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**Area of competence**: economic geography, sustainable development, regional and urban planning.

**Research interests** fall into three major areas:

1. **The Geography of Human Risks, Vulnerability, Sustainability**

The most significant publications include: *Identification of traffic accident risk-prone areas under low lighting conditions* (with Ivan K., Haidu I. and Ciobanu S.). Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences, 15:9, 2059-2068, 2015; *Hot spots and social background of urban traffic crashes: a case study in Cluj-Napoca (Romania)* (with Ciobanu S. and Man T.). *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 87:2, 117-126, 2016.

Nagy J., Benedek J., Ivan K., (2018) Measuring Sustainable Development Goals at local level. A case of a metropolitan area in Romania, *Sustainability*, 10:11, 3962.

Benedek J., Sebestyén T., Bartók B. (2018) Evaluation of renewable energy sources in peripheral areas and renewable energy-based rural development. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 90:7, 516-535.

1. **Regional Economic Development**

This research topic encompass the uneven geographical development, regional inequalities and spatial polarisation, the role of tourism in local and regional development, urban economic change.

The most significant publications include: *The emergence of new regions in transition Romania*, in: Scott, J. (Ed) De-coding New Regionalism. Shifting Socio-political Contexts in Central Europe and Latin America, pp. 233 – 246. Ashgate. Urban and Regional Planning Series, Aldershot, 2009; *Paths of convergence and polarization in the Visegrád countries* (with Kocziszky Gy.). In: Lang, T., Henn, S., Sgibnev, W., Ehrlich, K., (eds.): Understanding Geographies of Polarization and Peripheralization. Perspectives from Eastern Europe and Beyond. Palgrave/MacMillan, Basingstoke. 352 p., 217-234, 2015; *Spatial differentiation and core-periphery structures in Romania*. Eastern Journal of European Studies, 6:1, 49-61, 2015.

1. **Geography and Public Policy**

This topic includes a range of articles and books expressing the strong commitment of the author to the policy relevance of geographic research.

The most significant publications include: *Politicile regionale în România* (with Bakk M.). Editura Polirom, Iaşi, 2010; *Chapter 12, Romania*, (with Horvath R.), in: BAUN M, MAREK D., (Eds) EU regional policy after enlargment*,* 226– 247. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2008; *Urban policy and urbanisation in the transititon Romania*, Romanian Review of Regional Studies 1, 51 – 64, 2006; *Growth pole development and metropolization in Romania* (with Cristea M.). Studia UBB, seria Geographia, 59:2, 125-138, 2014.

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