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The Conditions of Security in Sustainable Rural Economics

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Abstract: This work aims to map the potentials of safe rural economy. This topic cannot be separated from the processes of globalization and localization, affecting each other, whose positive and negative effects have been focussed on, especially in terms of the protection of security and sustainability or their damaging.

In Hungary, sustainable rural economy cannot be achieved only by the rural economy's systematic stabilization but its present structure and the security system, accompanying the process, also needs to undergo some drastic changes. Sustainable rural economy means a modern economy that aims to keep the rural inhabitants while increases the wealth of the whole society.

The legal security of the sustainable local economy is guaranteed by the state in Hungary. The security of the rural areas is provided by the police as an armed force, the auxiliary police, the public place supervision, the local agricultural rangers, the environment wardens, and by the fish- and game-keepers. The Police Act allows cooperation with the further organizations of the society to preserve public order, and to protect property and prevent and detect crimes.

The purpose of my thesis is to present security as one of the most important factors to improve the rural areas. I also aim to map the possibilities of improving security (such as cooperation, naming the resources assisting strategic tenders and participation in rural development programs).

Keywords: . security, policing, sustainability, rural development, tendering

1. Introduction

Although sustainable development has been discussed at world conferences, has generated numerous decisions and plans, no noteworthy achievements have been made. Following its definition in the 1980's many studies have been written on this topic, which focus on the global phenomena, on the one hand, and show the various local differences, on the other hand. This work does not intend to display the conceptual development or the studies on regional and rural development. However, it does mean to scrutinize them from the modern viewpoint of security policy. Few authors have dealt with the whole spectrum of security dimensions of sustainable development, though it has a considerable effect on the everyday life and sense of security of the countrymen and even on the liveable environment itself.

2. Globalization and the phenomena of deglobalization

Globalization has been a currently-used keyword both with its positive and negative aspects. The development of tel-

ecommunication and the Internet have been transmitting cultural patterns, consumer habits and lifestyles which transform citizens of a nation into cosmopolitans. Anyway, the standardization of consumer behaviour cannot be identical under different conditions.

The rapid development of world economics also has the disadvantage of causing global problems (growth of population, problems of nutrition, urbanization and pollution, climate change, drops in biodiversity). Globalization gave rise to the problems of growth and the decline of natural resources but also to serious socio-political and ethic questions. How long can we load our environment? How much more can we endanger the next generation?

Regionalism was born in reply to the spread of globalization. In the European Union cross-border cooperation and cross-regional development are of outstanding importance and are supported by various resources. They cover numerous areas, of which sustainability and regional development are vital.

Sustainability was defined in the early 80's and was adopted by the economic and legislative systems of the EU in 1987.

The late-2000s recession has revealed that sustainability does not mean the long-term maintenance of the GDP increase

rates (Muraközy, 2010), but it influences all elements of economics and social life, the quality of human life, contributes to a safe, long and healthy existence that creates equal opportunities. Securing the operating conditions of the communities is of vital importance. Although the condition of security is not mentioned in terminology, in my judgement, it is crucial for both sustainability and life.

3. The importance of local-level differences

Annually, milliards of Euros from European structural and cohesion funds are spent on regional development programs. Due to the policy of neglecting the system of objectives of sustainability, the regions have been torn apart and developed at various rates (Bulla et al., 2007). The previous statement may refer to various parts of the same country, as well.

The figure 1 displays the rates of development in the subregions of Hungary in 2007.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office calculates the rates of subregional development by a complex data system including those of the economics, infrastructure, society and employment.

Hungarian regions are characterized by the increasing differences in adaptability, competitiveness and innovation potentials. In previous years efficiency has been set back by the appointment of various administrations for development and distribution of resources.

Regional sustainability should be encouraged by the inhabitants' approach to natural environment and resources. A settlement is sustainable as long as people can live there. For the time being, however, the local governments and the inhabitants have not shown much enthusiasm in regional development programs (Fábián et al., 2009).

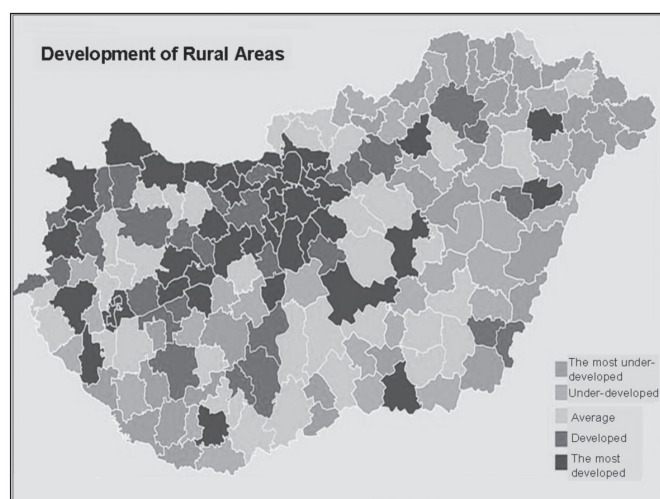


Figure 1. Development of the Subregions in Hungary in 2012
Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH)

4. Potentials of Rural Development in Hungary

4.1. The structure of rural development

The possibilities of development are influenced by regional features. Hereby I intend to give a non-exhaustive overview of the opportunities in rural economy.

In 1999 the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) declared that a balanced and sustainable development is available only by adjusting regional development aims to local relations and also by promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperations (Internet 1).

The Greening Regional Development Program (GRDP) includes many of the regional roles. Sustainable development became one of the principles in the 2007-2013 period Cohesion Policy. Structural Funds were defined as the factors of environmental sustainability and regional financing (Csete, 2009).

Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome outlined the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), while financial support is provided by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Half of the EU's population lives in rural areas. The varying levels of development have contributed to the popularity of the LEADER approaches which assist rural development strategies by encouraging local participation.

The New Széchenyi Development Plan has served to attain the long-term objectives of Hungary between 2007 and 2013. Accordingly, the national perspectives of the agricultural and rural development are to improve the competitiveness and to create the required human conditions in agriculture, food-processing and forestry, to increase employment rates, to create more workplaces and to develop local communities.

By identifying the present conditions of rural economy and by estimating forthcoming risks we seem to get closer to the criteria of development. The steps of sustainable rural development are presented in the figure 2. The leaves represent the coherent purposeful actions that may support the preparation for the future.

Although the idea includes conventions and sanctioning, they cannot necessarily be applied for infringement and violation against social relations or behaviours. More often local infringements make living unviable, deprive people of their subjective sense of security, their social welfare and sustainability.

4.2. Particular potentials of rural development

There have been numerous ideas for the allocation of the resources, however, there seems to be an agreement on using the resources effectively. A significant directive of the forthcoming period is cohesion, the reduction of regional disparities. Regions of special geographical nature facing individual challenges will continue to receive outstanding assistance (Internet 2).

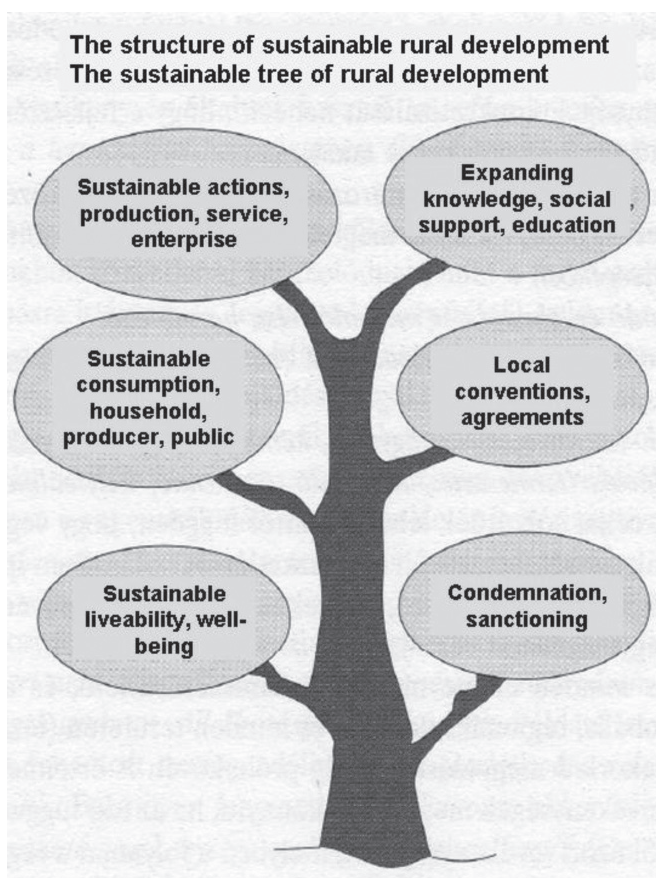


Figure 2. The structure of sustainable rural development
Source: Csete and Láng (p 45)

The related ideas to keep the inhabitants in rural areas by providing workplaces (in village tourism, handicraft, and land management) have proved to be ineffective in themselves.

While the structural changes in agricultural production have been mainly controlled by the funds, it would be a mistake to view environment prevention and improvement as state-directed public services. This ambiguity is the characteristic of agriculture and its security as well.

5. Security and Order

5.1. Crime and policing

Crime is as old as society and can be traced back to cohabitation of men. It is a human behaviour that is continuously revived by relations. There is no society without crimes, however, all societies urge to be disposed of disorders.

In Hungary it is the state's responsibility to protect order and preserve security (personal, property and road). As by act XXXIV of 1994 enacted the Police – with its unique legal status and organization- is a governmental armed policing organization which is to protect public order and security and to guard and maintain that of the borders (Internet 3).

In recent years a great number of self-governed, illegal paramilitary organizations have been established and employed in smaller settlements with the intention to preserve

order. These arbitrary groups are not authorized to exercise policing activities since their range of power and operating conditions are not legally defined.

5.2. Policing cooperations, civilian police

The Police does not work in isolation. In preservation of public law and order and in prevention of crime the Police needs to work in close cooperation with different organizations of the society, such as local authorities, further policing and law enforcement organizations and the local inhabitants. The standard and the measures of the cooperation determine the public spirit and the “citizen-friendliness” of the Police.

The present section offers a brief survey of the rural partners of the Police. As a result of the citizens' intention to participate the auxiliary police was born to assist public security measures. Local authorities may employ agricultural rangers. In hunting areas game-keepers may provide protection of animals and their habitat. The authority of fishery may employ fish keepers to preserve stock and habitat. Nature reservation authorities work with environment wardens so as to protect the natural and archaeological heritage.

These guards have different scopes of rights. The auxiliary police do not possess authority rights so may not use any means of coercion. However, they are entitled to prevent crimes or hinder offenders. Agricultural rangers may use physical force or pepper spray. Fish keepers may act only upon the suspicion of offence and the game-keepers may secure vehicles in justified cases.

All the rights of the guards above are different as well as the authorities that are responsible for them. Any natural person entitled may employ fish- and game-keepers. Reasonably, these services should be nationalized and centred under regional nature reserve authorities and thus ensure a unified scope of actions and an effective operation.

As a further solution, it is policing that may be nationalized, and civilian policing may be introduced. Guards of the new policing system may obtain the appropriate sphere of authority. It necessarily requires the establishment and operation of the relevant educational system (Lácay, 2011).

6. Crime in the subregions

Sustainability coexists with security. It is true in society and economics, and also in agriculture. Subregions are characterized by the agricultural activities and the related supports so it is worth studying crime in subregional aspects.

Few data are available in this field since under the present regulations the Unified System of Criminal Statistics of the Investigative Authorities and of Public Prosecution (USC-SIAPP) registers criminal and detection data according to the jurisdiction of police headquarters and counties (Internet 4).

Before analysing certain regional data, let me demonstrate the situation of crime in Hungary. A great number of reported criminal activities have for years been compiled by crimes

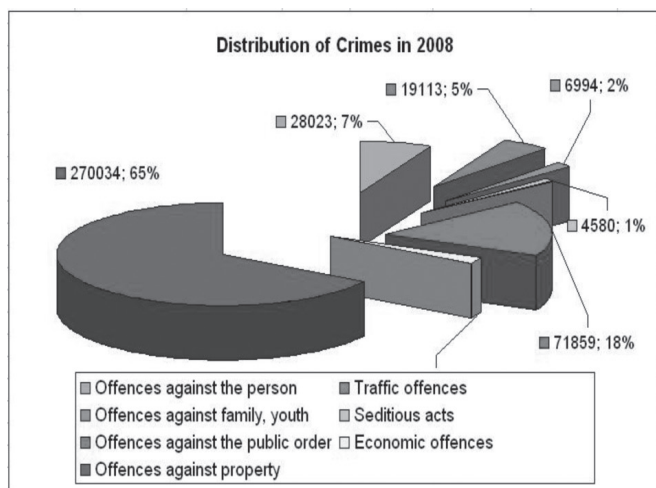


Figure 3. Category distributions of reported crimes in 2012
Source: author's edition

(Data: Hungarian Police Headquarters, GIF Development Department)

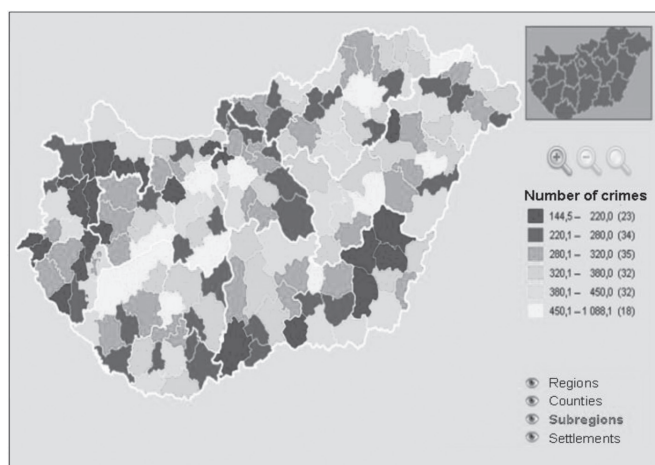


Figure 4. Number of reported offences of public prosecution per 10,000 inhabitants in 2012

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (Internet 5)

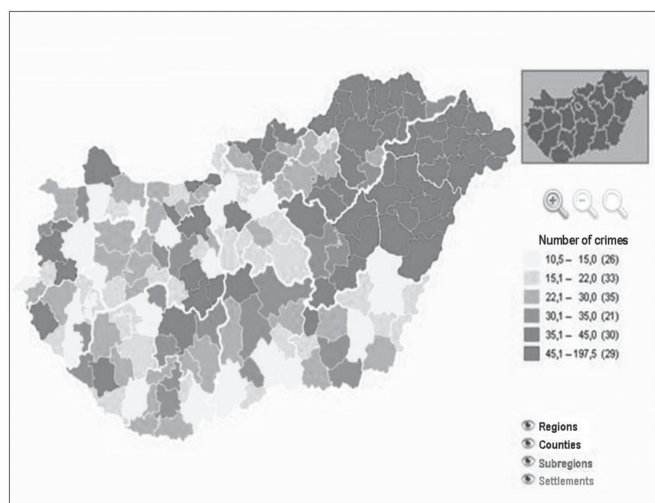


Figure 5. Number of violent rowdy crimes per 10,000 inhabitants in 2012
Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office

against property. In 2012 the rate was 65%. Offences against the public order, having a negative impact on citizens' state of security (18%) and offences against the person (7%) have also shown significant rates. A great deal of offences against property (270,034) is compiled by theft (171,282): in 2012 it was at the rate of 63.43%. The figure 3 illustrates the distribution of crimes according to the categories of the Hungarian Criminal Code.

The jurisdictions of the headquarters do not overlap the subregions. The territory of Hungary today is divided into 174 regional development and statistical subregions.

The figure 4 displays that the highest crime areas are that of Miskolc and Debrecen, the county town subregions of north-eastern Hungary. Záhony, the farthest border of the EU, is also need to be highlighted. Crime is especially high in the "Hungarian Tourist Paradise", in the subregions around Lake Balaton and also in the capital.

Violent rowdy crimes show different statistics, presented in the figure 5. These offenses are more common in the north-eastern subregions, in the capital and in Fejér County.

6.1. Correlation tests

I examined the statistical correlations between subregional demographical, infrastructural (population, area), agricultural and criminal (criminal activities and violent rowdy crimes) data and the indices of subregional development. Only the bare essentials are illustrated here. Figure 6 shows the number of operating companies per 1000 inhabitants, while Figure 7 shows the number of operating agricultural businesses in the groups of small regions at various levels of development.

As it can be seen from the figure above, there are significant differences within the various groups of subregional development levels (in the Salgótarján subregion: 122, in Fonyód: 46, in Órízstépet: 174, in Zirc: 170, in Csepreg: 28).

The analysis of variance has concluded that the number of offences of public prosecution also varies according to the level of development in the subregions. The 0.113 P_c shows that correlation is not linear. There is a high rate of offences in the most developed areas, whereas it is the lowest in average subregions. There is no significant difference between the data of the under-developed and that of the most under-developed subregions.

A similar result can be seen in the relation of development rate and violent rowdy crimes. The correlation is a bit higher (P_c 0,290) but it is not linear either.

Figure 8 shows the number of crimes involving popular action per 10,000 inhabitants, while Figure 9 shows the number of crimes involving violent vandalism per 10,000 inhabitants in the small regions at various levels of development.

The number of violent crimes seems to decrease with the growth of development in the subregions. The highest rate of crimes can be found in the most under-developed regions.

Although, for lack of space, the boxplot diagram of these correlations cannot be presented here, it shows that regarding criminal activities the most under-developed subregion is that

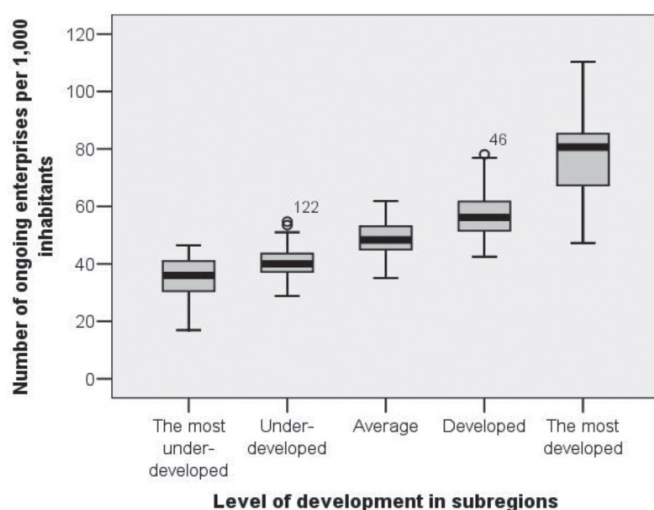


Figure 6. The boxplot diagram of ongoing enterprises per 1000 inhabitants in 2012
Source: author's edition

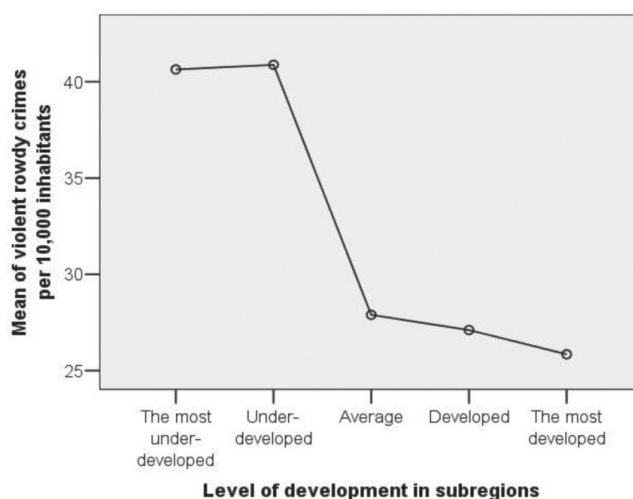


Figure 9. Mean of violent rowdy crimes in subregions per 10000 inhabitants in 2012
Source: author's edition

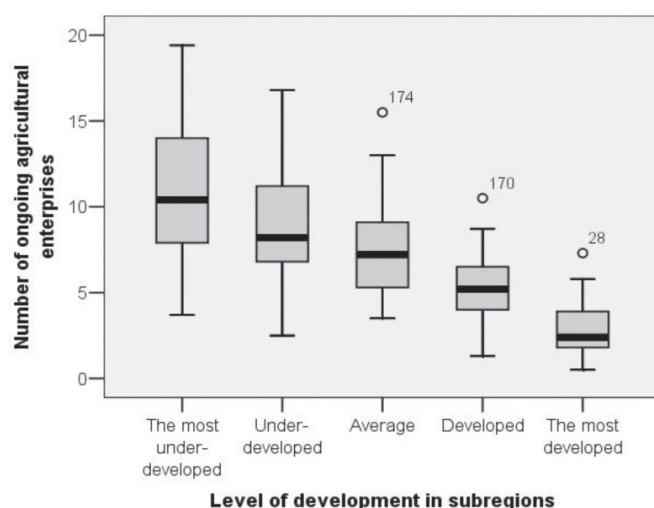


Figure 7. The boxplot diagram of ongoing agricultural enterprises in 2012
Source: author's edition

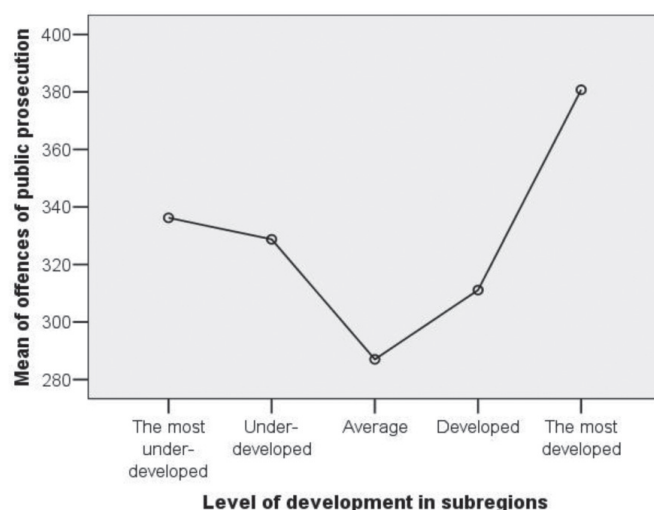


Figure 8. Mean of offences of public prosecution in subregions per 10,000 inhabitants in 2012
Source: author's edition

of Záhony, Marcali is in the middle position, while the most developed ones are that of Debrecen, Siófok and Budapest. As for violent crimes and public disorders the Sárbogárd subregion is under-developed, Abai is middle and Dunaújváros is the most developed one.

These offenses are different in their direction which is presented in the fact that violent crimes and public disorders take up only some part of the crimes reported. I have also investigated the correlation of crime categories in the subregions (data from ORFK- Hungarian Police Headquarters Development Department) and their state of development. The general rates of crime groups (categories) in more developed regions are higher almost in all categories and show an exponentially growing tendency. The relation is of middle strength ($P_c=0,356-0,425$). Only the correlation between the offences against the person and the development of the subregions seem to differ ($P_c=0,242$). In this field, underdeveloped regions show an extraordinary high number of offences while the least developed regions represent only a slightly higher rate than that of the average region. The number in the developed regions, however, is more progressively growing, as it has been suggested above. Figure 10 shows the number of crimes against property, while Figure 11 shows the number of crimes against persons in the groups of small regions at various levels of development.

And now we shall have a look at the tendency in the most frequent types of crimes, the number of thefts, and their relations with the number of the agricultural and other enterprises in the subregions. As it could be seen from the reasoning above there is no linear correlation between criminal activities and violent crimes and public disorders. Theft, however, has a relation of varying strength with ongoing agricultural and other enterprises. As for general enterprises, the mean of determining coefficient is low ($r^2=0,274$), but for agricultural enterprises it is of the middle-sized $r^2=0,421$. (The determining coefficient shows the % of the cases explained in the correlation above.)

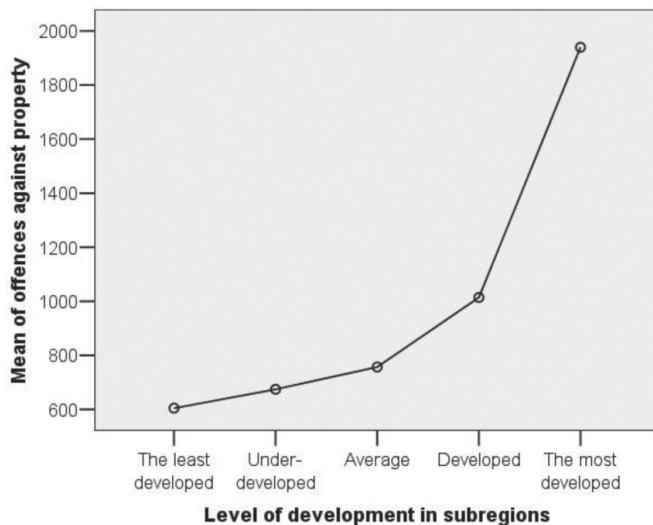


Figure 10: Mean of offences against property in the subregions in 2012
Source: author's edition

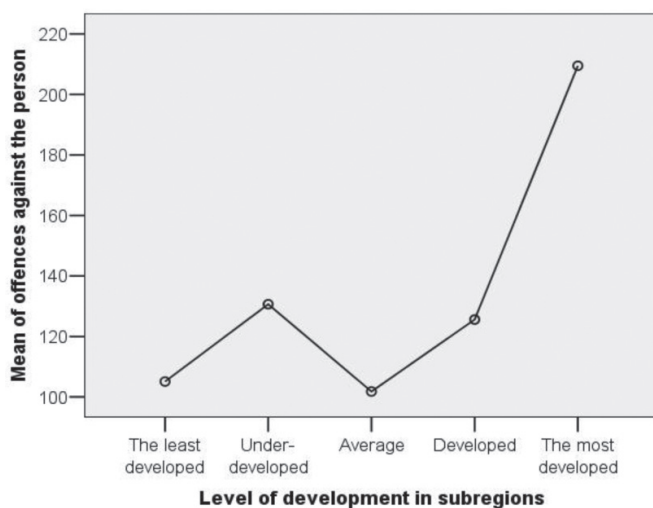


Figure 11. Mean of offences against the person in the subregions in 2012
Source: author's edition

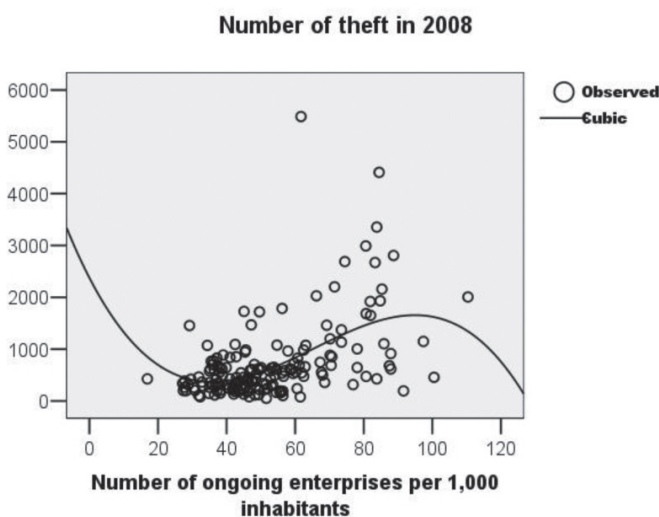


Figure 12. The relation between theft and ongoing enterprises
Source: author's edition

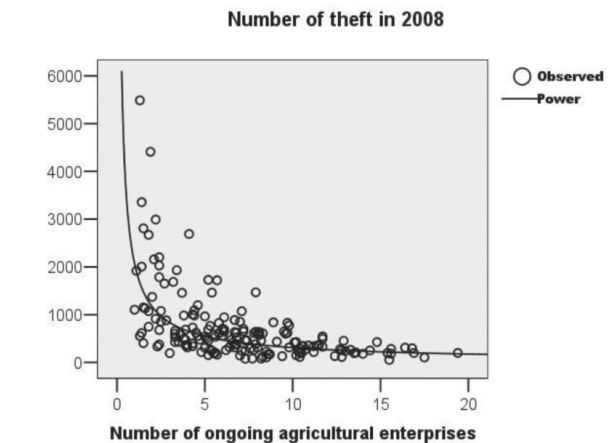


Figure 13: The relation between theft and ongoing agricultural enterprises
Source: author's edition

The means of the determining coefficient of the strength of correlations presupposes the fact that a great deal of theft is related to agriculture. In the case of enterprises the relation can be best illustrated in a third-degree function, while in agricultural enterprises it can be shown in an power function, as shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13.

6.2. Summarizing characterization of the crimes

All countries need to face crimes against their rural economy. In New-Zeland the larceny of cattle, in Hungary attacks on or mutilation of them.

Low-value theft may turn into serious crimes (as it is the case with “in flagrante delicto”, caught in the act) that lead to further questions of security.

The annual 0.5% growth of the number of crimes within the EU, as can be read in the EU statistical database (Internet 6), justifies the need to emphasise security-related aspects. Security in rural economy means securing the production, the producer and the product as well.

Poverty and crime are not twin terms. Crimes are most often not committed by the neediest and do not include inclusively agricultural products. It is necessary to introduce the term “rural criminal activity” that refers to the appropriation of or damage to goods produced by someone else in rural economy (cultivation of plants, animal husbandry, gardening, forestry, etc). The particular legal object of the crime is the agriculture itself, the behaviour is presented either in an action (theft, damage) or in nonfeasance (stubble-field fire). The term should enter the Hungarian Criminal Code so as to display more detailed relations between subregional crime and further sociological data.

6.3. Supporting security by law and by other programs

Actions under the police act and those of cooperation with the police aimed at increasing public safety, preserving public order and preventing crimes are supported by resources.

Although security is not mentioned among the priorities of either the European Union or the New Széchenyi Plan, security policy has a significant role in measures and assistance constructions.

The Ministry frequently announces security-related tenders. In 2010 the Hungarian Home Office distributed several million forints with a 100% intensity so as to improve cooperations in public security. A further advantage of the tender was that the rate of instrument procurement was not limited. Since it is not only the sanctioning but also the prevention and awareness campaigns that pave the way for future generations, the Police emphasise education for child and juvenile victim prevention and avoidance. Apart from the official DADA (from the acronym of the Hungarian words for smoking-alcohol-drug-aids) program, these activities are supported by school-visiting programs.

In order to establish security and sustainable support further ideas have been born in Hungary that intend to supply an alternative for direct financial support or benefit.

One of the campaigns is the “Seeds and Pets Action” by the “Minden Gyerek Lakjon Jól!” Foundation (“All children should have enough”) for the disadvantaged large families in 274 settlements of the country.

In disadvantaged areas another possibility for the unskilled layers living on the edge of the society, expecting to live entirely on aids, is to provide them with the means of living. This solution is known as the “Érpatak Modell” and was also supported by the Police so as to suppress crop theft. Local authorities plough and prepare lands around homes for production and thus ensure the conditions for farming. After the initial support it is the owner’s responsibility to make ends meet.

Both cases demonstrate the fact that there is always an alternative solution. I believe a significant step towards supporting employment and life and also towards a sustainable and safe environment would be the extension of communal work program in the disadvantaged areas.

7. Conclusion

Sustainable rural economy, as indicated in the title, is not able to provide the “keeping power of the country” in itself. The problem has many factors, and it requires coordinated legal, policing and business work. Moreover, rural settlements or even subregions should be able to keep their inhabitants.

The systematic arrangement of the development and the aspects of sustainable development should be operated and checked on the basis of European Union and domestic regulations. Therefore it is essential to create an effective subregional network of centres that is able to organize and boost the everyday life of the neighbouring smaller settlements. Otherwise, “declining” regions may be formed where segregation in social and other fields (e.g. traffic, education) is experienced.

At the same time, based on my study, unfortunately crimes were experienced which can only be combated through the co-operation of the civilian and the official police forces.

The development and catching up of the rural areas is only possible by purposeful developmental projects and security policy that welcome innovative ideas and new types of co-operation.

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