Special Session Proposal

Governance challenges in the periphery of European Union

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Abstract

The development of peripheries remote from the centres represents a twofold challenge. Their available resources are limited, and they are distant from the power centres also in institutional, political and geographic terms. We will examine the development and governance particularities of the peripheral situation and explore analysis on which own resources and governance innovations could be built upon in a period, when the amount and distribution mechanisms of the EU cohesion policy will probably change. Organizations dealing with development policy (as the EU) recognized the relevance of governance and the socio-cultural context. The seemingly ideal institutional models often encounter fitting difficulties in the concrete governance and spatial environment. The lack of sufficient administrative, social and knowledge capacities is especially often cited, while less attention is directed to the factors explaining the lacking capacities of peripheries and to the mechanisms through which they can be recreated. The theoretic framework for our research is the community-based governance and development model. We assume that the unfavourable development path is generally characteristic in countries with strongly centralised and polarized political structures. Hungary belongs to this group, and our research area, Baranya county is also typical peripheral area. The decline this area is connected with the fact, that could less promote its interests within the multi-level governance system and also that it was unable to integrate the stakeholders of the area into a durable alliance within the system of networked governance, becoming more and more characteristic. We are looking forward lectures dealing with governance issues mostly in peripheral, rural areas focusing on actors, power networks and development practices.