

Preface

Present volume has been prepared by the Institute of Economics and Economic Development on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at University of Szeged. It provides a review of the recent research fields of the Institute.

The Institute of Economics and Economic Development consists of two divisions, the Division of Regional Economic Development and the Division of Economics. It coordinates the Management and Business Administration BA, the Regional and Environmental Economics MA courses and the Enterprise Development specialization in the old-system five year training.

In line with the teaching activity and the coordinated courses, the recent research interest of the Institute embraced three main fields: regional competitiveness and economic development, the regional aspects of innovation theory and policy and environmental sustainability. These research fields serve as a basis for the structure of present volume.

The first part of the volume is dealing with regional competitiveness and economic development and consists of five articles. Theoretical, methodological and policy issues are also embraced with a special focus on the present Hungarian challenges. The second part puts innovation in focus. The five articles of this part provide Hungarian empirical evidences about different aspects of innovation systems. The four articles of the third part, while focusing on sustainability, inevitably touch upon social issues.

The three main research fields that are embraced in the volume are not independent, which is well indicated by the large number of the co-authored papers. Innovation and technological change is often considered to be the basis of the long term competitiveness. However innovations induce change not solely in the economic sphere but also in social and environmental processes. On the other hand, a region can hardly be considered competitive or successful, if it is burdened by serious environmental problems, or its economic processes are environmentally or socially unsustainable.

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Editors