

LITERATURE

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Kocziszký, György: Methodology of Regional Development. University of Miskolc Press 2009. p. 258. ISBN 978-963-661-898-8

György Kocziszký makes an important contribution to current debates on territorial planning and regional development, providing an empirically rich analysis of the theory and methodology of regional development. The book mainly addresses graduate students and is divided into four parts. The first one critically reviews economic theories explaining regional development; the second presents different types of spaces and space delimitation methods; the third provides an analysis of spatial level, time horizons and databases used in the spatial planning; and the fourth focuses on methodological questions linked to the preparation of regional development plans.

Readers with previous knowledge of the literature on regional development theories should be familiar with the polemics and questions reviewed in Chapter 1: economic growth, economic theories of regional development, and regional development as an instrument of economic policy. The second part of the book examines different types of space delimitations, according to administrative, identity-based, functional, statistical and economic criteria, while the third part presents the spatial levels of development plans, the typology and nature of development plans. The sources of data and information used in planning are presented as well.

A novel and important contribution of this book is to provide an insight in the methodology of preparing regional development plans (Chapter 4). The author divides seven steps in the preparation of regional development plans. For each of them are determined a range of specific objectives, tasks and methods. The first of these steps, exploration and analysis, is largely presented on the basis of thematic sections: environment, demographic potential, living conditions, economy, labour market, infrastructure and spatial structure. Through a well-planned selection the focus is on the presentation and discussion of quantitative methods of analysis, starting with descriptive statistical methods, continuing with methods of structural change measuring, examination of stochastic relations, cluster forming, and factor analysis. A qualitative method, the SWOT analysis is presented as well. A novelty for this kind of books is the next step: the positioning of the analysed territorial unit, on the basis of complex indices like the Human Development Index. The concept of regional innovation potential is taken into the field of analysis, due to the fact, that innovation is considered to be one of the key factors determining the global position of regions and localities. The chapter ends with a short overview on activities like documentation, implementation, monitoring.

In summary, this book represents a good and compact addition to the literature on regional development both in educational form as well as in practical form. Using personal reflection and a comprehensive source material gives mindful insights to the methodology of regional development. The result is a most valuable tool for economists, geographers, planners, and policy-makers.

JÓZSEF BENEDEK