

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the next issue of the international, peer-reviewed DETUROPE (Central European Journal of Tourism and Regional Development) journal. This special edition includes selected articles based on presentations at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Regional Science Association (HRSA) at Partium Christian University in Oradea, on 15-16 September 2016. Global processes shaping our life raise several spatial questions, one of which is '*The Role of Small and Medium-Sized Cities in Regional Development*' that was the theme of the international conference. The fact, that this timely and relevant topic has not received sufficient research interest previously, was reflected in the high number of presentations at the annual meeting, that was organised for the third time across the border. The plenary speakers of the annual meeting were the following reputed scholars and practitioners:

- *Manfred Kühn*, Senior Researcher, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space;
- *Nataša Pichler-Milanović*, Senior Researcher, University of Ljubljana;
- *Zoltán Pogátsa*, Associate Professor, University of West Hungary;
- *Mihály Lados*, Senior Research Fellow, HAS CERS Institute for Regional Studies;
- *János Rechnitzer*, Professor, President of HRSA;
- *Áron Kincses*, Deputy Head of Department, Hungarian Central Statistical Office;
- *Edit Somlyódyne Pfeil*, Associate Professor, Széchenyi István University;
- *Ferenc Szilágyi*, Associate Professor, Partium Christian University.

Following the plenary sessions, more than hundred presentations were delivered in twelve thematic sessions in the following themes:

- Theoretical and Methodological Questions of Urban Analysis;
- Regional Innovation Systems;
- Urban Development, Planning and Management, Public Services;
- Urban Ecology, Climate Change, Smart and Sustainable Cities;
- Regional processes in the Partium;
- Urban–Rural Relations
- Urban Sociology, Local Community, Territorial and Social Capital;
- Small Cities and Declaration of New Towns;
- Cities, Spatial Structures, Networks;
- City Marketing, Culture, Tourism, Hungaricums;
- Borders and Cities;
- The Role of Small and Medium Sized Cities in Regional Development.

The first paper in the current issue is a thorough report on the outstanding scientific content and presenters of the meeting, prepared by two dedicated colleagues, the main organisers of the event, *Sándor Zsolt Kovács* and *Szilárd Rác*.

The last paper in this special edition is also a report on another special occasion, the first international Smart Communities Academy for scientists and practitioners, that was organised in one of the most disadvantaged area in Hungary, in Legénd village, Nógrád county. The expressive report was prepared by a special team of authors including a PhD student, an adjunct, associate professors and a practitioner, that illustrates well one of the main objectives of the event: to provide a platform for intersectoral communication. The authors are *György Áldorfai, Viktória Józsa, József Káposzta, Henrietta Nagy* and *Adrienn Varga-Nagy*.

The two reports on these international events form a perfect frame for the 13 articles from 20 authors, and a very interesting book review on the Basics of Romology edited by *Anna Orsós* that was prepared by *Hajnalka Izsák* and *Ferenc Szilágyi*. The reviewers welcome the much-needed volume and highlight its importance in three fields, as widening the subject area; teaching and research and development; and the provision of a complete picture of the history, culture, habits, problems and successes of the Roma, especially those living in Hungary.

The order of the papers is based on their main focus, and based on that, three groups could be formed. The first four papers examine recent challenges and tendencies of regional and local level policies, their potential practical implications and impact assessment.

Edit Somlyódiné Pfeil examines the chances of effective urban policy in Hungary after 2010, with special respect to the influence of the European Cohesion Policy, co-operations between towns and their regions, and the reform of public administration on public policy processes. As a practical counterpart of the same question, *Vilja Vaszócsik* and *Erzsébet Vajdovich-Visy* presents a recent achievement in the field of integrated land-use models for spatial planning support; the Hungary Spatial Decision Support model, that was developed to incorporate scientific knowledge in the decision-making process. The same purpose is served, but through another methodological approach by *János Péntzes* and *Gábor Pálóczi*, whose paper on functional regionalisation - centres and hinterlands - demonstrates some of the possible delimitation methodologies, and their comparison, based on commuting to work dataset from the 2011 census in Hungary. Arriving to impact assessment, *Dóra Szendi* addresses in her study territorial, social and economic inequalities and concludes the connection of EU supports and the taxable income per capita in one Hungarian region for the 2007-2013 EU programming period, with the aim to examine spatial patterns and identify regional hot spots. The second group of papers examine the local level from different dimensions, as economic development; research and development and innovation; culture; and tourism.

Zsuzsanna Zsibók presents a very good starting point with the examination of the long-standing spatial imbalances in the United Kingdom with a strong geographic focus on the

cities, and a temporal focus on the post-millennium and the challenges posed by the Brexit decision. *Adrienn Reisinger, Petra Kecskés and Katalin Czakó* narrows the scope to local economic development services by a thorough examination of recently collected primary data in Győr city (Hungary), with the aim to identify the services and the characteristics of linkages and cooperation of the economic development organizations (EDOs) that could be generalised in the future to other locations. *Éva Gajzágó* follows the same research avenue with a strong focus on the possible measurement techniques, to answer the question if innovation intermediary organisations are serving innovation well, or if there is a mismatch between the supply and demand side of innovation. Culture is an important aspect of the development and revitalisation of local society and economy, as it is well-illustrated in the study of *Szabolcs Morvay*, focusing on the presentation of cultural ambitions in two Central and Eastern European cities participating in the European Capital of Culture program. *Katalin Ásványi* and *Melinda Jászberényi* go even beyond the term by examining different types of the very popular festival tourism, that on one hand could make cities and regions incredibly attractive for tourists, but on the other hand, could generate regional impacts also, attributing to the development of a region. *Tibor Kovács* raises an interesting question in the same research field; if new approaches to mobilize endogenous resources - for example culture-based urban development - could reverse, prevent or slow down negative local processes, as shrinkage and decreased resiliency. As an interesting and recent international benchmark case study, *Henrietta Nagy, József Káposzta* and *Bledar Meta* not only present conventional tourism in Albania, but focus on two specific case studies in rural tourism, as a new component in the tourism portfolio of the country, and provide some possible solutions for current challenges, as unemployment, low living standards and the consequent depopulation. Two very timely and increasingly important topics stayed for the last, as climate change and migration. *Zoltán Agg* summarises the main findings of a questionnaire-based survey in the Balaton region from a practical perspective, and highlights issues as the change of value systems, especially environmental values, the role of schooling, township and age in the awareness and attitude towards climate change and environmental sensitivity. *Tünde Patay* is one of the early birds in Hungary to examine the relationship of immigration and competitiveness, more specifically the controversies of labour market and the inclusion of immigrants, mainly from the methodological point of view. Thus, she draws attention to the importance of data quality, processing and interpretation, together with the possible ‘stumbling stones’ in migration studies.

I wish you good reading, Dr. Viktória Józsa.