

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of the international, online, peer-reviewed, open-access journal DETUROPE (The Central European Journal of Regional Development and Tourism). This issue compiles selected papers presented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Regional Science Association (HRSA) which was hosted by Széchenyi István University Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences in Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary, on 19 and 20 October 2017. With the overall theme ‘The dualities of regional science and studies’, the presentations of the meeting offered rich insight into the dichotomies of spatial research.

At the conference, one plenary session in English language and one in Hungarian language was held with the participation of the following plenary speakers:

- *Grzegorz Gorzelak*, Professor at the University of Warsaw;
- *Gunther Maier*, Professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business;
- *Michael Steiner*, Professor at the University of Graz;
- *Balázs Lengyel*, Research Fellow of the HAS Institute of Economics and Visiting Fellow of MIT;
- *József Nemes Nagy*, Professor at Eötvös Loránd University Department of Regional Science;
- *Ákos Jakobi*, Assistant Professor at Eötvös Loránd University Department of Regional Science;
- *Katalin Mezei*, Associate Professor at Széchenyi István University Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences;
- *János Rechnitzer*, Professor at Széchenyi István University, Former President of HRSA.

On the second day of the conference, with almost a hundred presentations, twelve parallel sessions were organised, of which one was held in English language. One-third of the presenters at the HRSA Annual Meeting were offered to submit their manuscripts in the form of journal articles on the basis of the proposals of the session chairs. Altogether 13 papers from 20 authors have been included in this thematic issue providing a brief snapshot of the current directions of spatial research in Hungary.

The range of articles starts with the conference report prepared by *Sándor Zsolt Kovács* and *Szilárd Rácz*, the main organizers of the event. The succeeding papers represent a variety of topics in regional science from policy-related institutional and developmental questions to urban and rural development, as well as climate problems and economic issues.

*Balázs Simó*, *Tamás Gordos* and *Viktória Józsa* analyse the post-2020 outlook of Hungarian regional development policy from the point of view of the institutional conditions, especially with respect to the regional development professionals. The basic point of the paper is that these actors provide ‘hidden’ but precious capacities in the preparation process for the

post-2020 period. Next, the article of *László Gere* gives an excellent overview of smart city solutions in the context of urban development. The author introduces its definitions and background, then provides insights into the scientific discourse of the topic and highlights the social development aspects of smart city strategies.

*Annamária Uzzoli, Dániel Szilágyi and Attila Bán* address the problem of heat waves in a Hungarian context. They presented that the territorial differences of vulnerability reveal a West-East division of the country, but the centre-periphery relation also plays role, overall, more than forty per cent of the country's territory is severely or extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The following group of articles is centred around the financial and economic system. The work of *Katalin Döbrönte* investigates the interrelatedness of the location strategies of the advanced producer service firms and the urban hierarchies in the Central European countries based on 36 metropolises. In a similar vein, *Devesh Singh and Zoltán Gál* apply empirical methods to analyse the factors behind the location choice in the Indian service and retail sector. Turning towards the analysis of Hungarian economic disparities, first, *Sándor Zsolt Kovács* explored the dualities in the Hungarian banking sector which represent considerable disparities between commercial banks and savings cooperatives, as well as East-West and centre-periphery kind of territorial inequalities. Second, with a methodological focus, a top-down regionalisation approach is presented by *Zsuzsanna Zsibók* with respect to Hungarian long-run, regional-level growth projections. The comparative analysis highlighted that the results point towards increasing regional inequalities and advocate for more policy attention.

The article of *Ozan Kaya* is included in this special issue as a regular paper. The author studies thermal tourism with respect to the food and beverage services, and identifies them as a critical factor in achieving overall hotel satisfaction.

The next two papers take a closer look at Hungarian regional development issues: *István Hoffman* investigates the role of the counties in regional development in Hungary in the light of the past and current administrative reforms and legal changes. *Sára Farkas* studies the impacts of the changes in the financial intermediary system allocating repayable EU cohesion funds, and she concludes that a stronger development banking approach would be needed in order to prevent the increase of regional inequalities.

The final two papers address the broad topic of rural development. The article of *Katalin Mezei, Szabolcs Troján and Nóra Lipcseiné Takács* analyses the agricultural strategy of Austria in a comparative perspective. The authors identify the most important factors behind the outstanding relative performance of the Austrian agricultural sector, including the social

perception of agriculture, the product structure, the use of EU resources, and the use of sophisticated tools for rural tourism. Last but not least, rural areas are investigated from the point of view of public transport and social exclusion by *József Pál Lieszkovszky*, which topic is rather under-researched in Central and Eastern Europe. The author examines the overall declining tendency of the demand for public transport and the factors of the possibility of access to cars.

I hope that the articles collected in this special issue give valuable contribution to a broader understanding of the dualities of regional science and studies that seem to prevail in the long run. The Presidency of HRSA hereby expresses its gratitude to the Editorial Board of the journal.

Zsuzsanna Zsibók, PhD

*Guest Editor*