

Summaries

László Kulcsár

Rural development and local society

The introductory article aims to emphasize the regional approach to rural development and to point out the problems of the sector-centered perception. In our view, rural development has to be considered as a central factor in the region's resource-system and its regional situation and the social and cultural characteristics. The editor invited researchers for contributing who are not only well-known experts of the Hungarian rural society, but also they have the very strong concentration to the scientific approach of rural areas, to the role of the local economy and society and the rural communities considered.

Katalin Kovács – Bálint Koós

The patterns and changes of the well-being position of the settlement between 1990-2016

The aim of the authors of this study was to develop a complex index that enables to measure main social and territorial components of wellbeing at local (LAU-2) level and then use this index to assess development trajectories of the Hungarian settlements for the last 25 years. Given the constraints of available data, the new "wellbeing index" condenses half of the dimensions of wellbeing identified by Stieglitz–Sen–Fitoussi in their 2009 Report. Results of did not indicate major territorial rearrangements during the last 2,5 decades, rather, some tendencies, downwards spirals and improving geographical contexts were identified, such as the decline of the South Transdanubian Region and a significant strengthening of towns of the Great Hungarian Plains. The latter was most likely impacted by increased employment capacities of these towns induced by public employment. Distribution of the EU funds in the last decade suggests that the access of villages to these financial instruments targeting sectoral and regional development is highly limited.

Dezső Kovács

Some characteristics of the LEADER programme between 2010-2018 in Hungary

The study introduces the main characteristics of the Hungarian Leader programme between the 2010-2018 period. The implementation of the programme among the involved stakeholders holds several conflicts. In the study the author presents the main stages of the programme management, processes the scientific and management literature and via interviews provides insights in the opinion and attitudes of the involved participants. The main conclusion from idealistic point of view is that the Leader programme must be organized and managed based on trust in the rural participants.

Katalin Lipták –Klaudia Horváth

The role of social innovations in employment policy and rural development

To interpret social innovation, it is possible to attribute the specialty of employment to the peripheral regions. Yet, the latest development of new products, services and new methodologies, driven by social values, initiated and implemented by social players, which interprets new social interactions as a backward process of social development, places social innovation as the main point of employment. The aim of the study to introduce the differences between the technical innovation in the classical sense and the social innovation, as well as analysis of the widening effect of social innovations on employment and their role in rural development. Some of the social innovations are some of the most exemplary cases that have an employment-enhancing effect in both rural and urban areas. In addition, we made two interviews with the head of foundations in Miskolc, they use social innovation in their social farm and the employment of people with disabilities or disabled persons. As a result of our research it can be stated that the social innovations presented will contribute to improving the quality of life of people living in rural areas and people with disabilities in urban areas through employment.

Gusztáv Nemes

Social innovation and social learning in rural development

This article explores, what is the role played by social innovation and social learning related to rural development policy and local development efforts; what content, conditions, and results may be important. Through two case studies we investigate, how local values and traditions may be dressed in today's robe in an innovative manner, utilized as a resource in development, and what is the role of "lonely heroes" as reflexive agents in the process.

Tamás Domokos

Towards new segregation? Development policy in the underdeveloped regions

The primary aim of this paper is to demonstrate how the Hungarian development policy related to the general principles of development sociology over the last decade. These theoretical principles include thinking in micro-regions or local communities, subsidiarity, engogeneity, bottom-up planning and construction, and community development. Most of these local focused community programs, projects, and human initiatives, interventions financed by the EU and the national government. The picture is not cheerful, and as a result of political decisions and increasing centralization we can face serious challenges for the next decade.

Zoltán A. Biró

Agricultural innovation process in the Székely region

The article presents the agricultural innovation process of the Székely region (Transylvania, Romania) based on the results of the research series that have taken place in the region for several years. The study focused on three main issues of the research program - the social and economic context of the region, the actors of the innovation process and the social embeddedness of innovative enterprises - indicates that agricultural innovation process has the potential for a paradigm shift in development policy for the rural region.