

Senior and junior supervisor research topic application for the IPhD Programme in Regional Development, 2023-24 year

Name/position of the senior supervisor: Prof. Dr. Zoltán Gál
Highest academic degree: PhD.

Name/position of the junior supervisor: Szabó, Norbert
Highest academic degree: PhD

Title of the suggested research topic: Regional innovation systems and regional innovation development

The international relevance, importance, and timeliness of the research topic:

The research topic focuses on the regional economics of innovation, the relationship between technological progress and territorial development, introducing the European and Hungarian trends, settlement and regional development processes of the knowledge economy. It also aims to present innovation policies related to the theory of regional innovation systems from regional innovation strategies to smart specialization, while measuring the economic impacts of knowledge network and entrepreneurship development in smart specialisation policy. It analyses the university-led and business-led (bottom-up) innovation development strategies and their relevant strategies and policies. It also examines the role of universities in regional innovation systems highlighting evolutions of different missions (functions) of higher education institutions. This includes the engagement of universities in the development of their city or region: the economic-entrepreneurial, innovation (R&D), and cultural role of the universities, and the characteristics of the service university.

Which UP-FBE research could the PhD candidate join?

RIERC research group

Possible research directions:

- Theory and manifestations of regional innovation systems
- Clusters and innovation networks in regional innovation
- From regional innovation strategies to smart specialization
- The economic impact of knowledge networks and enterprise development in smart specialisation policy
- University-led and business-led ecosystems in regional innovation development
- Expansion of the functions of universities and their regional development function

- Peculiarities of universities in Central and Eastern Europe (Mid-range university concept).

The supervisor's expertise and experience in the research field

- I have been working on regional innovation development between 1998-2013
- Between 2000 and 2004 I was Research Director of the South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Strategy
- 2003: expert in the Regional Advance Thinking Programme of the National Research and Technology Office;
- 2003-2004 member of the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation "Blueprints For Actions In Regional Foresight" Regional Foresight Expert Working Group;
- 2006-2007: member of the EU comparative regional innovation research network ERAWATCH (Brussels): - as an expert in the "Specific Analysis On the Regional Dimensions of Investment In Research" programme, author of the Hungarian case study with the Innovation Research Institute of Corvinus University
- Author of book chapters of two monographs with Noted Publishers (Routledge and Edward Elgar)
- Innovation-friendly governance in Hungary: the challenges of regional innovation development policy OTKA Research Theme Leader, 2009-2012
- Member of the Innovation Committee of the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce, 1999-2009
- 2019-2020 Author of the report entitled THE INNOVATION SYSTEM OF THE CITY REGION OF PÉCS in the framework of the EFOP-3.6.2-16-2017-00017 project "Sustainable, smart and inclusive regional and urban models" (PTE KTK)

The most important publications in the research field over the last five years

- Gál, Z. 2022. A pécsi városrégió innovációs rendszere: a tudásalapú fejlesztések korlátai a periférián [The innovation system in the city region of Pécs: the limits of knowledge-based development on the periphery.]. *ÉSZAK-MAGYARORSZÁGI STRATÉGIAI FÜZETEK* 19, 3, 40–55.
- Gál Z., Ptacek, P. (2011): The role of mid-range universities in knowledge transfer in non metropolitan regions in Central Eastern Europe. *EUROPEAN PLANNING STUDIES* 19:(9) pp. 1669-1690. IF: 1.228 DOI, WoS, Scopus
- Gál Z., Ptacek, P. (2019): The role of mid-range universities in knowledge transfer and regional development: the case of five Central European regions (megjelenés alatt) I.: *Varga, A-Erdős, K (eds). The Handbook on Universities and Regional Development. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019. p 27.*