

NEEDS ANALYSIS

**for the „Establishment of the Institute of Studies in Federalism and
Decentralisation in Hungary ” project**

Made in:

HAS Centre for Regional Studies
Transdanubian Research Institute

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Establishment of the Institute of Studies in Federalism and Decentralisation in Hungary

(The Swiss theory and practice of federalism and decentralisation, Hungarian opportunities for utilisation)

Modernity and importance of the research:

The Swiss federalism is really a much studied topic in the literature, but the "Establishment of the Institute of Studies in Federalism and Decentralisation in Hungary" project approach still own it and even considered unique. The Swiss federalism dimension of conventional assessment on the one hand the autonomy of cantons and covers the operation of direct democracy. In this project, but mainly on decentralization and autonomy development, political use, the benefits of focus, to the Swiss cantonal and local governments how institutions, decision-making mechanisms and techniques used in the local area development planning, resource allocation, in cooperation with partners in joint projects

We would like to examine and show the following research areas with the planned handbook:

- the various partnership relations, what developed in Switzerland (between settlements, between settlements and cantons, between cantons, and the canton-federation relations), and the relations between the different territorial levels, what developed in Europe. Interesting research area is that these relations how operate and these are better or worse as the Hungarian centralized system;
- how can help the economy of Hungarian counties the adaptation of the model of Swiss fiscal federalism and fiscal competition.

The interest for the Swiss state system, its examination is elements appearing in the history of Hungary for a long time and until nowadays. This interest con-

tributes to each other's better cognition, the implementation of the cultural and the economic relations (in a present case the researcher's relation). It is well known that the Swiss Contribution is to establish relations between the two countries, so we can say is that our research and handbook also adds something to this goal. This book aims the expansion of knowledge, the each other's cognition, and dissemination of the European rich political heritage containing the specific characteristics of Hungary and Switzerland.

Presentation of demand for this research:

Switzerland's experiences are relevant for the Hungarian local governments, the associations of municipalities and the developer institutions, because different from the Hungarian practice, those mechanisms are bottom-up build, the centralized or union distribution mechanisms do not motivate them, because of these show an attitude with bigger creativity and variety. Based on the public political documents of the next programming period of European Union (5th Cohesion Report, Barca-report) getting the union cohesion support will be possible with only place-based strategies. The stakeholders must be prepared for this change.

The domestic and the European development processes evidence, so after shorter-longer periods change each other the centralization and decentralization tendencies. It is not the struggle between two principles that, but the macro processes to adapt to frequently changing. The crisis of 2008 brought a centralization trend in the World, but the new consolidation will probably once again raise the issue of decentralization.

The Switzerland is not member state of the European Union, so it looks at the European processes from outside, but these processes affect it. Therefore Switzerland is interested in the European Union federal processes, and assessment, to understand of their local-regional effects.

The project is not intended to influence the short-term government administrative reforms, and take a position in that the administrative reforms designed

to "correct". However, we believe that it is important the strong capacity and creativity of local actors and their suitability for the cooperation between the different governmental levels. So the partnership for development policy is an important, efficient instrument in a centralized system too. The Hungarian governmental actors (local, county) get "good example" from the Swiss experiences of the comprehensive responsibility of local government management.

Dissemination of results:

This project is not immediately popular, but we work in its publicity. We publish our result with papers and articles in scientific journals, and upload all relevant documents, reports, pictures to the project (interactive) website, and we organise some events for the public and the target groups (Workshops, conference, press event).

Partnerships, letter of support:

The declarations, what we attached this needs analysis confirm, so we contacted with the Transdanubian Regional Development Agency and some local governmental organisations, who support us, and considers it important this project.

We know the researches of the universities in the area of decentralization and federalism, and we are in relation with the University of Pécs, but as wrote previously our project is a novel, innovative research.