

Annotation of the paper

**1. Title: The Nature of Regional Disparities in the Visegrad Group
Measuring Regional Differences by the Well-being Index (WBI)
in the Visegrád Group's NUTS 2 regions**

2. Author's name: Fodor Ákos

**3. Year of Study and Study Specialisation: 2008-2011, Economics and
Management**

4. Consultant: Dr. Simon Imre

5. Content:

a.) Main goal of paper: My basic assumption is that there are remarkable regional differences in areas which are considered homogeneous at the global level. The aim of my paper is to give a comprehensive picture about the Visegrad Group's (V4) regional disparities. Both general trends and particular causes of the differences are searched for. The level of social stratification in a spatial focus is also in question.

b.) Content of paper: A brief introduction of the cause of the differentiation in the area opens the study. The chosen basis for the comparison will be well-being. The widely recognised UN indicator (HDI) is to be built on although modifications are necessary due to its limited applicability in the area of my research. Hence, the Well-being Index (WBI) is created and used for living standard measurement of the NUTS 2 level regions in the V4. Results are introduced and explanation is given.

c.) Achieved results: Sharp differences manifest themselves and a particular pattern is identified as the higher WBI values concentrate around the economic centres. Another trend is the gradual fall of the living standard from the western to the eastern edge of the Group. Despite the strong correlation between the economic performance (GDP) and the well-being (WBI), there are particular cases where other factors determine the level of living. Therefore GDP can be used for life quality comparisons although it is not ultimately accurate.

6. Key words: well-being, region, differentiation