

Telecottages: Hopes and realities of rural development

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Rural development is a persistent challenge everywhere, whether in most developed countries and post - communist regions in Europe or in less developed economies. Although there are several dimensions of the rural and regional backwardness, principal among them are some lacks of information and a limited access to economic and social services. The greater distance from information and other resources maintains the gap of competitiveness between different settlements/regions.

Many scholars and politicians believed that digital “revolution” would open doors to access information in poor settlements and partly diminish regional inequalities. This paper focuses on the role of Telecottages in rural areas and according to literature shows the Telecottages in Hungary almost inefficiently because of failures in less developed settlements and micro regions. Most of the failures connected to lack of human and social capital and a poor economic infrastructure.

Keywords: Telecottages, rural development, human and social capital, regional inequalities