

Angol nyelvű összefoglalók / Summaries

János Zsúgyel:

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE REGION OF NORTHERN HUNGARY IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

A 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 region of Northern Hungary is ranked last among the regions of Hungary. This 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 among the underdeveloped regions. Due to the unfavourable values of its indicators, the region of Northern Hungary was put 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 OF METALLURGY IN THE BORSOD INDUSTRIAL REGION

The Borsod Industrial Region became a crisis area during the political changes (1998-1992) 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 inductors 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 SITUATION OF THE TOWNS OF THE REGION OF NORTHERN HUNGARY IN THE COMPETITION AMONG HUNGARIAN TOWNS

The past one and a half decades have transformed the special structure of the region of Northern Hungary, changed the socio-economic weight of the settlements, their location potentials and competitiveness. The paper investigates the situation of towns in the region of Northern Hungary with a population of more than 10,000 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 seats of the two counties are also included here: Miskolc and Salgótarján. Analysing the regional rankings it can be seen that the two most developed towns of the region are Eger and Tiszaújváros. It can be established that in the backward regions the main problem is constituted in many cases by the unfavourable economic structure and not by the low level of innovation or by the underdeveloped infrastructure.

Éva G. Fekete:

A SITUATION OF DISADVANTAGE TURNED INTO AN ADVANTAGE? CONVERGENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACKWARD SMALL REGIONS IN THE REGION OF NORTHERN HUNGARY

Regional backwardness is a complex phenomenon that can be easily studied in the region of Northern Hungary 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 REGION OF NORTHERN HUNGARY

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:

**AN INVESTIGATION 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:

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE REGION OF
NORTHERN HUNGARY**

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 Kocziszky:**CHANCES OF CONVERGENCE OF THE REGION OF NORTHERN HUNGARY**

The period 2007-2013 may be of decisive importance regarding the social and economic processes in the region of Northern Hungary 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 region of Northern Hungary drifting towards the periphery that has been going on for two decades now, and there will be hope to establish a new expansion path.