

Réka HORECZKI*

THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE SECTOR IN THE HUNGARIAN URBAN HIERARCHY

PRZESTRZENNE ROZMIESZCZENIE SEKTORA ŚREDNICH PRZEDSIĘBIORSTW W WĘGIERSKIEJ HIERARCHII MIEJSKIEJ

No. DOI: 10.25167/sm.3421

ABSTRACT: The present study investigates the spatial distribution of the medium-sized enterprise sector in the Hungarian urban network. This tier of the enterprise network has been relatively neglected in comparison with large foreign-owned firms, but deserves a look due to its promising role in the regional development and development policy. Our previous research¹ on medium-sized enterprises becomes particularly relevant when we consider that the dominant development model of post-socialist industry, based on the attraction of Foreign Direct Investment, is showing limits under the new economic crisis; and that the further increase in regional competitiveness necessitates stronger support for the development of domestic enterprises in both developed and underdeveloped regions. However, the development dilemmas of mid-sized enterprises have not been sufficiently considered in the previous decades, even though their position between larger (mostly foreign-owned) companies and small, capital-poor enterprises gives them significant development potential. Their contribution to domestic capital accumulation, ability to formulate independent competitive strategies, and the role in shaping the local or regional business environment deserves scrutiny. According to our preliminary assumption, the status of medium-sized enterprises in the urban hierarchy is shaped first and foremost by the population number of cities, since the proximity of human resources and markets is a significant locational factor for medium-sized manufacturing firms. The study gives an overview of the evolution of the number of medium-sized enterprises and the average number of their employees in Hungarian cities since 2000, based on data published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences CERS Databank and the Central Statistical Office. Structured interviews² were conducted to detect the disparities at the level of urban regions, with a particular emphasis on Baranya County and the City of Pécs. The results demonstrate

* <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3131-681X>, e-mail: horeczki.reka@krtk.hu.

¹ NKFIH-K-15 No. 115577. project; Title: "The role of medium-sized enterprises in regional industrial competitiveness"

² Our field research consisted in carrying out interviews with representatives of domestic medium-sized industrial enterprises in three selected Hungarian regions: Southern Transdanubia, Western Transdanubia and the Southern Great Plains. We make supplementary interviews with senior policy experts. We analyse economic and social environment of the medium-sized enterprises, the opportunities and challenges, their growth strategy and development goals.

that entrepreneurial traditions and entrepreneurial visions are evaluated as important locational advantages by domestically owned medium-sized enterprises.

KEY WORDS: urbanization, medium-sized enterprise, Hungary, Transdanubia

ABSTRAKT: W niniejszym opracowaniu zbadano przestrzenne rozmieszczenie sektora średnich przedsiębiorstw węgierskiej sieci miejskiej. Ten poziom sieci przedsiębiorstw był stosunkowo zaniedbany w porównaniu z dużymi firmami z kapitałem zagranicznym, ale zasługuje na uwagę ze względu na jego obiecującą rolę w rozwoju regionalnym i polityce rozwoju. Nasze wcześniejsze badania nad średnimi przedsiębiorstwami stają się szczególnie istotne, gdy weźmiemy pod uwagę, że dominujący model rozwoju przemysłu postsojalistycznego, oparty na przyciąganiu bezpośrednich inwestycji zagranicznych, wykazuje ograniczenia w warunkach nowego kryzysu gospodarczego, oraz że dalszy wzrost konkurencyjności regionalnej wymaga silniejszego wsparcia dla rozwoju przedsiębiorstw krajowych zarówno w regionach rozwiniętych, jak i słabo rozwiniętych. Dylematy rozwojowe średnich przedsiębiorstw nie były jednak dostatecznie uwzględniane w poprzednich dekadach, mimo że ich pozycja pomiędzy większymi (w większości z udziałem kapitału zagranicznego) a małymi, ubogimi w kapitał przedsiębiorstwami daje im znaczny potencjał rozwojowy. Na uwagę zasługuje ich wkład w akumulację kapitału krajowego, zdolność do formułowania niezależnych strategii konkurencyjnych oraz rola w kształtowaniu lokalnego czy regionalnego otoczenia biznesowego. Zgodnie z naszym wstępnym założeniem, status średnich przedsiębiorstw w hierarchii miejskiej kształtowany jest przede wszystkim przez liczbę ludności miast, gdyż bliskość zasobów ludzkich i rynków zbytu jest istotnym czynnikiem lokalizacyjnym dla średnich firm produkcyjnych. Opracowanie przedstawia przegląd ewolucji liczby średnich przedsiębiorstw i średniej liczby ich pracowników w węgierskich miastach od 2000 r., w oparciu o dane opublikowane przez Węgierską Akademię Nauk CERS i Główny Urząd Statystyczny. W celu wykrycia różnic na poziomie regionów miejskich, przeprowadzone zostały ustrukturyzowane wywiady ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem powiatu Baranya i miasta Pecz. Wyniki pokazują, że tradycje i wizje przedsiębiorczości są oceniane jako ważne zalety lokalizacyjne dla krajowych średnich przedsiębiorstw.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: urbanizacja, średnie przedsiębiorstwa, Węgry, Kraj Zadunajski

Project no. 115577 and project no. 132294 have been implemented with the support provided from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund of Hungary, financed under the K-15 and K-19 funding scheme and special thanks to Waław Felczak Foundation.

Introduction: Patterns of spatial organization characterizing domestic medium-sized enterprises

The urban dimension has been interpreted along two main pillars since ancient times: population and urban functions and institutions. Disparities between cities are depicted through the notions of competitiveness, development, success and viability (Nemes Nagy 2001; Németh and Kiss 2007; Koltai 2014; Csurgó and Megyesi 2016; Rechnitzer 2016; Dusek 2018), each of which highlights the centrality of the firm (enterprise, entrepreneur, entrepreneurial attitude, entrepreneurial spirit, etc.). The heterogenous structure of the Hungarian settlement network (is also reflected in the spatial distribution of cities; despite their large number, cities are characterized with an uneven geographical distribution, country and regional level analyses demonstrate the existence of areas with a serious deficit of urban functions.

Previous research has already explored connections of varying intensity and nature between the settlement network and industry; Beluszky (1999) and Borbás (2015) reviewed the evolution of the Hungarian industrial sector in a historical perspective with a special focus on cities and urbanization processes. The analysis of Barta and Enyedi (1981) demonstrated a significant correlation between employee numbers and settlement and urban development. The emergence of rural industrialization in the early 20th century laid the foundations for the development of many of today's small towns. From the 1960s onwards, with the steeply rising number of settlements with city rights, an increasing number of industrial sites, larger companies and agricultural cooperatives emerged within the network of small and medium-sized cities, and the population of villages showed an exponential growth (Kiss 2011; Törjék 2002).

The regime change consolidated the position of larger cities in terms of industrial, tertiary and other functions. Larger – frequently state-owned – conglomerates and large corporations were dissolved; and several of them were transformed into medium-sized or small enterprises forming the subject of our analysis. In 1992, the average number of registered enterprises per settlement was 2.8, and by 2009 it had risen to 15.4 (Kiss 2010, 2011). The concentration of traditional industrial bases in cities and settlements holding city rights already in 1990 was maintained even after the turn of the millennium; in the meantime, the fragmented large enterprises tended to settle down mostly in smaller cities, i.e. cities with a population of 2-10,000, for reasons of family ties, industrial traditions or the number of employees.

Material and research methods: analysis of the Hungarian situation

According to statistical data, the average number of medium-sized enterprises per city in Hungary is 5.91.³ The average number of potential medium-sized enterprises (Kovács, Lux and Páger 2017) per city shows a similar value of 5.3. The analysis seeks to explore the role of non-traditional locational factors shaping the spatial organization (implantation and survival) of medium-sized enterprises. Our objective is to determine whether it is possible to apply the rank-size rule characterizing the distribution of city sizes to the spatial distribution of medium-sized enterprises as well.

The legal status of cities clearly demonstrates that cities with a higher position in the urban hierarchy are capable of attracting and retaining a higher number of medium-sized enterprises. In the case of large rural cities, achieving critical mass in all major economic sectors is the main prerequisite to economic success (Lux 2013; Döbrönte 2018). Molnár et al. (2018) estimate the rate of actual and potential medium-sized

³ The research relies on the latest available data of the National Tax and Customs Office obtained from the CERS Databank of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for the years 2000, 2004 and 2007, and when cities could be matched with the data sets, focusing on years with the least amount of lacking data. To eliminate outliers, data for the capital were not included in our analysis.

enterprises operating in the eight Hungarian large cities⁴ to be 3.8% on average: with values attaining nearly 5% in the case of Győr, Kecskemét and Székesfehérvár. Unfortunately, values for Pécs remain significantly below the average. The analyses of Kiss (2010, 2011) underline the interdependency between the industrial sector and the settlement network, with 20% of industrial firms concentrated in small cities; and 21.9% in cities with a population over 50,000 (excluding the capital).

Result: classification of Hungarian towns

According to the results of our analyses, combining values for actual and potential medium-sized enterprises – an average number of 84 medium-sized enterprises are located in county seats, 32 in cities with county rights (non-county seats) and 6.6 in the rest of the cities. At the turn of the millennium and the year preceding the outbreak of the crisis, a decrease in absolute terms was recorded, the number of potential and operating medium-sized enterprises declined in each settlement category. In terms of rounded average values, the change was not spectacular due to the significant rise in the number of small businesses. Evidence of leaps between categories was found, but they implied a regression (Table 1).

Table 1

Number of enterprises in Hungary (2000, 2007)

(db)	2000			2007		
	County seat	County town	Other towns	County seat	County town	Other towns
Small businesses	25,835	1,778	25,367	26,753	2,021	27,828
PMsE ^a	750	77	1006	721	68	945
MsE ^b	848	85	1107	771	75	955
Large companies	251	21	173	102	12	97
No of PMsE / towns	39.5	15.4	3.1	38.0	13.6	2.9
No of MsE / towns	44.6	17.0	3.4	40.6	15.0	3.0

^a PMsE = potential medium-sized enterprises, ^b MsE = medium-sized enterprises

Source: own elaboration based on CERS Databank.

As a result of relying on incomplete data for 2007, in the classification of cities according to population categories (the horizontal axis), the analysis is limited to

⁴ Molnár et al. (2018) categorize rural large cities in terms of their economic role and analyze the eight largest ones: Debrecen, Győr, Kecskemét, Nyíregyháza, Miskolc, Pécs, Szeged, Székesfehérvár. In Hungary, we can use the word 'rural large cities' for most populous cities (except the capital city). This is just a typical Hungarian perception adhered to by many researchers: the countryside means every place outside Budapest.

a statical description of the space shaping effects of the structure of medium-sized enterprises at the turn of the millennium. In the database, 2000 is the unique year that enabled a postcode-based classification of cities and data was largely available (Figure 1). The figure illustrates the number of potential and operating medium-sized enterprises and large enterprises (the vertical axis) distributed along the urban hierarchy. This specific population categorisation is also an indicator of the availability of public services, business and commercial services and human infrastructure in the respective settlements.

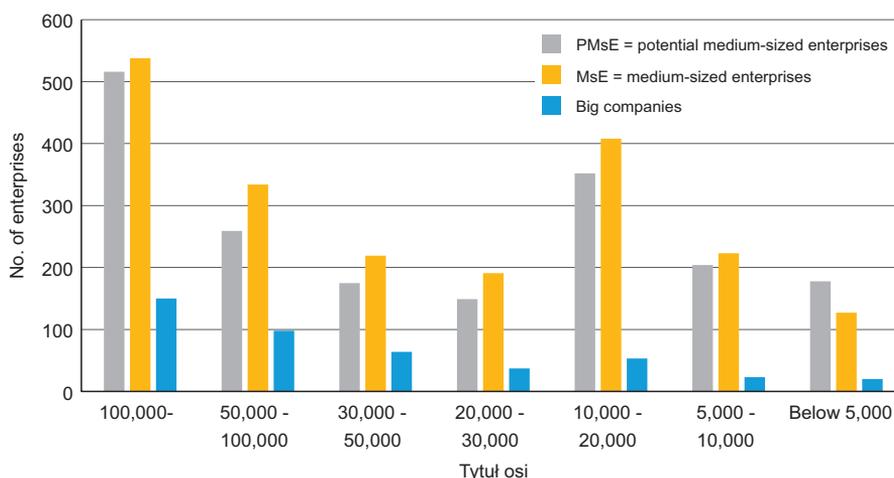


Fig. 1. Number of enterprises distributed along the urban hierarchy, 2000

Source: own elaboration based on CERS Databank.

The evolution of the number of large enterprises follows the anticipated trend: the lower the population of a city, the fewer their number. As trivial as this statement may seem, the distribution of medium-sized enterprises does not follow this rank-size rule; for small towns with a max. of 20,000 population, a general trend is detectable for both potential and actual medium-sized enterprises. Similar results are demonstrated in analyses of economic domination both in European and Hungarian comparative studies (Molnár et al. 2018; Kullmann 2009); the causes of the apparent contradiction, besides agglomeration advantages, can be attributed to economic structural specifics, the characteristics of the local environment, network integration and the so-called borrowed size.

In the case of small towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants a reverse trend was observed, with the number of medium-sized enterprises showing an exponential increase, exceeding the number of medium-sized enterprises located in county capitals. An average of 2.6 medium-sized enterprises are concentrated in 295 small towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants, i.e. one in every three small towns is home to an

enterprise with a min. of 30 employees. Medium-sized enterprises fulfil a substitute role in the life of smaller towns, while their capital-poor environment does not favor the implantation of multinational companies, it enables medium-sized enterprises to absorb local labor. Our research experiences indicate that the dominant factor explaining the high number of medium-sized enterprises located in small cities is corporate embedding – a process likely to trigger the strengthening and multiplication of ties of a given economic agent with its surrounding milieu (municipality, urban population, county government, service providers, non-profit organizations, etc.). Józsa (2017) analysed corporate embedding in Győr through the lens of the degree and quality of dependencies, notions that are relevant to the city of Bóly as well. The case of Bóly is exemplary: social cohesion is strong and the person of the mayor acts as a catalyst for the attraction of businesses. The settlement has strong German roots, which, by virtue of personal contacts, can contribute to the strengthening and expansion of relational capital.

Table 2

Number of enterprises distributed along the urban hierarchy (2007-2010)

Number of inhabitants	Small enterprises	PMsE ^a	MsE ^b	Average of PMsE and MsE	Big Companies
100,000-	25,68.6	73.7	76.9	75.3	21.4
50,000 – 100,000	783.7	23.5	30.4	27.0	8.9
30,000 – 50,000	592.1	17.5	21.9	19.7	6.4
20,000 – 30,000	219.5	6.8	8.7	7.7	1.7
10,000 – 20,000	102.1	3.9	4.5	4.2	0.6
5,000 – 10,000	36.4	2.0	2.1	2.1	0.2
-5,000	26.3	1.8	1.3	1.5	0.2
Total	153.6	5.3	5.9	5.6	1.3

^a PMsE = potential medium-sized enterprises, ^b MsE = medium-sized enterprises

Source: own elaboration based on CERS Databank.

The above presented processes are by no means unprecedented. Peripheral areas have been shaped, especially since the turn of the millennium, by transforming relations, new trends of industrialization, the phenomenon of suburbanization, and peripheralization (aging, depopulation). According to experts in the field (Murdoch 2000; Csatóri and Farkas 2008; Csatóri 2011), the problem lies in the unpredictability of the phenomenon in the region; the devaluation of various rural areas and their weakening population-retention capacity have aggravated social, economic and environmental problems. The drastic population decline that triggered the restructuring of the population of these settlements is a striking example. Population shrinkage relegated settlements to lower population categories, the hardest hit being settlements

with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, and villages with fewer than 200 inhabitants in particular. The number of villages belonging to the latter category increased by 10 to 15 in every ten years: the number of small settlements in South Transdanubia was 83 in 1990, 127 in 2010 and 151 in 2019. In addition, a significant decline was observed in the population of small and medium-sized cities (with fewer than 30,000 inhabitants) fulfilling the role of a regional center and providing full-scale services for their region. A region's physiognomy is fundamentally shaped by its major centres and the spectrum of services delivered by companies located in the latter. Hence the need to analyse their respective business structure and the factors that fundamentally shape its specificities.

An investigation of the interdependency between the city as a defining territorial scale and business competitiveness and the industrial sector as fundamental building blocks of the economy demonstrates the presence of both synergistic and knock-on effects in the mutually reinforcing relationship between the settlement network and business competitiveness. Within the urban network, positive effects tend to prevail in the case of small and medium-sized cities. According to Shen (2004) and Póla (2017), this scale is where the balance between goals and interests can be demonstrated from the perspective of the municipality and entrepreneurs alike. The main objective for firms is to strengthen their attractiveness and competitiveness, which may enhance the quality of life of residents of smaller cities. To cite a domestic example: the existential attractiveness of a number of small towns in Somogy county stems from the availability of jobs (Horeczki 2019). Both employees and employers benefit from the reduction of commuting time and costs. The situation of Baranya County mirrors that of the rest of Transdanubian counties in terms of the low number of urban inhabitants, apart from the county seat, its cities can be categorized as small towns. In Baranya county, the total population of the ten small towns with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants is 43,677, and that of the seven small towns with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants is 22,254. While the scale appears to be quite modest, for medium-sized enterprises, the infrastructure, services and human resources offered in these settlements create an attractive business environment. From 2010 onwards, the number of potential medium-sized enterprises has been steadily on the rise in the cities, with moderate growth registered in county seats and more dynamic growth in smaller cities (Table 3). In cities with 20,000 residents or fewer, the number of potential medium-sized enterprises showed a 1.9-fold increase over the eight years under study, nearly equivalent to the value corresponding to the category of cities with 30 to 50,000 residents in 2018. The number of operating medium-sized firms in the investigated period was approximately half the number of potential medium-sized companies, showing a numerical increase of a similar magnitude. The number of medium-sized firms increased at a similar rate in each category of cities, with one or two new entrants, which indicates the presence of serious obstacles to switching categories. An overwhelming majority of potential medium-sized firms were unable to switch category during the period under scrutiny and thus were unable to

develop into operating medium-sized firms. Firms that managed to increase their staff numbers exploited the positive factors offered by the business environment and their production site.

Table 3

The change in the number of MsE* (2010-2018)

Number of inhabitants	2010		2012		2014		2016		2018	
	PMsE	MsE								
100,000-	149	76	150	77	151	77	152	78	153	78
50,000 – 100,000	62	36	64	37	66	38	71	40	76	42
30,000 – 50,000	34	18	35	18	36	18	37	18	38	18
20,000 – 30,000	24	16	26	18	28	20	30	21	32	22
10,000 – 20,000	11	6	14	8	17	10	21	12	26	14
5,000 – 10,000	5	3	6	4	7	4	9	5	10	7
-5,000	3	2	5	3	7	4	9	5	10	5
Total	288	157	300	165	312	171	329	179	345	186

^a PMsE = potential medium-sized enterprises, ^b MsE = medium-sized enterprises

Source: based on TSTAR KSH, 2010-2019.

The exploitation of positive externalities created by local and situational energies has not been taken into account in long-term business strategies in every case. For the purpose of our survey, opportunities of settlement and relocation were both incorporated into questions targeting the business environment. The intention to relocate was more characteristic of enterprises based in Baranya than other regions; in most cases, Pest county or Budapest were identified as potential relocation sites. Two factors weigh importantly on relocation decisions: the steady decline in the number of skilled workers in the region, and the rising costs of finding and recruiting workforce. Another major factor is proximity to markets, which greatly influences accessibility and visibility. Nevertheless, statistical data indicate that the number of actual business relocations is low. And regarding its occurrences, these mainly imply a transfer of seat within the same city category, i.e. from a city with a population over 100,000 to cities of a similar size or the capital. The relocation of firms has occurred in waves; motivating factors are calls for tenders, the availability of human resources and tax breaks. For the most part, it is local attachment, local potential and local interests that retain firms in Pécs and the region. Personal attachment is characteristic of medium-sized companies located in small and medium-sized cities; two medium-sized enterprises based in Baranya considered establishing their headquarters outside the county seat (Mohács and Bóly were mentioned as the main options), but saw no realistic opportunity for relocation due to the anticipated rise in costs (costs of raw materials, transportation and human resources) and a decrease in enterprise value.

Beyond family ties, the availability of qualified professionals with work experience acquired in the factory or business in the pre-regime change era is of paramount importance for current company owners. In many cases, the legal predecessors of the companies under investigation would already be operating in the form of an economic working community in the pre-regime change era and continue their operation as a family company after the change of regime, in other cases, several (typically two) professionals would set up their business or individual entrepreneurs would develop into medium-sized companies. Almost every interviewee stressed that competent and skilled professionals were key to the survival of medium-sized companies, as the human factor is responsible for developments and profile expansion and “is able to fight for survival.” Reasons of convenience were also found to influence the choice of small and medium-sized cities as potential relocation sites: the maintenance costs of existing industrial areas and buildings being inferior to those of greenfield investments.

In Dunaújváros, the local business structure is dominated by large firms, and the segment of medium-sized firms is narrow. The area has excellent transport connections and diverse transport infrastructure is a crucial locational factor. Due to the availability of natural resources, raw materials and energy resources, as well as employee attitudes, medium-sized enterprises operating or settling down in the region do not consider relocation as a viable option; instead, they maintain production units across the country. The dominant locational factors for medium-sized enterprises in Dunaújváros include the person of the founder – attachment to the city, the proximity of Steel Works – implying secure employment, exploitation of female labor, and the industrial park inaugurated in 1998.

The interviewed medium-sized entrepreneurs conceded that successful operation is a result of the synthesis of several factors.

- Firstly, the idea, originating in most cases in a “family recipe” combined with fantasy and an innovative approach: opportunities need to be recognized.

- Secondly, courage and perseverance as a prerequisite to taking risks, building trust and relationships.

- Thirdly, the credibility of the firm ensures suppliers and customers that goods of an appropriate quality and quantity are delivered on time, payment capacities are available, whereby the development of trust between the firm and other economic actors guarantees its survival.

Conclusions

Industry exerted a dominant influence on the evolution of the settlement network throughout the 20th century, acting as a driving force of urbanisation. On the other hand, the 21st century has been characterized with the devaluation, fragmentation and nationwide deconcentration of the industrial sector. In the current period, investments target already existing settlements, predominantly cities, which promotes spatial concentration. The economic role of larger cities (county seats and cities with county rights)

is stable, they dispose of a significant entrepreneurial base; the number and proportion of medium-sized companies located in them significantly outweighs those based in other cities. The number of potential and operating medium-sized enterprises in these cities has shown a moderate increase. Agglomeration advantages, local, environmental factors, and network integration contribute to preserving the economic dominance of medium-sized enterprises, particularly in the case of small and medium-sized cities. The conservation of medium-sized enterprises at this level of the urban hierarchy appears to be influenced by a high degree of business trust. In the case of entrepreneurs, the significance of family ties is demonstrably high in the studied areas and has been found to exert a significant impact on relations with the financial sector. Companies characterized by strong dependency relations (family, relatives, friends), tend to avoid banking transactions and credit reliance, which, at the same time, confines them to the sector of potential medium-sized enterprises or the lower segment of medium-sized enterprises (both in terms of employee numbers and revenues). Mapping the relational network of the surveyed companies, albeit time-consuming and costly, would provide valuable insights into the studied areas. It would enable us to distinguish the three types of social capital (bonding, bridging, linking) through the analysis of linkages between the various sectors (municipal, state, non-governmental organizations, other enterprises, universities, etc.) and businesses, hence to identify the effective social capital of enterprises. Through their traditional economic functions (major employer, organizer of trainings, community support), medium-sized enterprises contribute to the sustainability and higher level existence of smaller cities; however, from 2010 onwards, the population and functions of small cities in South Transdanubia have been steadily declining. A novel segment of our research would be specifically focused on the analysis of linkages between small towns and medium-sized enterprises, enabling an identification of interdependencies.

References

- Barta, Györgyi and Györgyi Enyedi. 1981. *Iparosodás és a falu átalakulása*. Budapest: Közgazdasági és Jogi Könyvkiadó.
- Beluszky, Pál M. 1999. *Magyarország településföldrajza: általános rész*. Budapest-Pécs: Dialóg Campus Kiadó.
- Borbás, László. 2015. A hazai kkv-politika az európai célok tükrében. Available: http://kgk.uniobuda.hu/sites/default/files/19_BorbasLaszlo.pdf
- Csatári, Bálint. 2011. Vidékeink, alulnézetből. In *Dimenziók térben és időben: Tanulmánykötet a 60 éves Rudl József tiszteletére*, edited by László Bokor, Tamás Szelesi and Róbert Tétsits, 71-77. Pécs: IDRResearch Kft./Publikon Kiadó.
- Csatári, Bálint and Jenő Zsolt Farkas. 2008. Agrarian and Rural Development in Hungary, 1990-2005. In *Contemporary Changes of Agriculture in East-Central Europe*, edited by Jerzy Bański and Maria Bednarek, *Rural Studies* 15:147-164. Warsaw: Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Geographical Society. Available: http://www.rcin.org.pl/Content/101/WA51_209_r2008-vol15_SOW.pdf#page=147
- Csurgó, Bernadett and Boldizsár Megyesi. 2016. Képzelt különbségek. A városi és vidéki közösségek, társas kapcsolatok kvantitatív vizsgálata. *Társadalomtudományi Szemle* 3:48-65. DOI: 10.18030/socio.hu.2016.3.48.

- Döbrönte, Katalin. 2018. A közép-európai városok pozíciója a magas szintű üzleti szolgáltatók lokációs döntéseiben. *Területi Statisztika* 58(2): 200-219. <https://doi.org/10.15196/TS580204>.
- Dusek, Tamás. 2018. Az okos városok komplex mutatószámainak egyes tartalmi és módszertani problémái. In *Üzleti vállalkozások, makro- és mikrokörnyezetiük gazdálkodási és menedzsment sajátosságai* c. kutatás tanulmányai, edited by Gábor Kovács and Katalin Völgyi, 1-3. Győr: Széchenyi István Egyetem.
- Józsa, Viktória. 2017. A vállalati beágyazódás elmélete és gyakorlata hazai vonatkozásban. *Magyar Tudomány* 178 (11):1468-1480. DOI: 10.1556/2065.178.2017.11.13.
- Helységnévkönyv 2018*, Budapest: Központi Statisztikai Hivatal. Available: https://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/hnk/hnk_2018.pdf
- Horeczki, Réka. 2019. Kisvárosok, a vidéki térségek központjai? (Somogy megyei esettanulmány). Konferencia előadás: Rurális térségek a 21. században – Tudományos Konferencia, 2019. június 11, 102-108. Gödöllő: Szent István Egyetem.
- Kis- és középvállalkozások stratégiája 2014-2020*. 2013. Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium Budapest. Available: <https://2010-2014.kormany.hu/hu/nemzetgazdasagi-miniszterium/belgazdasagert-felelos-allamtitkarsag/hirek/kis-es-kozepvallalkozasok-strategiaja-2014-2020>.
- Kiss, Éva. 2010. Az ipar településhálózati, településszerkezeti összefüggései. In *Párbeszéd és együttműködés: Területfejlesztési Szabadegyetem 2006-2010*, edited by Fábíán Attila, 207-227. Sopron: NYME Kiadó.
- Kiss, Éva. 2011. Hungarian industry in a context of settlement network and pattern. *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin* 60 (1):3-25.
- Koltai, Zoltán. 2014. *Sikerés és versenyképes városok – Piackutatás a magyar települések körében*. Pécs: PTE FEEK.
- Korm. rendelet a kedvezményezett települések besorolásáról és a besorolás feltételrendszeréről, 105/2015. (IV. 23.). Available: <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=A1500105.KOR>.
- Kovács, Szilárd and Gábor Lux and Balázs Páger. 2017. A közép vállalatok szerepe a feldolgozóiparban: egy magyarországi kutatás első eredményei. *Területi Statisztika* 57 (1):52-75. DOI: 10.15196/TS570103.
- Kullmann, Ádám. 2009. *A regionális gazdaságfejlesztés eszközrendszere és magyarországi alkalmazása*. Doktori Disszertáció. Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Földtudományi Doktori Iskola, Budapest.
- Lux, Gábor. 2013. Kritikus tömeg alatt: a fejlesztési együttműködés lehetőségei a kisebb nagyvárosokban. *Tér és Társadalom* 27 (4):52-74. DOI: 10.17649/TET.27.4.2512.
- Molnár, Ernő et al. 2018. Vidéki nagyvárosaink gazdaságának összehasonlító elemzése. *Területi Statisztika* 58 (6):611-637. DOI: 10.15196/TS580604.
- Murdoch, Jonathan. 2000. Networks – a new paradigm of rural development? *Journal of Rural Studies* 16 (4):407-419. DOI: 10.1016/S0743-0167(00)00022-X.
- Nemes, Nagy J. 2001. *Az ezredvég regionális folyamatai Magyarországon: átfogó átalakulás – egyedi fejlődési pályák*. In *Helyi fejlődés, intézmények és konfliktusok a magyarországi átmenetben*, edited by Maarten Keune and Nagy J. Nemes, 23-32. Budapest: ELTE Regionális Földrajzi Tanszék.
- Németh, Nándor and János P. Kiss. 2007. Megyéink és kistérségeink belső jövedelmi tagoltsága. *Területi Statisztika* 47 (1):20-45.
- Póla, Péter. 2017. Ipari közép vállalatokat támogató térségi intézményi környezet. Konferencia előadás: MRTT Vándorgyűlés – Mosonmagyaróvár, 2017. október 19-20. Mosonmagyaróvár.
- Rechnitzer, János. 2016. *A területi tőke a városfejlődésben. A Győr-kód*. Budapest-Pécs: Dialóg Campus Kiadó.
- Shen, Jianfa. 2004. Urban competitiveness and urban governance in the globalizing world. *Asian Geographer* 23 (1-2):19-36. DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2004.9684110.
- TSTAR adatbázis*, Budapest: Központi Statisztikai Hivatal. Access: <https://www.teir.hu/>
- Törjék, Zsuzsanna. 2002. *A kis-és középvállalkozások fejlesztésének időserű kérdései az Európai Unióban és Magyarországon*. Budapest: Budapesti Gazdasági Főiskola.