

PREFACE

Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences has organised the third East-Central European Regional Seminar – ECERS 2010 – in the city of Pécs. This conference was an important occurrence of the co-operation between Polish and Hungarian researchers. The aim of the seminar was to support the initiative of Warsaw Regional Forums and expand the Polish–Hungarian Geographical Seminars. This meeting aimed to highlight different aspects, spatial issues and problems of East-Central European localities.

On the first day participants took a visit in Székesfehérvár, in the Department of West-Hungarian Research Institute – HAS CRS. On the occasion of the opening session they discussed the role of Székesfehérvár in the local cooperations, the settlement networks in the region and the competitiveness of Hungarian urban areas.

On the second day participants visited the most altering sites of Pécs and took a short trip to the transformed part of the city. After that they travelled through the Bóly micro-region and met majors and local experts getting a line on authentic information about local development. The colourful excursion ended in the scenic place of Villány Vine Region in the village of Palkonya. On the third day there were twelve presentations about different approaches, which reflected innovative viewpoints of localities. Most of the presenters talked about actual processes and conflicts of localities, especially local opportunities, features of specific areas, environmental and social problems. They pointed out new opportunities of local development and talked about the unique potentials of bottom up initiative. Some of the presentations were based on local researches while the others were case studies or summaries of various pilot projects. The importance of the environmental, historical, touristic and transport functions and the long term perspectives of these kinds of areas were emphasised during the presentations. The main conclusion of the conference was: localities are very important spatial units of sustainability. The studies of the present volume are published with the intention to promote a better understanding of the phenomena and the processes of the localities in East-Central European countries.

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