

Recommendation

Round years usually impel to reckoning, even if the age of the celebrated can hardly be interpreted in historic scale. In this case, the reason for the self-examination, the review of the results and of the missed opportunities is the fact that the Department of Regional Economics, University of Miskolc was established in 1996, exactly ten years ago.

The jubilee makes it also possible that the staff of the department report on their research related to their local living area, the Northern Hungarian region, thanking the help and support of the Alma Mater and the professional life in the last ten years. Studies of the first issue of 2006 therefore involve the research related to the social and economic conditions and the future of the Northern Hungarian region.

The choice of the topic (also because of the spirit of the place) is obvious. The space forming geopolitical and social events of the 20th century have offered almost inexhaustible plurality of research fields in the region for the researchers of regional economics.

The problems resulting from the geopolitical changes after World War 1 (like the loose of the economic potential of the territories that were assigned to neighbouring countries) and the series of economic political decisions after World War 2 (like forced industrialization or the myth of “Ruhr area along the Sajó”) rearranged the spatial structure of the region and forced its economy on a special path.

Changes similar in extent to the previous ones were induced by the geopolitical change in the last decade of the 20th century in the region. Convulsions of the transition to market economy were intended to be moderated by governmental and sectoral programs and measures with changing success.

Besides the analysis of the consequences of the past that is sensible even today, a series of new research fields can be defined. To what extent, with what kind of tools and measures can the future of the region be influenced? What are the chances of the convergence of the region? Besides the programs to improve and to close up the competitiveness of the region, what should be done to reach social cohesion and solidarity, and to enable the activity and mobility of the increasing underprivileged population? What is the effect of the European integration on the interregional connections of the region? (As indicated by the above list, there are many topics for the next ten years, too!)

Lectori salutem!

Miskolc, May 2006.

Prof. Dr. György Kocziszky

Content

Studies

Zsúgyel, János:

The economic and social position of the Northern Hungarian region in the context of the European integration

Bakos, István:

Causes and regional impacts of the crisis in metallurgy in the Borsod industrial region

Tóthné Szita, Klára – Buday-Malik, Adrienn:

The county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén: on the way to sustainability?

Nagy, Zoltán:

The position of the towns of the Northern Hungarian region in the competition among Hungarian towns

G. Fekete, Éva:

Drawbacks becoming advantages? Convergence opportunities for backward small regions in the Northern Hungarian region

Péter, Zsolt:

Manor tourism in the Northern Hungarian region

Kneisz, Ildikó – Kuttor, Dániel:

Analysis of the documents of regional development in the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén

Győrffy, Ildikó:

Analysis of the road infrastructure in the Northern Hungarian region

Illés, Iván:

Scenarios of the economic and regional development in Europe

Helmut, Polzer:

The process of economic retransformation. Definitive unemployment?

Kocziszky, György:

Chances of convergence of the Northern Hungarian region

Workshop

Pál, István:

Introduction of the REVITAE Hungary InterregIIIC Phare project called Reorganisation, economic development, innovation and technology transfer and the extension of cooperation

Pliegler, Péter:

ROP 2.2. Information Day in Northern Hungary

Summaries

Summaries

János Zsúgyel:

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POSITION OF THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The comparison of the characteristics of the economic and social processes in Hungary with those in the other member states of the European Union is essential for making an objective judgement of our situation and for setting the tasks of our development activities. The Northern Hungarian region is ranked last among the regions of Hungary. It means that the region faces a long and difficult process in the convergence process. As a conclusion of the investigation, some selected indicators were used to determine the development level of some regions of the EU-25. Based on the cluster analysis, 174 regions were classified in the cluster of the developed regions according to the average values of the indicators, while 82 regions had to be ranked in the group of underdeveloped regions. Due to the unfavourable values of its indicators, the Northern Hungarian region was ranked among the underdeveloped regions, sharing the fate of other regions in Hungary and most regions in Central Europe.

István Bakos:

CAUSES AND REGIONAL IMPACTS OF THE CRISIS IN METALLURGY IN THE BORSOD INDUSTRIAL REGION

The Borsod Industrial Region became a crisis area during the political changes (1988-1992) in Hungary. The paper examines the effects of the bankruptcy of two major metallurgical companies on the emergence of the regional crisis. The study analyses the causes and consequences of the crisis in sectoral and regional approaches, explores the determinant indicators of the crisis and those affecting demography and employment.

Klára Tóth Szita and Adrienn Buday-Malik:

THE COUNTY OF BORSOD-ABAÚJ-ZEMPLÉN: ON THE WAY TO SUSTAINABILITY?

The paper evaluates the progress of the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén towards sustainable development using indicators determined on the basis of the three pillars of sustainability (economic development, environmental balance and social progress). The county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is one of the most controversial regions in Hungary: despite its excellent natural and environmental potentials, its role in preserving traditional culture and its role as a umbilical cord, it is in a very difficult situation regarding the economy and social progress: its performance indicators or the indices related to sustainability and measuring human development cannot be claimed to be good. However, the positive changes in the recent period – e.g. in terms of the environmental compliance of the companies, waste emission, use of chemicals in agriculture, institutional development, programmed awareness raising and shaping attitudes in general and higher education – hold out hope. Taking advantage of the absorption capacity of the region, consciously planned development and investment creating jobs, promoting cross-border cooperation, further changes in attitude and training can be used to take successful steps towards sustainable development.

Zoltán Nagy:

THE POSITION OF THE TOWNS OF THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION IN THE COMPETITION AMONG HUNGARIAN TOWNS

The past one and a half decades have transformed the special structure of the Northern Hungarian region, changed the socio-economic weights of the settlements, their location potentials and competitiveness. The paper investigates the position of the towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants in the Northern Hungarian region with factor analysis. With the exception of the towns of Rétság, Eger and Tiszaújváros, the rankings of the towns of the region are not very promising, and the positions of the two counties are also included here: Miskolc and Salgótarján. By analysing the regional rankings, the two most developed towns of the region seem to be Eger and Tiszaújváros. It can be concluded that in the backward regions, the main problem is constituted by the unfavourable economic structure and not by the low level of innovation or by the underdeveloped infrastructure in many cases.

Éva G. Fekete:

DRAWBACKS BECOMING ADVANTAGES? CONVERGENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACKWARD SMALL REGIONS IN THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION

Regional backwardness is a complex phenomenon that can be easily studied in the Northern Hungarian region and that covers approximately one third of the settlements of the region. It can only be managed by a multi-front approach, by integrated development exerting a combined impact on the factors of deprivation. The local development efforts arising from the wish for convergence and aimed at constructing the fundamental infrastructure and creating a mass of concentrated jobs may be fortunately combined with innovative development ensuring a new development path that is considerably encouraged from outside in the scenario built on strengthening the social economy.

Zsolt Péter:

MANOR TOURISM IN THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION

The nearly two past decades have seen considerable changes in the tourism markets of the developed world. Since the 1980s consumer customs have been changing, alternative types of tourism have been gaining ground: these types are characterised by the existence of individual specialist demand, and by a character arising from the smaller number of tourists and more in line with the potentialities of a region (Puczkó L.-Rátz T. [2005]). Cultural and heritage tourism, which can be classified as alternative types of tourism, deserve special attention. With the passing of the period of socialism not showing much respect for traditions and cultural heritage, the cultivation of traditions is undergoing a revival (due to civil initiatives to no small extent), and increased attention is devoted to the preservation and rehabilitation of the objectified forms of cultural heritage. The mansions and manor houses built by noble families represent a spectacular form of cultural heritage, including man-built heritage. The majority still do not occupy the place they deserve either in their physical condition or in the functions they serve. The buildings that serve functions comparable with their original ones (management buildings, museums, places of accommodation) are in a relatively favourable position. The paper examines the utilisation for tourism purposes of the mansions in the region of Northern Hungary, with special emphasis on those functioning as places of accommodation. The objective of the paper is to explore the situation, but also to find solutions for mansions that are vacant at present or do not serve the right functions or are not operated with efficiency.

Ildikó Kneisz, Dániel Kuttor:

ANALYSIS OF THE DOCUMENTS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY OF BORSOD-ABAÚJ-ZEMPLÉN

The economic, social and political changes that took place more than one and a half decades ago generated new possibilities and risks which were managed by regions in different ways. The County of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, which had faced structural and social strains even before the political changes in Hungary, could hardly meet the new challenges. In the past 16 years several strategies have been mapped out for structural changes, crisis management and development in this county. The research concentrates on documents of the 16 years examining five questions: concentration of development; relations between the various strategic goals; time horizons of conceptions and the years passing between their appearances; sources and financing methods of the developments.

Ildikó Gyórfy:

ANALYSIS OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION

There is a strong interaction between the changes in the traffic conditions and the economic structure of a region. The investments in infrastructure are closely connected with rural and urban development, and are able to exert an influence on regional relations. The present conditions of the North-Hungarian road network restrict economic and social growth, and may be a cause of regional disparity. The study explores the main deficiencies, examines the expectations regarding transport development that are more and more important in the interest of interurban cohesion.

Iván Illés:

SCENARIOS OF ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

In spite of a GDP that has been growing relatively more modestly than previously, EUROSTAT figures on Hungary show an extremely fast convergence at the national level, and, consequently, at the regional level as well. One cause of the dynamic convergence is the extreme slow-down of the economic growth of the whole of

the EU, compared to which even a modest Hungarian increase represents convergence. On the basis of those indicators, all Hungarian regions – and to no small extent – have caught up on the whole with the EU average for in the entirety of the period between 1995 and 2001. The paper presents the sectoral and regional characteristics of the convergence process of the regions in Hungary.

Helmut G. Polzer:

Following the period of the first industrial revolution that was begun in the 19th century from the second half of the 20th century on, the second industrial revolution based on automation and the third based on computerisation have been launched in the developed countries. The process has resulted in a huge increase in productivity and the intensification of the employment problems. Developing countries have become more and more involved in the international division of labour in the framework of globalisation, thus further deepening the problems of unemployment in the developed world. In the developed countries the demographic processes lead to a stagnation and decrease in the number of population, as well as to an increase in the average age. The economic and demographic problems of the developed countries endanger the sustainability of the achievements of the welfare society. The author makes a proposal for the transformation of the social systems and for the renewal of the social market economy. This includes a proposal for the equal distribution of jobs, as well as for providing social services as a counterpart of socially beneficial non-profit activities.

György Kocziszký:

CHANCES OF CONVERGENCE OF THE NORTHERN HUNGARIAN REGION

The period 2007-2013 may be of decisive importance regarding the social and economic processes in the Northern Hungarian region for at least two reasons. The first long-term development program (7 years) was prepared after the changes in the economic policy of 1989 in order to improve the competitiveness of the region. On the other hand, the amount of the funds that can be called (as proved by the analyses) will facilitate to induce a demonstrable economic growth in the region. The plans take a change in paradigm into account: the convergence of the region is planned to be based on creating and strengthening the foundations of a competitive economy. If the political intention backs these efforts, it will be possible to stop the process of the Northern Hungarian region drifting towards the periphery that has been going on for two decades now, and there will be hope to establish a new expansion path.

Authors

Dr. Bakos, István deputy head of department, associate professor. He has been a lecturer of the University of Miskolc since 1996. He got PhD in 2003. His research field is about regional economic development, especially crisis management of industrial regions, elaboration and realisation of regional development strategies. Within his wide range publication activity, he is the author of more than 30 domestic and international publications.

Buday-Malik, Adrienn program manager of Hewlett-Packard, responsible for the environmental protection program. Economist, she has been part time PhD student at the University of Miskolc since 2004. Her research field is the optimisation of the information waste management in Central and Eastern Europe.

Dr. G. Fekete, Éva associate professor. She has been a part time university lecturer since 1997 and a CsC in geography science since 1996. Her research field is about economic geography and within territorial economic development, she deals with rural development. She has elaborated the theory and methodology of bottom up rural development. Her internationally appreciated professional work has been published in many domestic and international books and studies.

Dr. Illés, Iván head of department, university professor. He has been a part time lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 2000. He has been the doctor of economics since 2002. His field of research is regional economics and planning and Central and eastern European studies. His internationally appreciated professional work has been published in many domestic and international books and studies.

Győrffy, Ildikó PhD student, economist (2005). Her research field is the effect of transportation infrastructure on regional development.

Kneisz, Ildikó research fellow. She got a degree in economics in 2003. Her research field is world economics, especially the comparative analysis of international agricultural markets.

Dr. Kocziszky, György head of institute, university professor. He has been a lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 1975 and a CsC in economics since 1984. He did his habilitation in 1994 at the Faculty of Economics, University of Miskolc. He is the founding head of the Department of Regional Economics and he has been the director of the Institute of European Economics since 2000. After the extension of the education and research profile of the institute with the world economics, he became the head of the Institute of World and Regional Economics in 2006. He has been a Jean Monnet professor since 2000. He is the head of the Hungarian Association of Spatial and Urban Developers.

Kuttor, Dániel fellow researcher. He got PhD attainment in 2005. His research field is world economics, especially the comparative analysis of the regions in the Carpathian basin and the questions of regional cooperation in eastern and central Europe.

Nagy, Zoltán assistant professor. He is a history-geography teacher and he also has a degree of external economics. He has been a lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 1999. He got PhD attainment in 2004. His research field is regional geographic economics. He especially deals with the factors of the competitiveness of towns and with the quantitative analyses to reveal them. He is the secretary of the Borsod department of the Hungarian Geographical Association-

Dr. Helmut G., Polzer titular college professor. He has been an invited lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 1993. He got PhD degree in 2001. His research field is about the European stock markets and the introduction of enterprises to the stock exchange.

Dr. Szita, Klára associate professor. She has been a lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 2001. She got CsC in economics in 1995. Her research field is environmental economics. She is an internationally recognised expert of sustainable development, environmental impact assessments and life cycle assessment; she has about 100 domestic and international publications. She is the director of the Hungarian Cleaner Production Regional Centre of Szeged.

Péter, Zsolt assistant professor. He has been a lecturer at the University of Miskolc since 2000. He got PhD attainment in 2004. His research field is regional economics, especially the economics of tourism and the effect

of tourism on regional development and employment. He is the secretary of the Hungarian Association of Spatial and Urban Developers.

Zsúgyel, János assistant professor. He has been working at the University of Miskolc since 1998. He got PhD attainment in 2002. His research field is the history and operation of European Union policies. Since 1998, he has got about 20 publications about the effect of the regional policy of the European Union on regional convergence.

Pál, István economist, manager of the North Hungarian Agency for Regional Development

Pliégler, Péter economist of external trade, of the North Hungarian Agency for Regional Development