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CALL FOR PAPERS

Regional challenges of GVC-dependent FDI development and role of foreign owned companies in regional development in Central and Eastern Europe

Special session of the XXIII. Annual Meeting of
the Hungarian Regional Science Association

October 30-31, 2025
Veszprém, Hungary

This session will explore the multifaceted area of sustainability within Global Value Chains (GVCs) dependent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) development, with a special focus on the regional or spatial dimension within Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and other emerging regions. These regions are integrated through vertical FDI and specialization in lower value-added activities of the smile curve, especially in production and assembly segments. This special session aims to compare the catching-up and growth experiences of these economies and their regions from different angles. It will analyze the transformative impact of GVC-dependent FDI on the development of regions embedded in Global Production Networks (GPN). Historically, CEE regions have served as central hubs for FDI, fostering market integration and productivity growth. However, recent disruptive events such as the 2008 financial crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and economic nationalism have challenged this integration and triggered shifts towards deglobalization.

Topics Covered but not restricted to the topics below:
1. Assessment of Changes in GVC/GPN Positions
2. Emerging Multinationals
3. Structural and Sectoral Complexities
4. Role of FDI in Economic Growth
5. FDI's Role in Regional Development
6. Impact on Entrepreneurial Activity
7. Interplay with Regional Innovation Systems
8. Development Policy Alternatives
9. Preparedness for Industry 4.0
10. Middle-Income Traps and Regional Development Traps

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