



ERSA Office
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**Professor Attila Varga, University of Pécs, Hungary
is awarded the ERSA European Prize in Regional Science 2023**

July 2023, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium – The 2023 ERSA Prize in Regional Science has been awarded to Prof. [Attila Varga](#). Attila Varga earned his PhD in Economics at West Virginia University (USA) with a thesis on “Regional Economic Effects of University Research: A Spatial Econometric Perspective” (1997), and a doctorate in Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2006).

During his career he served as Director of the Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research Center jointly with being professor at the Department of Economics and Econometrics of the Faculty of Economics and Econometrics at the University of Pécs.

His research interests are anchored in Regional and Urban Economics, Regional Innovation Systems, Economic Development, and Policy Impact Modeling. His scientific production counts important contributions published in renowned academic journals including a seminal contribution on “Local geographic spillovers between university research and high technology innovations” (jointly with L. Anselin and Z. Acs) published in Journal of Urban Economics (1997). Among his recent publications, one may cite the ones on the “[Economic impact modeling of smart specialization policy: Which industries should prioritization target?](#)” (with N. Szabó and T. Sebestyén) published in Papers in Regional Science (2020); “[Estimating the economic impacts of knowledge network and entrepreneurship development in smart specialization policy](#)”. (with T. Sebestyén, N. Szabó, and L. Szerb) in Regional Studies (2020); and “[Knowledge networks in regional development: an agent-based model and its application](#)”. (with T. Sebestyén) in Regional Studies (2020)

Since years, Attila Varga has had quite a lot of editorial activities in the field of regional science. He has been member of the editorial board of REGION (ERSA Journal) since 2013 and Regional Statistics since 2012. He was also editor of Regional Studies (2007- 2013).

Attila Varga has already been recipient of several academic and professional recognitions: Outstanding Alumni Scholar Award, Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV, USA (2011), Teacher of the Year Award, MSc Enterprise Development and Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Pécs (2019), and the Award of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Akadémiai Díj), (2018).

Last but not least, Attila Varga contributed actively to Regional Science in many ways: he is Founding member and member of the board of the Hungarian Regional Science Association (2003 – present). He was also member of the European Regional Science Association Council (ERSAC) (2003 – 2019) and he was among the organizers of the 2022 ERSA congress in Pécs.

The award Ceremony will take place on Friday 1st September 2023 during the Closing Session of the **62nd ERSA Congress** “at Alicante [#ERSAprize](#) [#ersa2023](#), [ersa2023.ersa.org](#)

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About ERSA: The European Regional Science Association (ERSA) is the supranational grouping of national regional science associations across Europe.

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