

PREFACE

Three decades after the 1st Polish–Hungarian Geographical Seminar, Szymbark (Poland) in 1973 – Polish and Hungarian geographers and regional researchers decided to expand their traditional and successful scientific symposium. The Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences was the host of the 1st and 2nd Warsaw Regional Forum in 2004 and 2005. Those scientific conferences built upon contacts between regional representatives of regional studies from Central and Eastern Europe. Continuation of co-operation between researchers, aiming to expand the XVth Polish–Hungarian Geographical Seminar, and to support the initiative of Warsaw Regional Forums, the Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences decided to organise East-Central European Regional Seminar 2006.

The participants were: The Polish delegation of six researchers, working for the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences (Assoc. Prof. Marek Degórski, Assoc. Prof. Jerzy Banski, Assoc. Prof. Tomasz Komornicki, Karolina Rumińska M.Sc., Dariusz Świątek M.Sc., Konrad Czapiewski M.Sc.) The Bulgarian delegation of four researchers, working for Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (A/Prof. Boris Kolev, A/Prof. Chavdar Mladenov, Maria Grozeva, Aleksandra Ravnachka). The Ukrainian delegation of two researchers, working for Regional Branch of the National Institute for Strategic Studies (Dr. Svitlana Mytryayeva and Anzhelika Klayzner). The Slovakian delegation of two researchers, working for Slovakian Academy of Sciences (Dr. Daniel Michniak and Dr. Vladimír Székely). Together with Prof. József Benedek from Babeş-Bolyai University – Romania, Daniela Coimbra de Souza – Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and Arch. Giancarlo Cotella from Politecnico di Torino – Italy. The Hungarian delegation of researchers, working for HAS Geographical Research Institute (Prof. Zoltán Kovács and Dr. Éva Edit Kiss), and HAS Centre for Regional Studies (Prof. Dr. Gyula Horváth, Prof Dr. János Rechnitzer, Prof Dr. Irén Kukorelli, Dr. Judit Timár, Dr. Erika Nagy Dr. Bálint Csatári, András Donát Kovács M.Sc.).

The general topics of the seminar were the spatial, regional and local issues and conflicts of East-Central European regions, the complex problems of borderlands, urban areas and rural peripheries, analysis and comparison of regional and local processes.

We hope that it was a really valuable scientific workshop with discussions and colourful excursions in different hungarian places. The three-day professional program was completed by two study-trip from Budapest to Győr and from Győr to Kecskemét.

For us the seminar was continuation of friendship and the collegial togetherness also. At the beginning of the first plenary session we remembered one of our memorable polish colleagues – Marek.

This volume includes 18 studies – published with the hope that it can promote a better understanding of phenomena and processes of regionality and locality in urban and rural spaces, identification of euro-regions and new cross-border relations and connections and the impact of regionalisation on socio-economic and environmental development in East-Central-European countries.

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