

EDITORIAL

Urban and territorial research in Central Europe

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the new thematic issue of the international, peer-reviewed DETUROPE (Central European Journal of Tourism and Regional Development) journal. Our publication provides a selection of papers presented during the 2019 conferences of the Hungarian Regional Science Association (HRSA): the 11th Conference of Young Regionalists (Title: Paths of urban development in Central and Eastern Europe – past, present and future), the 7th Central European Conference in Regional Science (Flows of resources in the regional economy in the age of digitalisation) and the 17th Annual Meeting of the HRSA (Territorial research in Central Europe).

The first paper in the current issue presents a thorough report on the outstanding scientific events and conferences mentioned above, prepared by the editors, Ildikó Egyed and Szilárd Rácz.

The papers were selected in two steps. After the conferences, the main organisers of the events (CERS conference, HRSA meeting) or the chairs of the sessions (Young Regionalists conference) were requested to propose 15 presentations for publication in the subject of the thematic issue: urban studies in Central Europe. In the second round, the submitted manuscripts were subjected to review by two anonymous reviewers. The accepted articles were revised and corrected according to the provided critical remarks.

The first two papers address the issue of urban sustainability. The study of *Viktor Varjú* examines the current state of environmental policy integration and its results on settlement level in Hungary. The author presents a historical review of the rise of environmental protection and environmental policy in Hungary, with an outlook to the international context. The empirical research draws the readers' attention to the impact of the recent recentralization process in Hungary on urban-level environmental actions, while also highlighting the role of settlement size in environmental policy. The paper of *Dragana Blagojević, Imre Nagy, Aco Lukić and Dajana Tešić* explores the subject of adaptation to climate change through the lens of urban development theories and best solutions to mitigating its effects. To avoid the worst consequences of global climate change, the global population must reduce the active construction and development of urban capacities and planning processes need to be focused on the greener side of urban design. A theory of smart cities, eco-city theory, city logistics,

and sustainable cities are the main strategies whose concepts have upgraded urban planning and building design that can prevent climatic damage but are still consistent with the environment. All theories are facing many challenges when it comes to their implementation or adoption by responsible institutions.

The second group of papers examines the local level (i.e. regional centres of Hungary) in various dimensions related to economic development or territorial capital. *Judit Berkes* presents the economic structure and performance of urban catchment areas of the five largest Hungarian regional centres. In Hungary, no research has been conducted so far spanning such a long time period on the largest regional centres and their catchment areas that would allow to compare them with themselves and each other using a complex methodology. The post-industrial transition affected two regional centers in Hungary the most, Miskolc and Pécs. These second-tier cities are analysed by local authors, embedded in a Central European context. *Viktória Józsa* narrows the scope of her analysis to local economic development in the city of Miskolc. The city has been at the crossroads of industries, cultures, borders, innovations and EU programming periods throughout its history. Thus, in light of the development path presented in the study, the author advocates an approach based on a return to the city's roots, i.e. the 'welcoming city', the (re)attraction of talented professionals, the elimination of divisions and quarrels, and recommends joining all forces in the interest of the city. In this respect, other Hungarian cities (e.g. Győr and Kecskemét) may provide several good examples. The paper of *Ildikó Egyed and Szilárd Rácz* explores the concept of territorial capital with a view to its policy embeddedness and academic valorisation. The first part of the paper presents the circumstances of the emergence of territorial capital in cohesion policy narratives and undertakes the theoretical elucidation of the concept. This is followed by an examination of Central European contexts of territorial capital. The case study of Pécs provides a summary of the most influential nodal points and factors shaping the development path of the city, followed by a reflection on the current obstacles of territorial capital valorisation.

Two highly important topics constitute the last focal point of the issue: accessibility of Central European cities in Danube cruise tourism and motivation of school choice in higher education in the cities of Vojvodina, Serbia. *Márk Miskolczi, Melinda Jászberényi, András Munkácsy and Dávid Nagy* present an insight into the largely under-researched issue of river cruise tourism on the Danube through their explorative analysis. The focus is on attraction accessibility in the context of the three major cities of pan-European Corridor VII: Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade. The main conclusion of the research is that key challenges of river

cruise tourism should be mitigated by actors outside this industry: bodies responsible for water(way) management, urban mobility management and urban policy. The last paper in this special edition focuses on higher education choices of Hungarian-speaking students enrolled at Serbian high schools in Vojvodina. The questionnaire-based results of *Boglárka Kincses and Sándor Papp* conclude that higher education in Hungary is a more attractive option for Serbian Hungarians in the long run. Due to Hungary's EU membership and proximity to the Hungarian state border, a degree obtained in Hungary is considered more competitive than one obtained in Serbia.

The current issue of the journal DETUROPE is the 6th thematic issue prepared with the participation of the Hungarian Regional Science Association. The journal has maintained a fruitful collaboration with HRSA over the recent years. Issue number 2/2015 of DETUROPE (edited by Szilárd Rác) was the first thematically focused issue, accepting only English-language papers. Since then, the journal has crossed important milestones to internationalisation (Web of Science, Scopus). The Association also organizes large-scale and successful international events (for example, it obtained the right to host the 61st ERSA Congress in Pécs). All this contributes greatly to the realisation of our common objectives: internationalisation and supporting regional studies. The Presidency of HRSA hereby expresses its gratitude to the Editorial Board of the journal DETUROPE and especially its Editor-in-chief, Dr. Kamil Pícha.

We hope that you will find inspiring articles in this collection of studies aiming to represent the diversity of research topics explored by the partners and researchers of the Hungarian Regional Science Association.

We wish you a good reading,

Szilárd Rác and Ildikó Egyed¹

Editors of the thematic issue

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