which renders it very difficult to find a job. The need to integrate social and gender aspects in development projects was given no emphasis in the proposals contained in expert opinions concerning the creation of jobs, training, youth policy and rural development. Therefore, the most significant proposal of the researchers was that even though there was a need for development programmes targeted at the youth, male-female equality or the situation of women in the region; the specific needs of the young generations with their male and female segments and the gender impact of policies must be taken into consideration in the planning of each regional and micro-regional, settlement development policy and intervention. This requires the operation of a system which investigates each sectoral development in relation to agricultural policy, and enforces the horizontal principle of equal opportunity for youth and women in the articulation of each objective, the elaboration of each programme and the concrete measures as well.

The causes and specifics of migration in Vojvodina

The objective of the triennial research performed in collaboration with research fellows of the HAS RCAES Geographical Institute was to detect the specifics of migration from Vojvodina towards Hungary. The TRANSMIG project supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) interpreted migration as an ethnic migration process occurring in transna-

tional space where the practices of various migrating groups could be identified with various ideal types of migration (migration-immigration, return, diaspora and transnational migration). The research based on qualitative methods placed a particular emphasis on uncovering the relations of migration, memory and identity. The results published during the reporting year were focused mostly on migration with educational purposes due to the permanent existence of this form of migration and its political and social significance.

The spatial and settlement policy of former socialist countries – The problems of East Central Europe from a historical point of view

The objective of the research *German Mezzogiorno – Supplements to the natural history of East German regional development* was to explore how various eras had left their mark on the recent regional development of East German provinces, what kinds of spatial transformation occurred, what factors could be detected behind the changes, and how spatial disparities evolved in this vast, but backward, area in developed Europe. The metropolitan network has always played an important role in the transformation of German regions throughout centuries. German metropolises continuously renewed the strong positions which they had obtained in regional organisation and the spread of innovation during the era of the industrial revolution, and successfully retained control according to modern paradigms of spatial development. The development history of Germany provides another useful lesson in the regional development of industry. Since the end of the 19th century, industrialisation (manufacturing industry and industry-related services) has played the major role in the evolution of the spatial structure. The institutionalisation of the decentralised organisation of industry was a prerequisite for strengthening regional autonomy. There was only one period in the development history of Germany, the decade-plus era of the Third Reich, when economic policy refrained from using this development potential. On the available historical evidence of the effective operation of cooperative mechanisms of action of institutional, sectoral and inter-settlement interactions, the development path of the new German provinces cannot be considered analogous with the Mezzogiorno phenomenon.

The territorial dimension was a determining factor of 19th–20th century Romanian policy. During state socialism, the transformation of nature (in Stalinist spirit), socialist economic transformation and the homogenisation of society formed a coherent system. Settlement policy synthesised these processes. The development of the capital city, county seats and industrial cities was pursued in connection with the administrative reform of 1968. A formerly neglected specific feature of Romanian settlement policy was that it was the Hungarians who had introduced socialist urban theory and Soviet development practice to the Romanian elite already during the period between the two World Wars. The often cited „village destruction” was pursued in connection with the transformation of nature (construction of water storage ponds and tunnels), the great transformation which had been announced failed to occur due to a lack of resources and opportunities.

Multi-purpose struggle – Situation of the micro-regional system of public education

Multi-purpose microregional associations became one of the major organisers of public education between 2004 and 2007. Financial aid proved to be extremely efficient: associations were formed in each microregion during these short three years. But what happened exactly? Were these real or only formal collaborations? Has the quality of education improved? Have more people benefited from higher level services? Have the opportunities of those in need improved under the aegis of microregions? The answers to these questions were based on research performed in ten dominantly rural microregions with heterogeneous settlement and

social structure. The research commissioned by the Institute for Educational Research and Development documents an era which already belongs to the past. The establishment or the refusal of associations aimed at maintaining the operation of nurseries and schools was laden with strife, affecting all stakeholders involved (decision-makers, representatives of institutions, parents). The proportion and type of winners and losers in these struggles varied from one microregion to another. The case studies on the zones with small villages justified that even following the birth of associations and the end of a new wave of the school closures, one question still remains: are and should small schools be maintained in small villages, particularly in a segregated settlement environment? The volume summarising the research results provides a diagnosis on the half-decade-long functioning of microregional associations, describing the opportunities and constrained paths, and offers valuable lessons for the coordinators and decision-makers of future public educational processes as well.

Critical geographies, from international theoretical approaches to domestic experiences

Research dealing with the comparison of domestic research experiences with theoretical approaches to critical geography continue to gain a strong emphasis in the Institute's activities. In the framework of the investigation of the ideological system of social geography, the nodes of the transformation of international and domestic feminist geography and the newest trends of Hungarian social geography were reviewed. The theoretical investigation of the transformation of Hungarian urban regions interpreted in terms of centre-periphery relations as a part of the „production of space” was continued in the framework of critical urban geography research. On the basis of the research it was justified that scientific and political discourse focusing on competition, economic growth and economic success did not reveal the unequal power relations of metropolitan–non-metropolitan areas, and was not coherent with the original definition of metropolis used in radical geography.

New ESPON research

ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observatory Network) is the largest-scale spatial development research programme of the European Union. The Institute participated in three new research programmes during 2012 with the following themes: territorial governance, territorial scenarios, and poverty. In the framework of the project *ET2050 – Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe* IRS elaborated the bibliography of the Danube region and the situational analysis of its transnational area, and the adaptation of the scenarios to the respective region. In the framework of the TANGO – Territorial Approaches for New Governance programme, various territorial governance models were analysed through international comparisons and case studies. The indirect benefit of these projects is that they provide an insight for research fellows into the theoretical and applied research activities of outstanding European scientific institutions and expert circles engaged in the study of spatial processes. Experiences demonstrate that even despite the centralisation tendencies caused by the crisis, the territorial dimensions of development policy and governance in general become upgraded, and ever more sophisticated techniques, procedures and institutional solutions serve the harmonisation of the objectives of economic competitiveness and spatial cohesion and increase the synergies of interventions. ESPON projects testify of the strengthening macroregional determination of European spatial policies on one hand, and they demonstrate that the interests of Western countries are still dominant in the definition of development objectives. The relevance of resilience and adaptation is increasing, and these are also among the slogans of future policies. The research titled TIPSE – Territorial Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe is aimed at the identification and mapping of the indicators of poverty and social exclusion

and the analysis of spatial patterns primarily in EU member states. The current economic crisis has affected the life of millions of Europeans in one way or another, the risk of impoverishment has been continuously growing. The project aims at the research of areas affected by massive poverty and social exclusion, the articulation of sectoral policy propositions and the creation of a territorial monitoring system.

Research contributing to the international competitiveness of Hungarian spatial development

IRS was commissioned by the National Development Agency to compile a study in preparation for 2013–2020 EU Cohesion Policy. The research analysed the expected EU regulations, the methodology of the evaluation of spatial impacts and elaborated proposals concerning domestic development policy planning. The research demonstrated that even though the moderation of interregional disparities was a high-priority objective of EU Cohesion Policy, the methodology for measuring this impact has still not been elaborated despite the existence of several large-scale research programmes such as ESPON. At the same time, the emphasis will likely be on spatially efficient (concentrated) cohesion policy interventions during the next programming period, which is in harmony with the efforts directed at increasing the efficiency of the absorption of EU funds. On the basis of theoretical literature, case studies and methodological approaches, it can be stated that there are substantial reserves in the enforcement of spatial aspects in domestic cohesion policy which may serve not only the amelioration of the gravely increasing regional disparities but may become the instrument of an efficient, competitive reform of resource allocation as well. The research group highlighted the outstanding significance of the development of urban agglomerations, the advantages inherent in the formulation of integrated development programmes with an impact on multiple sectors and branches. It is crucial to start the preparation for the domestic application of new opportunities offered by the EU (community led local development – CLLD, Integrated Territorial Investments – ITI) as soon as possible. The domestic system of planning and governance will only be able to implement a development policy supporting territorial cohesion in the presence of a more decentralised model. Therefore, the regional scale must be observed in domestic planning and development policy and a much more consistent enforcement of the partnership principle is particularly important, which, besides providing the legitimate basis of development policy, also serves the mobilisation of resources and local information.

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 discussion of research results with professional (in a wider sense) 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.

The Institute is actively involved in the preparation of strategic decisions affecting the development policy and life of South Transdanubia and Pécs, and in local scientific and professional public life. The Transdanubian Research Department in Pécs supported a pioneering initiative directed at establishing urban development in a more comprehensive and open plan-

ning consultation process. The so-called ‘urban cooperation’ organises the cooperation of local intellectuals and professional workshops, events in which many researchers participate actively. In 2012, the Institute and the Municipality of Pécs signed a cooperation agreement. The cooperation between the town and the Institute has decades-long history. Therefore the contract was signed due to the acknowledgement of a long lasting cooperation and with the purpose of the efficient exploitation of future mutual benefits. The city relies primarily on the more efficient utilisation of already existing knowledge and relationships. The researchers of the Institute participated in the elaboration of the regional development concept for Bács-Kiskun County, Baranya County and Békés County. During this period they were able to express their opinions about the situation of counties and the proposed development directions in professional discussions organized by municipalities.

The research team in Kecskemét hosted the event titled ‘Local History and Urban Development in Kecskemét’ organised by the Móricz Zsigmond Cultural Foundation. The goal of the eight-evening long initiative was twofold: first, it informed the general public about the developments in Kecskemét, and on the other hand, it provided an insight into urban issues and dilemmas behind the scenes. The programme strengthened the local embeddedness of the Institute and increased its credibility in settlement research issues towards the city leadership elite and the citizens.

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. The publications called ‘A Selection of Foreign Language Articles of Regional Science’ which are continuously updated on the library’s website and thematic professional bibliographies (e.g. Danube Region, Territorial Cohesion, Federalism, Decentralisation) are used not only in research but in higher education as well (MSc, TDK, PhD theses).

The dissemination of results is an increasingly important requirement in the case of research projects of our Institute which are supported from EU funding. Apart from the dissemination of professional results in research forums, we were able to access more distant target groups in case of issues relevant to the given settlement, area or social group.

Within the framework of an international ViTo project called Integrated Urban Development of Vital Historic Towns as Regional Centres in South-East Europe, the most important task was to expand the horizons of municipal participants in nine cities of the macro region with the conscious and continuous application of the principle of partnership. This principle was enforced consistently during the entire process until the ex-post evaluation. Researchers applied the integrated planning and development model of the Leipzig Charter in practice. In this process, besides traditional urban development priorities, emphasis was placed on the economic sustainability of developments, social sustainability and development efforts ameliorating, not destroying the urban structure.

In 2012, the best example of the dialogue addressing a wider audience was the Agglomeration Conference in Budapest organised in cooperation with the Municipality of Budapest. The consultation about cooperation possibilities, common problems and the relationship system of the capital with its agglomeration was followed with great interest by professional circles and sectoral policy and was particularly popular with the regional stakeholders.

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 2010-2011 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 was not reconstructed. The governmental institutional structure of spatial development has largely been established and interest towards the scientific foundations of spatial policy decisions has once more been revived. 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 starting at the end of 2012 and performing basic research tasks in its framework.

Relations with the other major partner group of regional development research, i. e. settlement and territorial self-governments were renewed in 2012. The Institute, after a few years gap, was charged with the scientific 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).

The Hungarian Regional Science Association (MRTT) created on the Institute's base and through its initiation celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2012. MRTT, which was established as one of the most important elements of the institutionalisation of Hungarian regional science, succeeded in reaching its key goals and became the forum of this profession. The anniversary congress was accompanied by significant interest. Peter Nijkamp, the former president of the European Regional Science Association and the Regional Studies Association attended the two-day long event.

The most important scientific product of the Institute is the journal 'Tér és Társadalom'. 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 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.

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.

The two most important stakeholders of the continuous cooperation with the economic sector were the Paks Nuclear Power Plant and IBM Hungary also in 2012 as well, which constantly require analyses for laying the spatial groundwork for their economic decisions.

International relations

The success of the year 2012 was that James Scott was granted an opportunity to spend ten months at the Institute. As a winner of the tender for presenting outstanding achievement in scientific research, he examines the consequences of Europeanisation and analyses its impacts on Hungarian political culture and geopolitical thinking. His presence is a good opportunity for researchers and doctoral students for exchanging professional experiences, consultation and initiating joint research. His work assists in handling the research tasks which the institute is charged with in the *EUBORDERSCAPES* project of the 7th Framework Programme.

In 2012, the European Institute of the University of Geneva and the Institute of Federalism of Fribourg University were the most outstanding among the new international partners of the Institute with whose involvement a virtual research Institute was established investigating federalism and decentralisation. The Institute is a member of Spa-ce.net, the network of regional research institutions operating in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Due to the cooperation, new research projects are anticipated and partnership relations between territorial research and regional planning are expected to be reinforced. The Institute's relationships with research centres and professional organisations in Vojvodina and Slavonia have become more intensive, to which three winning IPA programmes also contributed. The three-year long Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian bilateral co-operations were closed in 2012. In harmony with its South-Eastern European Strategy, the Institute with its Croatian, Serbian, Bulgarian and Romanian partners applied for new conventional exchange programmes. The intensity of personal and institutional participation in international scientific societies is stable; researchers regularly participate in events and conferences.

The organisation of the Transdanubian Research Department's 70th anniversary conference titled "Territorial Cohesion in Europe" can be declared successful due to the participation of leading figures of European regional studies. The effective organisation of this event, which illustrates the international embeddedness and reputation of the Institute, started in the year of the report and it seems to be the most promising congress since the RSA Congress in 2010 (with 575 participants from 50 countries).

Research teams of our Institute attended an FP-7 Framework Programme, four ESPON projects and seven other international collaborations in 2012; permanent negotiations with consortial partners were conducted for gaining partnership in new international projects. In the framework of our current international projects, the Institute organised 15 seminars, roundtables and working group sessions with foreign participants.

The organisation of international events provided a demanding task for the community of our Institute. This led to the establishment of a professional basis of international relations.

IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2012

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 number and proportion of declined proposals decreased.

- *New space shaping forces and development paths in Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 21st century* (NK OTKA). The research investigates the impact of new factors in the evolution of the spatial structure of the European economy. The driving forces of territorial growth require the application of new solutions in national spatial and settlement policy and the strengthening of multi-level governance.
- *The guarantees of decentralisation in Hungary* (HSRF). The research explores the characteristics of territorial decentralisation reforms, through international comparisons it attempts to detect the guarantees which the Hungarian public legal and political system contains in order to influence the spatial distribution of power.
- *The analysis of political geographical spatial structures in the Carpathian basin* (HSRF). Regime changes, cooperation opportunities, absurdities at the turn of the 20th–21st century.
- IRS participates as consortium partner in the TÁMOP project *Győr Vehicle District as a new direction and tool of territorial development*. In this pioneering research in national terms, the Institute is charged with laying the scientific groundwork of the subject and the delimitation of the district. It investigates the network relationships of industrial centres and urban regions, and the structural transformation of the economies and labour markets of the the vehicle industry district and the involved regions.
- *Rural research* commissioned by NAKVI. 1) Domestic rural areas in the European space, classification of rural areas. 2) The social, economic, territorial components and causes of marginalisation connected to rurality, possible forms of intervention. 3) Experiences of sectoral policy interventions aimed at the moderation of ethnic and non-ethnic poverty. 4) The enforcement of the CLLD-LEADER approach and multifund planning in development policy. 5) Social, economic innovation and capacity in our rural areas. 6) The impact of climate change and rural development on the changes in land and landscape use.
- The Institute participates as consortium partner in the TÁMOP project *Social conflicts, social well-being and security – Competitiveness and social development* analysing the various concepts of social welfare and well-being, the construction of a domestic statistical-based model of well-being and detecting the situation of excluded social groups and the basis of conflicts.
- *Toward a local based labour market policy approach in cross-border rural regions* (IPA LOLAMAR). The Hungarian–Serbian research contributes to the creation of a development model based on the utilisation of local resources in the peripheral cross-border area of Bačka.
- *Flexible planning methods of the Drava region* (IPA DUPLO). The project's aim is laying the spatial development groundwork for the functional *sustainable region* on both sides of

the border, the *elaboration of a complex plan* containing the questions related to *climate change*, the joint development of cities and rural areas and the opportunities for the creation of an environmental industry cluster.

- *Photovoltaic systems as starting gears of regional development* (IPA REGPHOSYS). The Croatian–Hungarian programme focuses on research in the domains of technical sciences, natural science and social science. IRR investigates the environmental, economic and social benefits and opportunities of energy production systems.
- The Institute collaborates as subcontractor in the project titled *Risk Assessment and Preparedness in the Danube Macro-region* (SEERISK) with nine participating countries, which examines the impacts of global climate change interpreted in terms of catastrophe management on the evolution of risk factors both from the aspect of society and the settlements.
- The Bratislava division of UNDP finances the comparative research titled *Faces and Causes of Roma Marginalisation*, which performs research using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods in the area of the cohabitation of the Roma and the non-Roma population, the settlement-level manifestation of segregation and its measurement in Hungary, Romania and Serbia.

V. List of important publications in 2012

BOOKS

- Baranyi B; Fodor I (szerk.) Környezetipar, újraiparosítás és regionalitás Magyarországon. Pécs; Debrecen: MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete, 2012. 367 p. ISBN: 978-963-9899-48-3
- Balázs É; Kovács K (szerk.) Többcélú küzdelem: Helyzetképek a kistérségi közoktatásról. Budapest: Oktatókutató és Fejlesztő Intézet (OFI), 2012. 467 p. (Tények és érvek) ISBN: 978-963-682-709-0
- Hajdú Z; Kovács S Zs (szerk.) Föderalizmus és decentralizáció: Kézikönyv a svájci struktúrákról és a magyar hasznosíthatóságról. Pécs: MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete; Genfi Egyetem; Európai Intézet, 2012. 239 p. ISBN: 978-963-9899-58-2
- Hardi T: Duna-stratégia és területi fejlődés: A folyó lehetséges szerepe a régió területi fejlődésében. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 2012. 293 p. (Modern regionális tudomány szakkönyvtár) (ISBN: 978-963-05-9243-7)
- Hardi T, Nárai M (szerk.) Térszerkezet és területi folyamatok: Tanulmánykötet Rechnitzer János tiszteletére. Pécs; Győr: MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete, 2012. 253 p. (ISBN: 978-963-9899-55-1)
- Rechnitzer J; Rácz Sz (szerk.) Dialógus a regionális tudományról. Győr: SZE Regionális- és Gazdaságtudományi Doktori Iskola; Magyar Regionális Tudományi Társaság, 2012. 213 p.
- Somlyódy P; Pfeil E (szerk.) Az agglomerációk intézményesítésének sajátos kérdései: Három magyar nagyvárosi térség az átalakuló térben Pécs: IDResearch Kft. - Publikon, 2012. 243 p. ISBN: 978-615-5001-63-5

PAPERS

- Chevalier P; Maurel M-C; Póla P: L'expérimentation de l'approche LEADER en Hongrie et en République tchèque: Deux logiques politiques différentes. REVUE D'ETUDES COMPARATIVES EST-OUEST (ISSN: 0338-0599) 43: (3) pp. 91-143. (2012)
- Czifrusz M: A térszemlélet szerepe a regionális tudomány, a gazdaságföldrajz és a közgazdaságtan viszonyában. In: Rechnitzer J; Rácz Sz (szerk.) Dialógus a regionális tudományról. 213 p. Győr: SZE Regionális- és Gazdaságtudományi Doktori Iskola; Magyar Regionális Tudományi Társaság, 2012. pp. 52-59. (ISBN: 978-963-7175-76-3)
- Egyed I: A regionális tudomány az elmélet és a gyakorlat között. TÉR ÉS TÁRSADALOM (ISSN: 0237-7683) 26: (4) pp. 17-36. (2012)
- Faragó L: Térértelmezések. TÉR ÉS TÁRSADALOM (ISSN: 0237-7683) 26: (1) pp. 5-25. (2012)
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- Hardi T: Cross-border suburbanisation: The case of Bratislava. In: Csapó T, Balogh A (szerk.) Development of the Settlement Network in the Central European Countries: Past, Present, and Future. Berlin; Heidelberg: Springer Verlag, 2012. pp. 193-206. (ISBN: 978-3-642-20313-8)

- Horváth Gy: A hornet's nest or the climax of the change of regime?: The dilemmas of creating regions in Eastern and Central Europe. In: Colombo A (szerk.) *Subsidiarity Governance: Theoretical and Empirical Models*. 176 p. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2012. pp. 31-50. (ISBN: 978-0-230-33869-2)
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