

PATH DEPENDENCE AND SPATIAL DEPENDENCE IN THE CITY NETWORK OF HUNGARY

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Abstract: *The aim of the study is to verify the long-term impact of socialist industrial and urban development, i.e. the path and spatial dependence of urban development. Spatial econometric results confirm the significant influence of the previous period on the development of current cities.*

• Introduction

The 'military management' characteristic of socialism in Hungary is characterized by strong industrial development and discriminatory, so-called implemented a 'top-down' settlement development policy (Beluszky 1999, Enyedi 1995). The categorization of settlements was actually part of an urban development strategy (Beluszky-Sikos 2020), the duration of which is justified.

• Material and method

During the research, I describe the main relationships using spatial econometric methods (multivariate regressions). Dependent variable is urban income per taxpayer (2020), independent is employment density (2020) and road accessibility (1960). I considered density to be endogenous, so I used a regression methods capable of handling instrumental variables.

• Results and discussions

The regression results confirm that the long-term effect of socialist industrial and regional development has been verified. Employment density and previous road accessibility significantly explain cities' income positions.

The employment density can be significantly explained by some phenomena observed in the early period of socialism (education, industrial level, labor flow).

Spatial dependence is also verified, geographical proximity significantly explains the economic situation of Hungarian cities.

• Conclusions

The results confirmed the long-term impact of socialist urban development, i.e. pathdependent and space-dependent development. As a further line of investigation, the examination of the differentiated development of cities can be formulated.

Acknowledgement: The research of Zoltan Egri was supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

