

## ABSTRACTS

### ***Hunor Bajtalan: The Question of Szeklerland in the Context of Romanian Region Building Processes***

The revolutions of 1989, and consequently the opening of the long isolated economies of the CEE region, have shaken from the ground-up the 'new democracies of Europe'. Centrally planned economies collapsed, and as a result systematic change abolished the central structures of wealth redistribution and regional equalization. At the same time political liberalization and the penetration of democracy reignited the long suppressed movements of self-determination, resulting in the reemergence of regions and regional identities. In these circumstances there is no surprise that the notion of regions has become a frequent recurring topic of our social and scientific discussions. From these processes Romania doesn't constitute an exception, where after 1989 the question of administrative-territorial reform has become a frequent, recurring topic of various political agendas.

Starting from this broader perspective the aim of this paper is to give an in-depth analysis about the process of 'region building' in Romania, with a special focus on recent regionalisation discourses and projects. In this respect one of the main objectives of the hereby presented inquiry is to uncover one of the most controversial issues of this process the self-determination movement of the Hungarian ethnic minority and the question of Szeklerland.

*Keywords:* region, administrative-territorial reform, decentralization, subsidiarity, minorities, autonomy, local governance

### ***Miklós Bakk: Asymmetrical Regionalism and Changes in the State Structure of EU Countries***

After 1990 in many Central- and Eastern-European states the announced or ongoing regional reforms raised the question of the asymmetrical solutions for some specific regions within the national territory. The query is, if the Central and Eastern European space is adequate for those asymmetrical solution which characterize Western Europe. The study examines the features of the meso-level administration coming from histori-

cally predetermined type of the governance. Scrutinizing the meso-level administration of the EU member states we can find in more than one third of these states territorial elements with asymmetrical fit in this level of the administration. Most of them were adopted under the pressure of the ethno-regional movements. The constitutional (autonomous) regions within Italy, Spain or the United Kingdom were successful in dynamising the change of the administrative meso-level, and through this change launched a long-range transformation of the state structure.

*Keywords:* regional reform, specific region, asymmetrical regionalism, meso-level administration

### ***József Benedek: Territorial Polarisation and Peripheralization in Romania, from the Perspective of the Szeklerland***

The most significant spatial process of the last decade in Romania is the increasing growth of economic and social inequalities, and the massive concentration of development in the capital city. In our study we are seeking after answers for a fundamental question: how have the Szekler counties positioned themselves in the Romanian development process? The results bring evidence for the economic peripheralization of the region. In national comparison it performs economically at a medium level, but during the last decade it has decoupled slowly from the dynamic development paths of the southern and western parts of Transylvania.

*Keywords:* Szeklerland, region, economical development, economic peripheralization, social inequality

### ***Ágnes Patakfalvi Czirják – Csaba Zahorán: “We’re Romanians, Rest Assured”. Constructed Identities and Strategies of Everyday Life in Present-day Moldavia***

In their study the authors draft the simultaneous, rival identity politics in the Republic of Moldova. They put the „snapshot” from 2015, which relies mainly on an anthropological fieldwork in Chişinău, into the historical context of Moldova’s history and the political one of the last roughly 25 years of the independent country. The text focuses on the ethnicity in everyday life: the ways of using the language (from the official to the private sphere), the national symbols (flag, anthem), the communication on the

surfaces of the buildings (street art), the holidays and special events (the Victory Day), the symbolic politics in the capital, with a short „trip” to one of the grey zones of Europe: the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (Transnistria). The authors sketch the specific environment/context/field of force, which is being created by the interaction of the „unionist” efforts (reappearing again nowadays, after their eclipse in the nineties), the independent statehood and the „moldavian” nation-building, the needs/claims of the Russian and other minorities and the great power’s (mainly the western ones and Russia) interests. In the same time they point out that the terms used in the analyses (mostly in the West) are sometimes rather incompatible with the local reality: the everyday life is much more colourful and complex, and the field is not so unambiguous, as it can appear from the outside.

*Keywords:* identity politics, Republic of Moldova, moldavian nation-building, ethnicity, everyday life, language usage, national symbols, street art, symbolic politics