

Abstract in English

The research analyses the effects of development policy on two rural communities, using the multi-layered character of social capital as analytical framework. In my thesis I present on the one hand, how theories of rural development changed in the last decades (Ploeg et al 2000, Woolcock 1998), and on the other hand, I aim at developing an analytical framework using a popular but not sufficiently defined theory (Sik 2012, Kadushin 2004) of social capital, and its multi-layered character (Woolcock-Narayan 2000). In the thesis I analyse the relationship between the amount of bonding, bridging and linking social capital of a certain micro-region, the project activity of local stakeholders, and the advantages and disadvantages of locally typical development paradigm.

The thesis is based on two clearly different theoretical backgrounds but in scientific literature and development policy analysis the two became interlinked research question (Dudwick et al. 2006, Fűzér et al. 2006) in the past two decades: the thesis analyses the links between social capital and local development policy. In the theoretical part it analyses the international scientific literature on local development, presents how the development activity of external actors was substituted by local actors and integrated development paradigm became wide-spread. Then the thesis presents the operationalization of the concept of social capital (Bourdieu 1985, Woolcock 1998), and its multi-layered character. Based on the multi-layered character, a typology of the different relationship among the actors and their networks is presented, which serves as the analytical framework of my research questions.

The aim of the research is to describe and understand the development processes in two Hungarian micro-regions. In the thesis I argue that social capital, thanks to its multi-layered character, is the right analytical tool to analyse rural development processes. Using the framework, it is possible to better describe the interests of local stakeholders, their relationships, and the process of inclusion in and exclusion from local development activity. Thus the effects of differences in the distribution and amount of available social capital forms can be analysed. The amount and character of social capital is different in the two micro-regions, and, related to this, the character of development activity is different as well, although the institutional environment of the two micro-regions are similar at the national level.