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*Leaving the past behind: New perspectives of development in Latin America*

Latin America continues to face a number of socio-economic challenges despite being a middle-income region and the fact that it experienced social progress during the pink-tide era. The current harmful effects of extractive production on the environment and traditional rural communities, the increasing poverty, inequality and persistent violence in recent years represent a new situation at both regional and national levels. Since colonial times throughout its history the region is constantly associated with the unrealized potential, the lost opportunities and wasted resources. However, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Latin America has become a particularly interesting laboratory, where new development models emerged in

addressing their socio-economic problems over and after the pink-tide era. The paper focuses on the following questions: What development paths are emerging in the region in the 21st century? What kind of economic and public policy ideas are implemented regarding the different development paths? The study relies on analysing academic literature of theories, official government documents, statistical data of international organizations, thus representing the evolution of the distinct concepts of development, exploring the origins of the neoliberal, the human development and the Buen Vivir approaches and their effects in the policies. The study offers evidence about the complexity of the interconnectedness of development processes in territorial, social and ethnic contexts and also reveals the importance of the role of the institutional system during the democratization process over the last three decades in the region.

Ágnes Deák is currently a doctoral student at Corvinus University in Budapest. Her research field covers social and economic development processes in Latin America. Due to previous studies in various fields of social sciences her research interest comprises many aspects of the region, but she is particularly interested in the field of human development and multidimensional poverty. She considers the interdisciplinary approach and the fieldwork important elements of her research. She has participated in study trips and/or fieldworks in some countries of the region, such as in Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina and Colombia. The topic of her doctoral research is to explore how different economic activities and forms affect dimensions of human development and multidimensional poverty reduction, with special interest in Colombia.