Our research is based on the concepts of sustainable development and social and solidarity economy and aim to add elements for a resilient rural policy. It is focused on the roles of local food production and consumption in revitalization of rural areas, as well as the barriers needed to remove the opportunities and methods to generate social innovations dealing with these issues.

WHERE TO LIVE? – CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF HOUSING MARKET IN THE PERIOD OF CRISIS

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Keywords: housing, Hungary, mobility, price levels, regional markets, spending capacity, transactions

Abstract: After the beginning of crisis (2008), the housing markets were “frozen” in Hungary. The number of transactions less than halved, the mobility of the people were declining in parallel the increasing unemployment rates and limitations in wages and subsidies. In that period, the new house buildings were decreasing, underwent the level of the Great Depression (1929-1933).

The regeneration process seems very slow and not exempt from stagnation and falling down periods. There are several causes of that: the uncertain increase in world economy, the special problems of the EU and more intensely the euro-zone, however, the national policies were determined hardly the trends, as well. The high level of overall indebtedness of the country, the central government, the local governments and households marked the milestones of different policies, in general. The special phenomena of these processes was the high share of liability not in national currency, mostly in CHF and EUR, which proved to be highly stable comparing HUF, the national currency.

The above mentioned tendencies involve a partially changed spatial structure in the whole housing market, including building and buying, we researched. However, the effects of crisis were clear in the whole country (decreasing number of newly built houses, reducing prices), the level of decrease and the regeneration paths were highly different region by region. In our presentation we try to depict the new phenomena, new inequalities, new geography of housing market in a New Member Country in the period of global economic crisis.

THE RISE OF THE REGULATORY STATE AND PRODUCTION OF UNEVEN CONSUMPTION LANDSCAPES IN EAST AND CENTRAL EUROPE

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Keywords: East and Central Europe, regulatory state, retail, uneven development

Abstract: In the past three decades, subsequent changes occurred in institutional practices and the scalar organisation of the state throughout East and Central Europe (EÇE). The processes were embedded into the global trends of state restructuring such as rise of the regulationist state/the devolution of state power rooted in changing state-market relations. The slowly emerging and inconsistent regulatory framework of retail and consumption in ECE reflected the above trends as well as the particular political and the socio-cultural contexts of the emerging markets, and contributed to the development of highly uneven consumption landscapes shaped dominantly by corporate strategies. My paper is focused on the critical analysis of political discourses over the regulative role of the state in these specific fields and on the related institutional practices. In particular, I focus on the ways and on the contexts of interpreting socio-spatial inequalities in relation to consumption issues. I argue for
– considering regulation regimes as the products of shifting power relations that had been dominated by the coalitions of national political elites and supra/transnational agents in the transition period exploiting the structural deficiencies and ideological potentials of the post-shortage economies and later, by the rise of domestic capitalists’ groups (retailers, developers, producers) that pressed national political elites to renegotiate the regulation of the crisis-hit markets;
– understanding how the problems of socio-spatial inequalities and the issue of citizenship (national, local, etc.) were exploited by each powerful group to realize their strategies – reproducing unevenness.

I discuss the Hungarian context more in depth as a “laboratory” characterised by highly concentrated and contested market relations and by unprecedented direct (regulative) interventions of the nation state from 2010 on.

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