



Széchenyi István University
Regional and Economics Doctoral School

Bálint Filep
Certified economist

Competitiveness and Area Organizing Functions of Major Cities

PhD Thesis

Theme leader: Prof. Dr. János Rechnitzer
Professor

Győr
April 2009.

CONTENT

I. Goals of the thesis	2
II. Structure of the thesis	4
III. Hypothesis of the research	5
IV. Methodology of the research	6
V. Results of the research	12
a) Competitiveness of Győr and Nyíregyháza and their regions based on the Pyramid model	12
b) Verification of the Thesis	14
c) Summarizing statements of the research	19
d) Possible future directions of the research.....	23
VI. Applied literature.....	25
VII. Scientific activity	27
a) Publications on the topic	27
b) Conference presentations connected to the topic	28
c) Bookdetail.....	29
d) Participation in projects connected to the topic	29

I. GOALS OF THE THESIS

One of the important elements of the regional politics of the European Union is to reduce the regional inequalities. There are big differences among the output, welfare, competitiveness of the different countries, but the differences are even bigger on the regional level. The biggest part of the population is concentrated in major cities and towns. This is the place where the most diverse services and opportunities are available.

Recently – besides analyzing the regions – regional research focused on the successfulness of cities as well. It is not by chance, because more and more people live in towns. „Today there are more than 300 cities with a population over a million in the world (city region), and there are almost 20 among them having more than 10 million inhabitants.” (*Enyedi 2003*).

This the reason why not only science but politics as well is looking for factors which may serve the way forward in this competition and amend the positions. Studies have been made earlier to compare and evaluate competitiveness on national and on international levels as well. We can read deeper analyses in scientific literature, which cover the way of development of a city and seek its reasons and motivating factors and contribute to the elaboration of the development strategy. The economic sphere and human resources and the connection between them play an important role in the different theoretical and practical measuring tests.

In my opinion examining the competitiveness of cities and their surroundings is a really exiting topic. It would be worth observing the individual cities from their formation up (e.g. why were they founded at that certain point, what kind of a role did the joining of the 3 rivers play in Győr or the nearness of the river Tisza in Nyíregyháza), because the choice of the site and the historical events formed the cities, their role, their society, their traditions and economy.

Hungary had difficulties in creating its development politics. After the World War II, during socialism, centralized theories were defined for sectors. Later on, after communism, the dual structure was formed based on the centralized plutocracy. Beside the state the local governments have key-roles. Counties were always determining as public administrative units, but the regions for statistical planning were also created during the establishment of the regional structure of the EU in Hungary as well. (I wish to mention that regions have few functions even today.)

It is not incidental that the European Union lays an emphasis on the role and competitiveness of

cities. On 24-25 of May 2007 in Leipzig an agreement was made, the so-called “Leipzig Charter” about sustainable European cities.

The topic of my thesis is the comparative analysis of the potentials for regional organizing, the competitiveness of Győr and Nyíregyháza. I built the review of the potential for regional organizing into the methodology of competitiveness by examining towns, small areas and counties in their coherence.

The dissertation does not aim to make the two regions compete. Both regions are border territories with several countries. The West-Transdanubian region is one of the most developed, while the north of the Great Plain is economically one of the most undeveloped region of Hungary. I wish to analyse this difference comparing them and the attraction fields of the two cities in their regions. „The aim of the individual analysis is mainly to get to know a region as well as possible. Comparative analysis - which may be statistical or in time - lays the emphasizes the difference between different regions.” (Dusek 2004, 84). My review is *comparative*, which needed the review of the vectors of the sector features, and *static*, because the comparison and the measurement of the competitiveness of the two cities, the analysis of their attraction fields refers to a given moment.

Some indicators of the review can be very important for the development, but I consider the structure of the economy and human resources very important. These two factors have a strong connection. The early writings of Jánossy had a great impact on me, where he analyses how the quality of life and economic structure would change if the population of two areas were exchanged within the same circumstances (Jánossy 1966). The review could be interesting because of the two regions as well, whether they would develop in a different way from that time on. Besides the economy I consider the review of human resources very important. (It may be even more important during the crisis). Based on regional processes we can definitely say that human factors can become the trustee for future development (Rechnitzer–Smahó 2004).

The direct aim of the research is to get answers for the theories formulated. Based on these formulated theories I analysed the potential for organizing a region, the economic structure, the teaching and the living standards, and the possible indicators contributing to competitiveness.

My choice for this topic was greatly influenced by the fact which was emphasized by the Charter of Leipzig (*Lepzigi Charter 2007*): there is a growing need to have full-scope strategies and a coordinated appearance of people and institutions in the city-development process. These have to

show over the borders of individual towns and municipalities. The development of towns and cities may be the new direction for the regional development of the European Community and Hungary, because major cities provide development, they are the “engine in the car”.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

My dissertation contains two main chapters: a theoretical and a comparative review. In the theoretical part, I show the regional politics, regional structure, regional organization, border region. Then I analyse the cities, steps of urban processes, as the directions of development in the Charter of Leipzig. In this part, I compare the different cities and their regions. Then I give a review of the methods of regional and settlement competitiveness and their theoretical approach. The comparative analysis of other towns and regions and their methods gave me a very good basis for my own comparative review concerning Győr and Nyíregyháza and their regions. *In the first part* of my work, I define competitiveness in connection with regions, areas and towns, and their measurement possibilities. I give a definition for towns and their types internationally and in Hungary as well. „Towns are the most important geographical places, junctions for the development of human culture, science and civilization. The town has a determining role not only in regional development, but because of the whole human society and economy” writes Illés (2008). Towns cannot be compared based only on their classification as “town”, since there are huge differences concerning towns among different countries and even within the same country as well, (e.g. population, density, economic structure). I examine how to compare two cities and regions based on different methods.

After reviewing these theoretical questions, I analyse the two cities, Győr and Nyíregyháza and their regions based on my hypothesis. The two cities have similarities in their populations and functions, so they are appropriate for a comparative analysis regarding competitiveness. Borders were pushed from west to east after the extension of the EU in 2004. The outer, so called “Schengen” borders of the EU moved from Austria-Hungary to Hungary-Ukraine-Romania, so this border section became the eastern border not only for Hungary, but for all Europe as well. The “eastern corner” of Hungary builds the inner border of the EU. The counties of these two cities have borders with several countries, which can give new perspectives to determine their strategies for further development. The West-Transdanubian region is one of the most developed, while northern part of the great plain is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Hungary concerning employment and economy.

In the second part, I describe the two cities and regions and compare the two cities and their regions based on the Pyramid model by Lengyel. After this analysis, and having reviewed the Integrated Strategies for City-development and other documents, I make conclusions and summarize the research.

III. HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH

1.The present level of social-economic development of Nyíregyháza and Győr is almost the same. That means there is no significant deviation between the development indicators of the two cities.

The two cities developed during their history in different ways. Up to now, both county seats show nearly the same level of development in their appearance. The two cities have almost the same population; there are similarities in the fields of study on the most important institutions of higher education in both cities; the number of students is also similar. They show similarities concerning different standards, the downtown and their geopolitical situation. Based on these facts no significant difference seems to appear between the development levels of the two county seats, although the differences in development of these counties may appear obvious.

2.Analysing the closer and wider environment of the two cities – especially the wider which is the level of the county – there is a big and growing difference between their social-economic development levels.

Analyses have been made earlier for county seats and regions considering several aspects. They measured the differences in development level with indicators, and examinations over time. Although competitiveness is a frequently used concept, there is no solid integrated indicator to compare the regions and towns. It is also important to determine the closer and wider environment of cities as well. Several suggestions have been made to clear and define this concept.

3.The role of the two cities for their regions is different: Győr has a more balanced role in the region, while there is a so called backwash effect (absorbing effect) in Nyíregyháza concerning the floating production factors.

Regional politics has an important role also in the politics of the European Union, especially the subsidies, the related supporting system aiming to diminish the regional inequalities. In order to

moderate the differences in development among counties, regions in the long run, the reasons for the differences, the emerging problems have to be discovered. Suggestions can be formulated only afterwards.

Győr is the determining city of the county and it has a supporting role for the region as well. In the case of Nyíregyháza beside this role there is another aspect as well, a kind of absorbing effect weakening its regional role. The two cities have a different settlement structure. The distribution of functions between the cities and the character of the region's or periphery are determining.

4.The role of the cities in the region has an influence on their competitiveness in the long run.

Based on the research of the city competitiveness so far, we can say that their development is determined by their relationship with their region. The relation with other settlements in the region, the level of suburbanization, the absorbing effect, the presence of different institutions have all influence on the development of a city in the long run..

5.The two cities have advantages concerning competitiveness because of their geopolitical situations especially because of their nearness to the border.

Obviously, geopolitical features, the location of a city, may mean an advantage or a disadvantage. The border may connect or separate. The nearness to the border is beneficial if the cities consciously make use of this opportunity.

IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

When selecting the topic for the thesis, I laid a great emphasis on looking for something new, for an issue representing a “gap-area” in science. One part of the topic, the competitiveness of major cities in Hungary, has already been researched. There are also reviews about the functions of regional organizing. However, only a few efforts were made to analyse and compare the competitiveness of major cities and their effects on the region.

As we can see, an ever increasing percentage of the population lives in towns and cities. According to Peter Hagett, this proportion shows the proportion of non-urban /to urban inhabitants was the following: in 1800 40/1, in 1980 4/1, in 2000 2/1 (*Hagett P. 2000*).

While formulating the hypotheses, I was looking for a way to measure the competitiveness of the cities; what does this expression depend on; how can the situation of Győr and Nyíregyháza related to each other be characterized (considering the other county seats); how significant are Győr and Nyíregyháza in their closer or wider surroundings (small area and county).

Analysing the scientific literature - national and foreign professional books, articles in periodicals, publications and writings on the internet - was inevitable. I examined different documents as well. I analysed for example the Integrated Strategies for City Development (ISC) related to the two cities, and studies comparing different cities: Urban Audit, ESPON research. (Although they are not considered as scientific work, I found them important to examine). It is hard to draw deeper conclusions with one factor or a group of factors to measure the level of development (*Rechnitzer 1994*). That is why I used a complex system of indicators already tested for regional comparing analysis after reviewing the documents.

I used the Pyramid model of Lengyel while reviewing the two cities and their surroundings. I checked the Hungarian counties and county seats as well in order to be picturesque. I did not examine Budapest and the County of Pest in order to avoid distortion because of the characteristics of a capital. This model is one of the internationally accepted and tested methods for evaluating regional competitiveness. It has never been applied to towns and their regions. The model is appropriate for static analysis and review. Primarily I used figures from KSH (Central Institute for Statistics), (T-STAR and census) and figures from APEH (Tax Controlling Office) to collect data. Besides these data I had to collect several data separately. Using the model I made comparisons with 64 indicators. (I give some details about that later on).

In my work I search for the potential for regional organizing, for economic structure, for education and living standards, and for possible indicators contributing to competitiveness. An increasing number of theoretical and practical studies deal with competitiveness of towns and regions in Hungary as well. International examples show that nowadays competitiveness appears beside on the level of companies, higher education and several other dimensions, also on the level of nations, regions, towns. There is a competition for floating production factors like capital, skilled manpower. Several other factors can contribute to competitiveness; some of them can be expressed with exact indicators, but some immeasurable factors may also occur, which are debated in rational and emotional economics as well.

The historical development also contributes to the conditions of today. That is the reason why through the development of the country-wide network of towns I briefly review the history of the two cities and their geopolitical, economic, social situation in their regions, and in their counties.

It is important to determine our aims and the devices to analyse while typing the regions. It is not easy to type regions; there are several possibilities. To limit the attraction field of towns is not simple either. In many cases this limitation is very evident, because almost every country has well known borders, the limits of the regions in the European Union show up on maps well, the Hungarian counties and small areas are also known. The borders of towns are a bit harder to define; the limitation of their attraction field depends significantly on the examined factors. In some cases the limitation is strongly influenced by the geopolitical situation. It is particularly true in the case of towns and regions on the nation's borders (*Dusek 2004.*) Győr and Nyíregyháza have this characteristic also.

For this reason I took the present limitations into account, that is, the *borderlines of towns, their small areas and counties.*

Competitiveness and welfare will be defined by several theoretical indicators. The most common are GDP, GDP/person, HDI (Human Development Index). In opinion of Berey and Nemes (1998–2001) the reason for the regional differences characterized by the indicator of *GDP/P* was mainly the regional discrepancy of the gross value added (GVA) per person.¹ In the opinion of Nemes, Nagy József (*Nemes 2007*) as a result of information explosion, it is possible to get information from many places of the world. It is questionable whether they can be compared. The mathematical statistical approach, typical of the 1970s-1980s, narrowed to more simple indicators. All these can be traced back to the fact that these comparisons were not made for scientific purposes, but to serve the supporting politics.

We can find comparing reviews with different indicators, related to a point in time or time range: innovation clusters for a development index by Grosz–Rechnitzer (*Grosz–Rechnitzer 2005*), components of Nárai (*Nárai 2005*) created by factor analysis. Horváth (*Horváth 1999*) analysed different international major cities based on individual indicators. Similar reviews have been made in other countries as well. Györfy and Benyovszky analysed the productivity of work in

¹ Berey and Nemes published a method in 2002 saying that the ratio/figure of *GDP/P* often used to characterize regional competitiveness and living standard (where *P* is for the population) can be divided as follows: $GDP/P = GVA/P + (T+D-S)/P$, where *GVA/P* shows the gross added value per person, *T+D-S/P* shows customs- and product fees per person (*T+D*) and state subventions (*S*). *GVA* can be inscribed by the multiplication of the ratio of gross added value per person and the employed labour per person: $GVA/P = GVA/E * E/P$, where *E* means the employed labour (Berey–Nemes 2002).

Romania and the evolution of the regional competitiveness in the counties (*Gyórfy–Benyovszky 2005*). Many of the methods mentioned above cannot be used during the analysis of the Hungarian towns, because a lot of data – e.g. GDP – is not available on the town level.

Zoltán Nagy measures the level of social-economic development with a manifold indicator system (2007), the so called Bennett method, which turns heterogeneous indicators into synthesized indicators. The essence of the method is „in the case of all indicators, the data of that region will be considered as the basis, where the value of the indicator is the highest. Bennet treated the sum of the relative values of each region units as the result of the calculation. So we can see which regional units have the highest values, and what kind of a relative development they have.” (*Nagy 2007*). Using this method Nagy positioned the following towns: Békéscsaba, Debrecen, Eger, Győr, Kecskemét, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza, Pécs, Salgótarján, Szeged, Szolnok. He made the calculations for the years 1900, 1920, 1949, 1980, 1995, 2000 and 2004. In the total ranking of these 11 towns, Győr has always had the first or second place up to 1980. The position of the town has declined in the last years and it went back to the 4th - 5th place. Nyíregyháza shows a more various picture. It has had the 7th or 8th place continuously until 1980, when it sank back to the last place, but in the last three years it reached the 6th place.²

There are of course several other methods as well. After examining these methods properly I chose the regional review of Imre Lengyel (*Lengyel 2003*), especially the one on county level, using the Pyramid model for competitiveness, and the international town review of Gyula Horváth (*Horváth 2007*) as a basis for my study. I compared the competitiveness of the two towns and their regions based on these methods with own calculations. I wish to emphasize the fact that in the country-wide review I focused on the county seats. In the review of counties and their seats, the cities of Győr and Nyíregyháza and their regions were focused on. *The capital with its county has been taken out of the review* in order to avoid an extreme distortion.

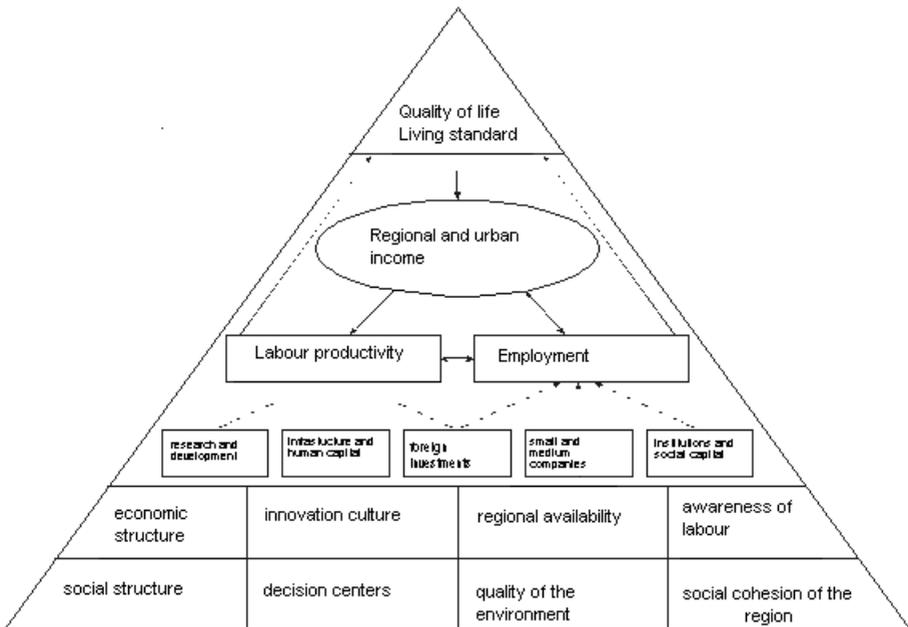
In my study I wished to examine the competitiveness of two regions, why is a region more successful and attractive than an other one. I tried to analyse competitiveness for the whole of a region, and not only from the aspect of the individuals. A comprehensive examination for this is not easy, because there is no solid indicator system for it. The other factor which makes the comparative review difficult is to obtain the necessary data, because numerous figures are not available for the different regional units.

²Zoltán Nagy examines in his PhD thesis in 2007 the situation of Miskolc with the Bennett-method, comparing it with other cities. He refers to the work of Abonyiné P.J. from 1999.

The direct and indirect factors of the static review of the competitiveness Pyramid model are appropriate to compare the competitiveness of towns and their potencies for region organizing in their regions.

I tried to collect data for towns, for small areas and counties based on a special methodology, the competitiveness pyramid by Lengyel. I supposed that if I take the three categories one by one, which are: the basic category, the basic factors and the success factors, and compare the data related to the two cities, I can get answers for my questions.

Figure No.1. : Competitiveness pyramid by Lengyel



Source: Lengyel 2000.

The competitiveness of the regions can be approached from different sides. Why is a region successful? Lengyel elaborated a model, which has the welfare of the population as its simplified goal. He considers this model appropriate for measuring the regions related to each other that is, to compare their competitiveness. He distinguishes three levels based on the logical structure:

- *Basic categories* are indicators which make the measurement of competitiveness possible. (Income, productivity of labour and employment).
- In the category of *basic factors* are economic factors which determine directly the basic categories of competitiveness, if these factors are developed, the competitiveness of the region can improve and the economic growth can speed up.
- On the lower level of the pyramid there are the *success factors*, they have an indirect influence on basic categories and on basic factors; these factors change only in a longer period. (Lengyel 2000).

If the characteristics which determine competitiveness are shown in a diagram, the “pyramid model” of regional competitiveness can be built. At the bottom of the model there are social, economic, environmental and settlement structure success factors necessary for the long run development. In the middle of the pyramid we can find basic factors applicable to economic development, the basic categories are based on these factors in the definition of the solid competitiveness (competitiveness indicators). At the bottom of the pyramid is the final aim, the living standard, the quality of life of the population in the region.

There has not been made any profound comparative review about towns using the Pyramid method. After the theoretical and descriptive parts of the research I tried to compare the two cities in my study using the model already tested for regions. I analysed the results in relation to the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy of the two cities. (It is undeniable that the strategies were elaborated because of an external force, however I consider them important in fixing the directions of development for towns.)

At the end of the work the verification of the hypothesis, summarized statements, future plans, possible directions for further research can be read.

V. RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

a) Competitiveness of Győr and Nyíregyháza and their regions based on the Pyramid model

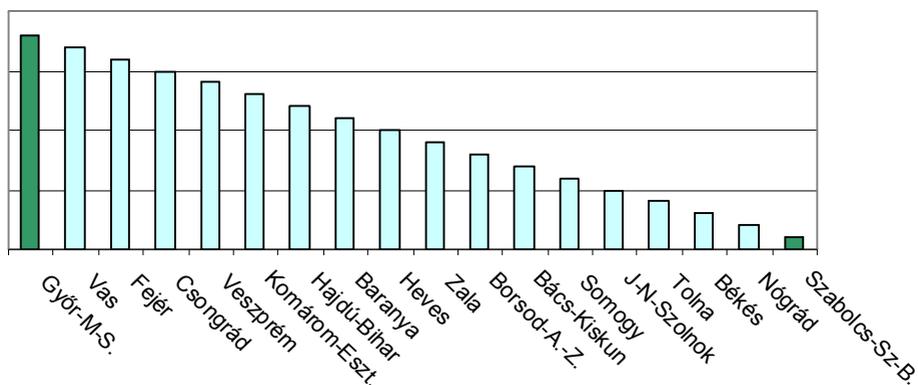
Previously we checked in detail where the major cities, Győr and Nyíregyháza among the 18 county seats, and the counties, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg among the 18 counties have their rankings based on particular modules of the Pyramid model. Chart No. 1. contains the finalized result:

Chart No.1: Ranking among the 18 counties, county seats by the Pyramid model

Name	Gy-M-S	Sz-Sz-B	Győr	Nyíregyháza
Basic categories	1.	18.	1.	15.
Basic factors	1.	16.	2.	10.
Success factors	1.	16.-17.	3.	12.
<i>Competitiveness in total</i>	<i>1.</i>	<i>18.</i>	<i>1.</i>	<i>12.-13.</i>

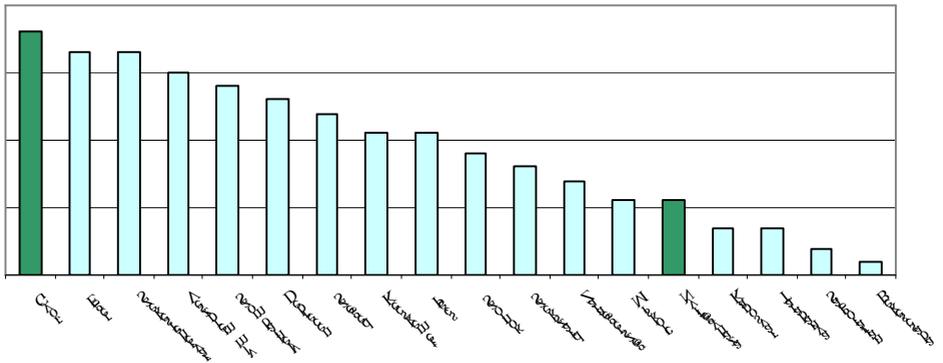
Source: own calculation

Chart No.2: Ranking of Counties Based on Competitiveness by the Pyramid Model, 2006



Source: own design

Chart No.3: Ranking of the County Seats Based on Competitiveness by the Pyramid model, 2006



Source: own design

Based on the diagrams No.2. and 3. the following statements can be formulated:

- The rankings of Győr are in every factor groups better, than the one of Nyíregyháza and the same is true for the county Győr-Moson-Sopron against to Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg.
- The values of the county seats in details are in almost every indicator better, than the ones of their counties.
- We experienced several times a bigger difference between Nyíregyháza and region than between Győr and region, which lead in the summarized evaluation to the fact that Győr has got a bit worse competitiveness among the county seats than the county Győr-Moson-Sopron among the counties, while in case of Nyíregyháza it is exactly the contrary true.
- The competitive edge of Győr and the county Győr-Moson-Sopron in comparison with Nyíregyháza and the county Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg is the biggest considering the basic categories, and it is the smallest considering the success factors.
- Győr and the county Győr-Moson-Sopron are considered to be the most competitive regions, and my calculations have also proved this.
- Nyíregyháza and the county Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg are considered today to be the least competitive region; this is true for the county Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg – Nyíregyháza is at the end of the middle field.

Using the Pyramid model – as the comparative model of regional, county level competitiveness – the most difficult task was selecting data. Numerous data cannot be found on town or small area level, which made the analysis difficult. (We experienced the same with the indicators to compare international cities as well.) Data can be analysed in case of basic factors, basic categories and success factors projected for a given year, but a complex formula could not be formulated from the data, so figures could be compared only by categories separately.

A review based on time ranking for a longer period would give a better picture about the processes, but then less data can be taken into consideration. My analysis for 2006 gives a static status; a time-ranking-review should be done in the future as well after having developed the method further.

Among methods to compare territories (region, county) several are prepared for regional territory-units as well, as for small areas and towns. My attempt to compare cities based on economic, social indicators and to determine their role/potential in connection with their territory is a new approach.

If we wish to compare cities with western and eastern centres in the future as well using the pyramid method, an even bigger lack of data is to be expected. In countries eastern from us statistics are even more disorganized. In order to have more successful regional comparisons in the future I think it is important that regional and economic experts cooperate with experts at the Central Institute for Statistics and in civil service. Regional and country-wide surveys should ask for data helping these kinds of analysis. I consider them to be compiled based on international and national methodology in co-ordinated structural cooperation. We would have more data in the future offering a better picture about the processes behind the figures.

b) Verification of the Thesis

1. The present level of social-economic development of Nyíregyháza and Győr is almost the same. That means there is no significant deviation between the development indicators of the two cities.

There is a discrepancy between Győr and Nyíregyháza in the indicators in total. I took the situation of today as a base. As well as the surveys of the KSH, also the analysis using the Pyramid model show that although Nyíregyháza has better results in one or other factors, but the competitive position of Győr is still stronger in total. While Nyíregyháza has

advantages in aging index, in the increase of population, in proportion of inhabitants living in building estates, and in numbers of new houses and flats, Győr has better figures in education (qualifications from grammar school and secondary schools, from higher education), and almost in every economic indicator. This advantage can be demonstrated not only for today but for the previous decades as well. A descriptive analysis of KSH surveys is to be found in a cumulated chart, where social, economic and environmental elements are examined in 8 major cities in Hungary. Based on these indicators the average is 4,5 – so Győr is on the second place with 5.375% after Szeged, while Nyíregyháza with its 4.625% is over the average and comes before Miskolc, Kecskemét and Pécs.

Considering my comparative analysis, the review of KSH for Hungarian major cities, and the development of the two cities, the difference between the development levels of the two cities can be demonstrated.

This statement did not proved to be true. There is a big difference between the social-economic development levels of the two cities.

2. Analysing the narrow and wide surroundings of the two cities – considering especially the wider, the county level – there is a big and growing difference between the development levels.

The main territorial reference of the analysis of basic categories, basic factors and success factors by the Pyramid model is to compare the two cities with each other and with their surroundings. In Nyíregyháza there are significantly more people having income from an employee status. The average monthly pension of pensioners follows the county seat - small area – county sequence, but with smaller differences, and – as at the income from employment – there is a much greater difference between Nyíregyháza and the county average, than in case of Győr and its region. If we examine the income of taxpayers from labour relations, then Győr has 116% and Nyíregyháza 120% compared to the county figures. There are greater differences in incomes from enterprises: considering their position in the county, Győr alone produced with 32% and Nyíregyháza with 62% more income from enterprises, than with their regions together.

Considering the basic factors we can see that in numerous fields there is not as great discrepancy between the two cities as between the two counties. Győr-Moson-Sopron County is always in the first places related to the average, while Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County comes at the end. Let's have an example at the basic factors: there isn't a significant difference between the two cities

and the small areas if we take the figures of the foreign quarters in regard to 1000 inhabitants, although there is a big difference at the counties (Győr County: 811/634/1326; Nyíregyháza County: 637/542/362 people). Summarizing the basic factors Győr is on the 5.-6. place and Nyíregyháza on the 9., among the counties Győr-Moson-Sopron has the 3.and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg the 11.–12. place. The analysis of success factors shows similar results though with smaller deviation, although a lot of regional data are hard to get, and they are often incomplete.

The statement proved to be true. There is a bigger discrepancy between the wider territory of the two cities on county level.

3. The role of the two cities in their region is different: Győr has a more balanced role in the region, there is a so called backwash effect (absorbing effect) in the case of Nyíregyháza concerning the floating production factors.

The analysis (the verification of hypothesis 2. and by the comparative research based on the Pyramid model), and the descriptive documents of the area (regional, county level) all show that Győr is a determining factor in its region, like Nyíregyháza. Both cities play a dominant role, they are significant centres of the attraction field.

The development of Nyíregyháza or the underdevelopment of the county comes more to sight based on the data of Győr and Nyíregyháza related to the region. Also the analysis of the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy (IVS) supports that there is an absorbing effect in Nyíregyháza compared to the towns in the county.

IVS proves the regional dominance-analysis: „Nyíregyháza as county seat of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county has several administrative and public service functions on county level through its institutions and authorities.” The dominant role of Nyíregyháza in the region is emphasized by the analysis and by the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy as well.

Nyíregyháza used to be the only town in the county until 1969–1970, but it is still the most significant city among the other towns of the county. None of the 25 towns here have a population of 20 thousand inhabitants, so we can consider their regional effects as local effects. Nyíregyháza functions as an increase pole, because of the great number of inhabitants and commuters and because of the concentration of the economy. The city plays traditionally a conservative role in the economic and social processes of the county in every field. All these are supported by statistical data, tendencies as well:

„Economic-service role: half of the enterprises and 1/3 of the private entrepreneurs of the county can be found here, and the major part of shops and financial services as well. Tourist dominance: 42.5 % of the around 270 thousand nights spent in the county are in Nyíregyháza, but the primary role of the city is even more important in case of foreign tourists. Its educational function on the county level appears mainly in secondary education. The city's proportional share is between 35-50% of secondary education (e.g. teachers, classes, pupils, number of public servants being employed in state commission. In the field of health and social services, the county level scope of activity of the city is mainly dominant so supply local needs. The number of patients at family doctors and family paediatricians in the city does not reach 20% in the county, but the majority of nursing days in hospitals, of yearly working hours at clinics and treatments were performed in the county seat. The proportions are similar in social services (crèches, institutes for temporary accommodation possibilities, etc) as well. In the field of culture and public cultivation the supply is wider mainly because of the bigger demand which means a better network of institutions and various programmes” (NYH MJV IVS 2008).

This thesis is proved to be true.

4. The role of the cities in the region has an influence on their competitiveness in the long run.

During my research I could not evolve a solid statistical indicator system, which would certainly show the development direction of each city (inland or foreign) and their role in their region.

Numerous external factors can influence the development of countries, regions, and towns. József Veress finds in one of his studies about globalization that in terms of new achievements of the information society and international financial economy we can see: the category of “country” becomes more marginal and irrelevant. „The relation of the state and the business sector can be treated in a way as both parties move in their own ways; sometimes they meet. (Geometrical proportion and speed determine the extent of the autonomy of each party). The lower a country is in the list of the potential sequence of nations; the stronger it depends on the levels of integration, on different international financial levels, and big investors. It has a strong influence on the relationship of the two spheres; a strong need appears for a mutual approach between governments and entrepreneurs. The parameters of each country are determined by their histories, the level of development, economic traditions and the position in the potential sequence altogether.” (Veress 1999). Very important concepts also play a role in interpreting their role in

the region. Is there a network operation or are strong centres the key in development for the long run? Although by using the Pyramid model, the relation of towns to their regions, and their attraction can be observed, it can hardly be used for a long term planning in its present form. According to theories analysed in this study, a centralized role, various national organisations and functions result in a long term development for cities.

The thesis is proved. Besides international openness there are several conditions of competition necessary to attract Hungarian and foreign investors into the region. The inhabitants, leading entrepreneurs and citizens of the area can all contribute to this. This review needs another approach in the future to become appropriate for planning.

5. The two cities have advantages concerning competitiveness because of their geopolitical situation especially because of the nearness to the border.

The historical traditions, the geopolitical settings, the role in the network of towns are very important. Győr has a strong position in the more advanced western region without any strong rival, while Nyíregyháza is situated in a disadvantageous region in the neighbourhood of two regional centres, Debrecen and Miskolc.

Hungary has long borderlines with several countries because of its small size and geopolitical setting. Both cities lay on the line of the Helsinki corridor, in an east west direction, accessible by railways and public roads. The nearness of the airport in Pétervárad and Debrecen means an advantage as well. Győr had the first industrial park and cluster (PANAC) in Hungary, which is also an advantage. Today there is an industrial park in Nyíregyháza as well, and the logistic centre in Záhony is supposed to assure a great possibility for the region.

The closeness to the border means an advantage for tourism for the Győr region. The development of natural tourism may be an advantage in the Nyíregyháza region. The statements of research related in this study say that there have been positive changes in the cross-border and borderline connections along the Hungarian Romanian and Hungarian Ukrainian borders in the last years, after constitutions and better practices came into existence.

Comparing the borderlines of the two regions complexly, an evident advantage would appear in favour to the western region, but Nyíregyháza, in the County of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg also gained numerous advantages from their border location. We can list EU sources, common conceptions, co operations, educations, Ukrainian and Romanian departments of MKIK helping the participants of the economy, infrastructure conditions of border crossing points,

connections between settlements, associations, and regions in Europe as forms for cooperation and cooperation in tourism. (*Baranyi 2005*).

The thesis is proved. The geopolitical situation of the two regions contributes to competitiveness. The research done by MTA RKK in Győr and Debrecen support this.

c) Summarizing statements of the research

The development of the cities determines what kind of workplaces and enterprises can be supported to draw population from other areas and to increase employment.

The importance of the size of the population is connected to the output and productivity as well. We see that, really big cities (mega centres) are the pulling centres of Europe. The population of Győr and Nyíregyháza have stagnated during the past 14 years. It means they belong to major cities in Hungary, but on the European level they are considered to be smaller (or medium at the most) towns based on their population.

We would never think that transnational companies (e.g. the automobile industry) are planning based on demographic and local trends (local and global effects). Global trends are having effects on different levels in Europe, Hungary, regions and towns as well. The size of population and the urban hierarchy are determinate in future development. The significance of the national borders has decreased. New potentials appear in the competition for profit and for continuous development, like cheaper labour, knowledge, number and preparedness of the active population, and its labour culture.

The role of local values, like the one of towns will be valorised. Towns have vantage-points in this connection, e.g. geopolitical makings. Institutions of higher education are a special regional attraction, since they are the basis for the skilled labour supply. A lot of young people move to towns for this reason and the nearness of different services is also attractive for older people. Local potentials, traditions, cultural and natural values are being re-evaluated. Traffic and work is becoming more mobile and free because of infrastructural improvements.

All these factors explain why the competition has begun mainly among towns. The “fight” is for enterprises, tourists, and population. If it happens to win a company, the business has to be kept for the long run. The situation is similar with inhabitants. They need jobs, services at a high level. Towns for living have to be made. There is a strong connection between enterprises and

urban population; they both mean an attraction for each other. Young skilled manpower speaking foreign languages play an important role in the location of companies, while a prospering and promising company attracts young mobile labour force. .

The main goal of the Lisbon Strategy – Increasing Europe’s competitiveness by knowledge – indicates that the knowledge-intensive sectors are very important, where the appropriate manpower has to be ensured as well. The role of R+D and innovation at companies, and cooperation with partner institutes of higher education is rising.

Clusters increase economic competitiveness; their number is continuously increasing in Hungary. Clusters are loose associations of small and medium-sized companies working in the same sector. Some kind of cooperation comes into existence to make common advantages for these companies based on cooperation. Several needs and expectations of global companies can only be satisfied by common work, so companies are not strong enough to be successful of their own. Such clusters can also contribute to a region’s competitiveness, since it may influence a company’s decision where to locate. „Focusing on innovation is very important in the function of clusters. Competition or cooperation?” – This is the question for companies. Clusters show that in spite of competition among companies, globalization stimulates them to cooperate. The formation of clusters can put a region at an advantage. (*Dimitris–Panayiotis 2008*). „In the old world” individual big companies had the power to develop; today clusters can be the key. This new economic model ensures a competitive edge against single companies. It makes possible lower costs, and a better innovation ability because of more participants. (*Ács 2006.*) *Cooperation among different participants is essential for the development on the urban and regional level as well. All this is inevitable for prosperity and for the increasing of the welfare of the inhabitants.* As Pócs (*Pócs 2001*) writes: „The intelligent region works as a catalyst, because it encourages and coordinates cooperation among companies, and the connection between companies and state administration. In an intelligent region data, information and knowledge play a major role”. Every innovation and novelty usually comes into existence at first in centres. It increases the competitive edge of towns as well, although information is spreading out more quickly among cities as technologies for information communication (IKT) develop.

„The city regions of developed countries become the motor of economic growth; there is a significant concentration at these places. The availability of top level business services, research and development, financial institutions, development of cultural economy – in spite of information technology development – is important in determining competitiveness.

Networks promoting education, creativity, and innovation come into existence in major cities, because clusters concentrated in regions allow the flexible reaction to the more specific demands. Global markets, increase of specialized demand, and flexible networks of big cities make it possible to attract ever more specialized producers into cities, so regions of major cities became the regional motors of the world economy.” (*Hungarian settlement network.2007, 10–11.*)

The carriers of knowledge are the *institutions of higher education*. Encouraging innovation and innovation have priority, because they contribute to development. Dóry’s formulation for reducing the differences between regions – “the cohesive gap” – is only to achieve with intensifying the R+D and the innovation activities (*Dóry 2005, 27*). „It is an elementary interest for Hungary to belong to the European Region for Higher Education. It was the same in the age of Latin culture. Europe has to compete today as well, as university rectors and government ministers realized it in London in 2007. The global challenge created a contention, where the European higher education can only keep its leading position if it reacts appropriately to at least four worldwide challenges. These challenges are mobility, permeability, employment and quality.” (Szekeres. 2008.) Europe, Hungary and the regions, cities and towns compete. The aim is to match the new challenges on national and city, university level and to achieve a better position. Towns, like Győr and Nyíregyháza have to create a strategy considering the European and global planning and the comparative advantages of towns. Cooperation with the participants already in the planning phase is indispensable. We saw earlier that clusters have their strength in cooperation, and the two towns and their regions have to find the appropriate development directions. Education will be qualified by the labour market. That is the reason why it is necessary to create harmony between the needs of companies and the output of educational institutions.

The needs of a local economy appear with a special emphasis e.g. in the AUTOPOLIS development and competitiveness pole. It has an influence on the development of the educational supply of the university. The attraction of labour market and the cross border commuters are important elements of this region, which I shown by the existence of the first Hungarian cluster, the PANAC which is an example for the other organizing clusters.

Regions and their attraction fields are competing. It is obvious why there is competition and what it is. The development directions are open for both cities, Győr and Nyíregyháza. It depends on the local professional and political environment how they can use their possibilities, how they are able to mobilize the resources acting as a catalyst. The rational, long-run, sustainable exploitation

of different supports plays a very important role in the long-run competition. The geopolitical situation, the hierarchy of cities and their relations are determining factors for competitiveness. Faragó (2009) writes in his work that if the conditions of suburbanization, daily transport are improving, the increase of centre and emptiness of smaller settlements do not have to follow the concentration of production. This statement applies especially to Nyíregyháza.

There is a competition among cities, among areas, among regions and among countries as well. Cooperation can be the success factor of a region, area in this new kind of competition. The competitiveness of the regions depends on the state system, policies of Europe and on the region itself in the future as it did in the past (Keating 1998). Keating's statement, from almost ten years ago, is still true today and the external global dependence seems to intensify further, so without local cooperation and strategy, development is hard to imagine.

Reviewing the goals of competitiveness we can see that one of the major aspects is the stable welfare of inhabitants and increasing income. A strong economy, jobs and a skilled labour force working with pleasure in fields according to their capability are essential for the general welfare, and to the improvement of the region's competitiveness. The state, especially the welfare state is one of the determining factors of a modern market economy. "In the 20th century, the function of a market economy needs investments in human capital, (e.g. in education), which generate state interventions." (Bara-Szabó 1996). The operation of a market economy produces inequalities in the society and among the regions as well. Assistance given by the state to moderate these inequalities is called "welfare goods and services." It is very important today in a region, area or country, especially in the redistribution and planning process, but not exclusively, since people living in these places have to train themselves continuously and to meet the challenges of our age on a regional level as well.

Regions, towns and the participants, especially companies and institutions of higher education can meet the challenges, be successful only together. I tried to consider several points with description, processing and indicators, but – as Strohmeier (2007) says – commitment and personal contacts among participants are indispensable for cooperation. The appropriate strategy, the cooperation, relations and commitments serve the future competitiveness of regions. National Lichfield – dealing with management of towns – regards this activity as increasingly important, which has to serve people in towns. (Lichfield 1998). Martin Heintel (Heintel 2005) formulates regional management which is effective and simple: institutions, which have professional regional developments as their main activity.

The closeness of borders and the geopolitical potentials are determining in the role of cities. The advantageous situation of Győr was influenced by the axis of Pozsony–Bécs–Budapest and it is still determining today. The classification as an industrial city is important. Although the industrial structure has been transformed, industry is still significant today, especially the automobile and vehicle industry. Besides this we can also create a new strategy, standing on more feet. It is important to emphasize this because of the economic crisis. For Nyíregyháza it may be determining to be the gateway to the Ukraine and Romania, which may strengthen its logistical function. It may also benefit from the increasing demand of the world market for agricultural products. Nyíregyháza cooperating with the bigger towns nearby has to continue its strategy. The region and its traditionally good agricultural production can also be a key factor in the enhancement of competitiveness. Motorways and railroads mean an enormous advantage. The water economy of the Tisza River contains possibilities as a common point towards the East. The competitive edge of Nyíregyháza is indisputable in revaluation of the Eastern connections.

The result of analysis and research lets us draw the following conclusion: beside the changes of the global world knowledge, human capital plays a more and more important role in the life of a settlement and its environment. Innovation, a knowledge-based economy, clusters and various regional cooperation are evaluated. Although innovation may occur at the company level most frequently, institutions of higher education have an important role in its improvement. At the same time the role of city management in planning and implementation is basic. It is necessary to act and think locally in order to make the region successful. Although Integrated Settlement Development Strategies are results of external necessity (as I emphasized earlier), it is worth reconsidering it just “from internal necessity” from time to time in the region’s interest.

I regard the potential, geopolitical situations of Nyíregyháza and Győr as good. They have the key partly themselves for the successful future of their cities and their regions, with an appropriate cooperation, with incentives, with locating new industries into the region and forming adequate roles in competitiveness.

d) Possible future directions of the research

I wish to develop an even more complex indicator to measure the competitiveness of the cities in the future, which could also be used to more easily compare Hungarian cities internationally.

I consider the Pyramid model as an integrated method, but I had difficulties several times during

the analysis. I experienced difficulties while getting data for research on Hungarian cities and regional analysis; foreign data are even harder to get. In order to reach this it might be necessary to think how the model is to be intensified or to revise it, to substitute some hard factors for soft factors.

The other aspect for improvement of the model is to make the model more dynamic. Although it seemed hard to collect data even for statistical analysis, I think it is important to make a dynamic time-based review using this method in the future.

It is also determining how these analyses can be utilized in practice. It means that besides research and analysis also planning is very important, although the model is hard to apply for this yet. Although it is difficult in our rapidly changing global world to look into the future, the rethinking of Integrated Settlement Development Strategies and the accomplishment of plans are very important. .

At the 14th conference in Sitges in 2009 on city planning and regional development the definitions of integrated town, “live - ability,” knowledge and sustainability came to the front. The conference for city planners held for 13 years in Vienna was deliberately moved to a small Spanish town this year –to give the possibility for smaller towns to find their way to development and to get ready to adjust to challenges. (*Cities 3.0 www.corp.at 2009*).

The knowledge required by the Lisbon Strategy contributes to the development of human resources and the economy; it is worth examining it deeper, on town and region level as well. Knowledge of society is closely connected to this. Robert K. Merton wrote about it in 1957 and in 1968:”The European version of the sociology of knowledge tries to find the social roots of knowledge. It searches how the surrounding social infrastructure influences knowledge and thinking” (*Merton 2002*). It is very important to measure knowledge, how the number of innovations, licences depends on environmental settings and structure.

I plan to research further, to get more comprehensive skills necessary for regional science research. *I think research like this can contribute to increasing the competitiveness of Hungarian towns (and their regions), to formulate reasonable and practicable development strategies and finally to improve the life quality for the population.*

VI. APPLIED LITERATURE

- Baranyi, B. (szerk.) [2005]: Az Európai Unió külső határán. Debrecen MTA RKK. 45-49.o.
- BARA, Z. – SZABÓ, K. [1996]: Összehasonlító gazdaságtan. Bevezetés a gazdasági rendszerek elméletébe. Aula Kiadó, Budapest. 60-62.o.
- CITIES 3.0 [2009]: Strategies, concepts and technologies for planning the urban future. 14th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society. www.corp.at 22-25 April 2009. Sitges.
- DIMITRIS, L., - PANAYIOTIS, G. C. [2008]: Buiseness Clusters Formation as a Means of Improving Competitiveness int he Tourism Sector. European Research Studies, Volume XI, Issue (1-2). 111-114.o.
- DÓRY, T. [2005]: (SZERK.: GROSZ–RECHNITZER) Régiók és nagyvárosok innovációs potenciálja Magyarországon. MTA RKK, Pécs–Győr. 27-35.o.
- DUSEK, T. [2004]: A területi elemzések alapjai. Regionális Tudományi Tanulmányok 10, ELTE Regionális Földrajz Tanszék–MTA-ELTE Regionális Tudományos Kutatócsoport.
- ENYEDI, Gy. [2003]: Városi világ – városfejlődés a globalizáció korában. Pécs, 2003. Habilitációs előadások. PTE 2002. november 7-én tartott díszdoktori székfoglaló előadás szerkesztett változata. 12-16. o.
- FARAGÓ, L. [2009]: Habilitációs tézisek. Széchenyi István Egyetem Kautz Gyula Gazdaságtudományi Kar Regionális és Gazdaságtudományi Doktori Iskola. Győr. 23. o.
- GROSZ, A. [2005]: (Szerk.: Grosz–Rechnitzer) Régiók és nagyvárosok innovációs potenciálja Magyarországon. MTA RKK. Pécs-Győr. 248-259.o.
- Győr Megyei Jogú Város Középtávú integrált városfejlesztési stratégiája [2008]: Győr, 2008. február 21.
- GYÓRFY, L. – BENYOVSZKI, A. [2005]: A munkatermelékenység és a területi versenyképesség megyei szintű alakulása Romániában. A Magyar Regionális Tudományi Társaság III. vándorgyűlésén, Sopronban, 2005. november 26-án megtartott előadás szerkesztett változata. (1. szekció).
- HAGETT, P. [2006]: Geográfia. Globális szintézis. Typotex. Budapest. (Geography. A Global Synthesis. 2001. Harlow)
- HEINTEL, M. [2005]: Regionalmanagement in Österreich. 2005. Wien. 72-73.o.
- HORVÁTH, Gy. [1999]: Kutatás, felsőoktatás és regionális átalakulás. Az innováció szerepe a regionális fejlődésben. – Magyar Tudomány. 4. 447–458. o.
- HORVÁTH, Gy. [2007]: Régióközpontok Európában. Magyar Tudomány, 2007/6.
- ILLÉS, I. [2008]: Regionális gazdaságtan–Területfejlesztés. Typotex. Budapest 138. o.
- JÁNOSSY, F. [1966]: A gazdasági fejlődés trendvonala és a helyreállítási periódusok. Közgazdasági és Jogi Könyvkiadó, Budapest.
- KEARNEY A.T. [2008]: Global Cities Index. *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and Washingtonpost*. Letölve:http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4509

- KEATING, M. [1998]: The New Regionalism in Western Europe. /Territorial Restructuring and Political Change/ Edward Edgar, Cheltenham UK–Northampton, MA, USA. 184-186.o.
- KSH Győri Igazgatósága [2007]: Oktatási helyzetkép a Nyugat-dunántúlon.
- LENGYEL, I. [2000a]: A regionális versenyképességről. Közgazdasági Szemle, 12. pp. 962-987.
- LENGYEL, I. [2003]: Globalizáció, területi verseny és versenyképesség. In Süli- Zakar I. (szerk.): A területi- és településfejlesztés alapjai. Dialóg Campus, Budapest Pécs, pp. 161-177.
- LENGYEL, I. [2003]: Verseny és fejlődés: térségek versenyképessége Magyarországon. JATE-Press, Szeged.
- LENGYEL, I. – RECHNITZER, J. [2000]: A városok versenyképességéről. – Horváth Gy. – Rechnitzer J. (szerk.): 130–152. o.
- LICHFIELD, N. [1998]: Economics in Urban conservation. Cambridge University Press. 1998. 38-42. o.
- Lipcsei Charta [2007]: a fenntartható európai városokról, amelyről a 2007. május 24–25-én Lipcsében tartott, városfejlesztésről és területi kohézióról szóló informális miniszteri találkozó alkalmából született megállapodás.
- A magyar településhálózat helyzete és távlatai [2007]: Országos Településhálózat-fejlesztési Koncepció szakmai megalapozása. Készült az Önkormányzati és Területfejlesztési Minisztérium megbízásából az MTA RKK és a VÁTI együttműködésében, munkaanyag 2.0., 2007. december 6.
- MERTON K. R. [2002]: Társadalomelmélet és társadalmi struktúra. Osiris Kiadó. Buapest. 637-647.o.
- NAGY, Z. [2007]: Miskolc város pozícióinak változásai a magyar városálózatban a 19. század végétől napjainkig. Doktori (PhD) értekezés. Debrecen. 5-39.; 73-88.o.
- NÁRAI, M. [2005]: Az egyetemi profilalakítás és a tudástranszfer szerepe a regionális együttműködésben. UNIRÉGIÓ Egyetemek a határ menti együttműködésben. MTA RKK. Pécs-Győr
- NEMES NAGY, J. [2007]: Kvantitatív társadalmi térelemzési eszközök a mai regionális tudományban. In: Tér és Társadalom. XXI. évf. 2007. 1. sz. 1-19. o.
- Nyíregyháza Megyei Jogú Város Középtávú integrált városfejlesztési stratégiája [2008]: Nyíregyháza, 2008. január, tervezet.
- RECHNITZER, J. [1994]: Fejezetek a regionális gazdaságtan tanulmányozásához. MTA RKK. Győr-Pécs.142. o.
- RECHNITZER, J. – SMAHÓ, M. (szerk.) [2007]: UNIRÉGIÓ Egyetemek a határ menti együttműködésben. MTA RKK. Pécs-Győr.
- STROHMEIER, G. [2007]: Az egyetemi profilalakítás és a tudástranszfer szerepe a regionális együttműködésben. UNIRÉGIÓ Egyetemek a határ menti együttműködésben. MTA RKK. Pécs-Győr. 189.o.
- SZEKERES, T. [2008]: A magyar felsőoktatás a felvételi tükrében. Felsőoktatási Műhely 2008/II. szám.

VII. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

a) Publications on the topic

1. Filep Bálint (2004): Az EU csatlakozás várható hatásai a regionális politikában, 153-156. o., COMITATUS, 2004. január-február, XIV. évfolyam 1-2. szám
2. Filep Bálint (2004): Opportunities of developing public health and welfare policies in Hungary, 86-90. o., Проблеми економічного та соціального розвитку регіону і практика наукового експерименту Науково-Технічний збірник випуск No 20 Київ–Ужгород–Ніредьгаза, 2004 ISBN 966-8489-01-2
(Kiev-Ungvár-Nyíregyháza felsőoktatási intézményeinek közös tudományos kiadványa, ukrán-angol nyelven.)
3. Filep Bálint (2005): Határmentiség - Euroregionális együttműködések, 92-96.o. INVENTÁRIUM, Nyíregyháza.
4. Filep Bálint, Kovács Zsolt (2005): Karrierszolgáltatók a felsőoktatásban, 82-86.o. COMITATUS, 2005. november-december,
5. Filep Bálint (2005): Wettbewerbsfähigkeit von Regionen und Euroregionen, 279-287.o., Széchenyi István Egyetem MTDI Évkönyv.
6. Filep Bálint (2005): Jóléti politika, jóléti állam, 320-329. o., Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Tudományos Konferencia, „Tudásalapú gazdaság és életminőség”, Nyíregyháza.
7. Filep Bálint (2006): Versenyképességi tényezők az Osztrák és az Ukrán határmenti térségben, 95-107.o. Versenyképesség és regionalitás, Tanulmánykötet, Győr, MTA VEAB-Széchenyi István Egyetem MTDI.
8. Filep Bálint (2007): A Nyugat-dunántúli régió munkaerőpiacának egyes sajátosságai. „Régiók a Kárpát –medencén innen és túl” nemzetközi tudományos konferencia. Gulyás László (szerk.): Régiók a Kárpát-medencén innen és túl. Konferenciakötet. Eötvös József Főiskola. 2007. ISBN 978-963-7290-52-7 Baja.
9. Filep Bálint (2007): Friss-diplomás fiatalok elhelyezkedési esélyei a Nyugat-dunántúli régióban. XXVIII. OTDK Közgazdaságtudományi Szekció Doktoranduszok konferenciája. Miskolc.
10. Filep Bálint (2007): A győri Széchenyi István Egyetem, mint a területi versenyképesség egy meghatározó szereplője. Fiatal regionalisták V. országos konferenciája „Tudásmenedzsment és a hálózatok regionalitása” címmel. Győr.
11. Filep Bálint (2007): Certain specialities of the labour-market situation in comparison to the west –danubian region and the north-great plain region. (The proceedings of the international conference competitiveness and european integration, Regional and Rural Economics, ISBN-978-606-504-011-3 October 26-27, 2007 Cluj Napoca, Romania.
12. Filep Bálint (2007): Térségi különbségek: versenyképesség, gazdasági fejlettség, tudásalapú jellemzők. 92-103 o. ISSN 1787-7113 INVENTÁRIUM, Nyíregyháza.
13. Filep Bálint (2007): Competitiveness of Euroregions, 25-33 o. ISBN 978-83-89823-53-3 Spoleczne i ekologiczne aspekty zarzadzania, Krakow

14. Filep Bálint (2008): The economic regional cooperation and management of Universities and particular the Széchenyi István University. „Integrating perspectives on performance management” conference. University of Economics, Prague. ISBN 978-80-245-1394-2.
15. Filep Bálint – Rechnitzer János (2009): An analysis of the Hungarian major cities and their territories and their opportunities of development. „Real Corp 2009. 14th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society” Sitges. 2009. április 22-25. ISBN 978-3-9502139-6-6

b) Conference presentations connected to the topic

1. Filep Bálint (2005): Wettbewerbsfähigkeit von Regionen und Euroregionen. „Átalakulási folyamatok Közép Európában” című konferencia a Széchenyi István Egyetem Multidiszciplináris Társadalomtudományi Doktori Iskola és az Európa-tanulmányi Központ szervezésében. Győr, 2005. december 2-3.
2. Filep Bálint (2005): A Kárpátok Eurorégió és az Alpok Adria Eurorégió megalakulása, célkitűzései. Magyar Regionális Tudományi Társaság III. Vándorgyűlése. Sopron, 2005. november 24-26.
3. Filep Bálint (2005): Határmentiség – Euroregionális együttműködések, Nyíregyházi Főiskola Gazdasági és Társadalomtudományi Főiskolai Kar, „Magyar Tudományok Napja” Tudományos Konferencia, Közgazdaságtudományi szekció, Nyíregyháza, 2005. november 15.
4. Filep Bálint (2006): Versenyképességi tényezők az Osztrák és Ukrán határmenti térségekben, MTA VEAB, „Várostérségi egyenlőtlenségek Európában, megújulási válság és leküzdése” című tudományos konferencia, Versenyképesség és regionális sajátosságok szekció, Komárom, 2006. április 28.
5. Filep Bálint (2006): Felkészülés a munkaerőpiacra a felsőoktatásban. „Tanulás és Munka” című konferencia, Magyar Jogtanácsosi Szövetség, Budapest, 2006. november. 23-24.
6. Filep Bálint (2006): A városok szerepe a regionális fejlődésben és a versenyképesség erősítésében. MRTT IV. Vándorgyűlés, „A városok szerepe a regionális fejlődésben” című konferencia, A nagy- és középvárosok térszervező funkciói szekció, Szeged, 2006. október 27.
7. Filep Bálint (2006): A szakképzés és a gazdaság kapcsolata, Nyíregyházi Főiskola Gazdasági és Társadalomtudományi Főiskolai Kar, „Magyar Tudományok Napja” Tudományos Konferencia, Közgazdaságtudományi szekció, Nyíregyháza, 2006. november 14.
8. Filep Bálint (2006): A győri Széchenyi István Egyetem, mint a területi versenyképesség egy meghatározó szereplője. Fialat regionalisták V. országos konferenciája „Tudásmenedzsment és a hálózatok regionalitása” címmel. Győr, 2006. november 10-11.
9. Filep Bálint (2007): A Nyugat-dunántúli régió munkaerőpiacának egyes sajátosságai. „Régiók a Kárpát –medencén innen és túl” nemzetközi tudományos konferencia. Baja, 2007. március 23.
10. Filep Bálint (2007): Hallgatók lehetséges életstratégiai kiemelten a győri Széchenyi István Egyetemen. „Ifjúsági jövőképek és életstratégiák globalizálódott korunkban” című konferencia. Komárom, VEAB, 2007. április 27.

11. Filep Bálint (2007): Friss-diplomás fiatalok elhelyezkedési esélyei a Nyugat-dunántúli régióban. XXVIII. OTDK Közgazdaságtudományi Szekció Doktoranduszok konferenciája. Miskolc, 2007. április 25-27.
12. Filep Bálint (2007): Certain specialities of the labour-market situation in comparison to the west –danubian region and the north-great plain region. (The proceedings of the international conference competitiveness and european integration, Regional and Rural Economics, October 26-27, 2007 Cluj Napoca, Romania.
13. Filep Bálint (2008): A felsőoktatás és régió kapcsolata, kiemelten a Nyugat-dunántúli Régiót. „A harmadfokú képzés szerepe a regionális átalakulásban (TERD)” című nemzetközi konferencia. Debrecen DAB székház, 2008. június 24.
14. Filep Bálint (2008): The economic regional cooperation and management of Universities and particular the Széchenyi István University. „Integrating perspectives on performance management” conference. University of Economics, Prague. 2008. szeptember 10-12.
15. Filep Bálint (2009): Győr és Nyíregyháza versenyképességének összehasonlító vizsgálata. 2nd International Economic Conference, Kaposvári Egyetem, Kaposvár, 2009. április 2-3.
16. Filep Bálint – Rechnitzer János (2009): An analysis of the Hungarian major cities and their territories and their opportunities of development. „Real Corp 2009. 14th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society” Sitges. 2009. április 22-25.

c) Bookdetail

1. Filep Bálint (társszerző) (2007): „Egyetem a régióért” című könyv. MTA Regionális Kutatások Központja, Pécs-Győr (szerk.: Lados- Rechnitzer) 2007.

d) Participation in projects connected to the topic

1. Filep Bálint (2005-2007): szakmai részvétel a ROP 3.3.1. „Híd a piaci szereplők és a Széchenyi István Egyetem között” című projektben és kutatási tevékenységben. Kutatási vezető: Dr. Lados Mihály
2. Filep Bálint (2006): Tudatos karriertervezés, munkaerő-piaci ismeretek című tanulmány. „A partnerközpontú önértékelési modell megalkotása és továbbképzések a felsőoktatási intézmények humánerőforrásainak fejlesztéséért” című HEFOP 2004/3.3 kutatási projektben. Konzorciumi partnerek: Dunajvárosi Főiskola, Széchenyi István Egyetem, Kodolányi János Főiskola, Pécsi Tudományegyetem, Ipar Műszaki Fejlesztésért Alapítvány, Ember Erőforrásgazdálkodási Tanácsadók Országos Szövetsége, Magyar Akkreditációs Bizottság Titkársága.
3. Filep Bálint (2006-2007): szakmai részvétel a ROP 3.3 „A régióban működő karrier irodák szolgáltatási körének kialakítása a munkaerőpiac szereplőinek bevonásával” című projektben és kutatásban. Konzorciumi partnerek: Perintpart Alapítvány, Berzsenyi Dániel Főiskola, Széchenyi István Egyetem, Pannon Egyetem, Nyugat-magyarországi Egyetem.
4. A pályaeorientáció/karrier-tanácsadás rendszere, helyzete a magyar felsőoktatásban – lehetséges partnerek egy nemzeti lifelong guidance hálózatban. Az ÁFSZ belső és kiszerveződött pályaeorientációs szolgáltatói kapacitásának felmérése. Áttekintés a TAMOP 2.2.2. projekt számára. 2009.