

NATURE AND SHARPNESS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODELING OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT OF BULGARIA

Kamen Petrov*

Introduction

Resolving territorial problems at the end of XX and beginning of XXI century puts governance requirements not only towards national governments, but also globally. Global problems highlighted in the reports of the Club of Rome and periodically reviewed by the World Economic Council are becoming more distinct territorial matter.

The development of theory and practice in recent decades has consistently focused on the problems of urbanization, management of migration flows, regionalization, the formation of the structure of regional economies in accordance with natural and demographic potential in countries and areas.

Territorial Development of Bulgaria in the European Union is facing new challenges. They are caused primarily by the need for integration and secondly by building a single economic market. This implies the need for approach in a new way to territorial development. To a large extent the foundation of territorial development implies the imposition of an integrated interdisciplinary analysis of the current state of the country. But it should not be bound only by an impact assessment of the administrative territorial structure and spatial planning of the country. Rather evaluation of the functioning of the territorial system must fill with content the territorial administrative structures at appropriate levels for legal positions.

In this way the hierarchical subordination of the individual structures should realize the strategic guidelines in laws, documents or in other words to be engines and enablers of regional development. According to the Regional Development Act (RDA), this means making strategic plans and programs for regional development, and process management with reliable control for their implementation.

On the other hand, administrative structures construct the system of regional management bodies that have an important role in transmission between politics and economics. This gives us reason to look for opportunities to define ap-

* Kamen Petrov, Assoc. Prof. PhD, Department of Regional Development, Faculty "Management and Administration", UNWE, email: kpetkov@unwe.bg

proaches to managing regional development and implementation of functional connections through which operates the territorial economic system (Докова, 2010, pp. 35-73). To a large degree spatially we need to look for real definition of approaches to individual components in the territorial communities. This largely imposes in this exhibition to look for approaches and methods to assess regional development in terms of the functioning of territorial systems. In this direction it is necessary to consider the appropriate levels of analysis and look for opportunities to build a common methodology for assessment and analysis of the processes of regional development and their impact on the ongoing socio-economic processes at national and regional level.

This requires defining the main purpose and objectives of regional development is to be based on the need to ensure conditions for economic growth, high employment and high quality living environment and life of the population, and decreased levels of inequality. Certainly in methodological terms before proceeding to the analysis we should note that in our country the mezo-level is not built and the role of the main subject of regional development, the municipality actually has to implement on-site and specifically regional development.

Lack of real commitment of spatial planning and project development of higher levels of these municipalities largely, creates systematic removal of regional issues. Whether this is successful in our conditions is a subject to specific analyzes. Regional development is associated with the need for another type of organization as the national territory and the various regions on the basis of outstanding economic, social, environmental and other terms and conditions. An important prerequisite for new development in this nature and placement of the territory – the subject of a reform in regional development and policy with which it is implemented is the normative and legal insurance.

The regional development policy in the transition implies a certain regulation of the relations of all entities that are related to regional processes. These are the bodies of state authority, of local government, as well as informal regional structures and private equity. The policy, which regulates regional development should be handled by a system of mechanisms (normative-legal, economic, social) with the purpose to discipline somehow interconnections and relationships between those entities.

Theoretical and methodological approaches to regional development

Without setting aim to make a critical analysis of the nature of regional development in various known to us scientific approaches and parties related to regional science, it's necessary to note that in Anglo-Saxon scientific literature prevails regional paradigm that is developing in different directions. The exact focus of regional development is highlighted by R. Harshtorn,

who deduces that through regional development we strive to get complete knowledge about territorial differentiation of the Earth and therefore how different the respective territorial changes and phenomena that change only locally and regionally in terms of their territorial importance or, in other words, their attitude towards universal territorial differentiation and spatial positioning. In theoretical order most scientific schools did not enter the foundation of Regional Development and look at its geographical interpretation. Gradually with the increasing of the processes of urbanization and structuring the regional economy in national economies in the foreground appear the problems of regional development. This in turn brings regional development in the early 90s of the twentieth century as a new scientific field. In practice, it derives from the geographical, managerial and economic sciences, but because of its functionality and the use of similar tools positioned in the professional field administration and management with a focus on business process management and enforcement of regional development policies at different levels of national State and lately across borders. However, in terms of its methodological framework the claim that the foundation of regional development is the area (chronological) principle and space category is the leitmotif of each regional study. This is the reason we bring to the fore the horologism, we accept the three postulates of regional knowledge – teaching about the natural resource complex, horological (space) concept and theory of management of regional development. In addition, regulatory decisions and managing spatial development should be sought in the skillful combining the resources of state regulation with market mechanism.

Regional policy depends on legislative decisions concerning the type of administrative – territorial organization and division of the country, local government and administration. In fact, Bulgaria Regional Development as a scientific direction is relatively new. Its foundation is based on some European schools of science, which shows a tendency to form a solid foundation of regional research based on accumulated theoretical and practical experience of the most developed nation states. To a large extent it's not necessary to justify the lawfulness of the modern state and regional scientific organization of science. This may be the object of attention and scientific interpretation in a separate article. Therefore, attention in the present study is directed to the removal of some current trends based on logical analysis and chronological description. After temporal description, however, our view there should be a territorial dimension at least, for regional development in itself combines the processes developing in time and space. So spatial development has its territorial dimension (Hartshorne 1958, pp. 97-108).

Restrictions in relation to the territory can be defined mainly in its scope and approach for analysis. So within the regional knowledge can be seen in a global, supranational, national and local aspect. The main objective of the regional

analysis regardless of the range is the resolution of conflicts between the need for a means of reproduction and the ability to meet them in spaced relation, which characterizes the level of production, on the one hand, and the maturity of market relations on the other hand in terms of territory.

Regionally, the state must have ample opportunity to manage the process of integration into the global economy, strengthening the social and economic potential and ensure protection of the population. Within the new global (but not universal) economy increasingly clear are outlined its "specialized segments" – so-called "major economic areas", united by their common cultural and historical traditions, a common type of business practice, general social-economic interests and strategic objectives. These spaces often go beyond the geographical limits as a result of which the world is in a period of restructuring at various levels by outlining a world with more than two regional poles of a "new regionalism", which presumably will shape the territorial skeleton of the world in the third millennium. The basis of "major economic areas" will be organic interaction between the new regional power centers and included into the "large space" national states. The big question mark in the global order, which of these centers will fill with content "sustainable development". Striving to give the globalization a fair nature must be based on interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of economic and social development and environmental protection at the local, national, regional and global levels. In fact, this center that reaches equilibrium will be dominant over other economic superpowers. In this direction regional development policy puts forward a methodological issue associated with the use of the term region.

Relatively new to our practice as a whole except "region" is the concept of "regional development". Looking at the different approaches about its definition can be assumed that it is not a modification of territory and territorial, as it seems at first glance. Its origin is from the Latin region-regionalism. According to significant part of the literature, it is identified with the area, location, layer and so on, hence the "regional" means regional, local, or in other words a hierarchical system of separate parts on the territory. Therefore, we think the term territorial development must be understood primarily as local development, local policy or planning related to the territory itself. On the other hand, the concept region is multifaceted, and its definition is possible to focus on some of its characteristics, such as spatial (administrative) economic, political, etc. Diversity in the use of the term region is determined not only by its complex nature, but also in terms of its use to the meaning of the term. The difficulty of defining the concept region due to its relativity and comparability example, the term "area", "range", "territorial" etc. According to various concepts the term "region" can be seen in three basic dimensions spatial, economic and political. Therefore, necessary to outline and spatial level of the term "region" emphasizing the limitations of a given area compared to other areas (Haggett, Chorley, 1969).

The spatial dimensions of the concept region are extremely wide- they vary from municipality (even smaller territories) to entire continents. In the economic and political dimension of the concept of "region" can be highlighted three levels, one is purely functional, the second is institutional and the third is a fusion between the first two. The functional level can be determined as the lower level of granularity of the region, assuming that it is limited to economic and social interactions in a given territory. The Institutional level of the concept of "region" includes the two previous levels but complements them by focusing on the institutional structure that has shaped the territory. In fact, institutional region can be seen as an object of economic policy, and the foundation of government or decentralization of power and as a subject of economic policy.

The third level represents the spatial level of the region as a territorial system under the impact of governance (political) decisions and their impact on the economic development of the territorial unit (Kolotievskiy, 1967). This requires devising an impact assessment of regulatory systems representing a sequence of logical steps in the preparation of proposals for the formulation and improvement of regional development policies and adopting the specific legislation for their implementation. It forms part of the process of building and development of policy and legislative practices that ensure efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of results in the implementation of decisions and performance targets. Assessing the impact of legislation could provide the necessary expertise for strategic policy decisions for better legislation and development planning, programming and use of funds for the implementation of regional policy in Bulgaria, to achieve the necessary consistency and interaction with new legislation and requirements of EU cohesion policy. The results and key points of the evaluation of the impact of legislation will allow for broadening the debate among stakeholders and deepen the theory and practice on the future development and implementation of cohesion policy and achieving sustainable integrated socio-economic and environmental development of the regions in the country.

Goals before assessing the impact can be achieved by using a methodology that in most cases already established national and international practice and provides sufficient guarantees that the evaluation results are applicable to achieve better results in determining the design new or improving existing legislative framework. The specific methods used in assessing the impact of the implementation of legislation related to quantitative and qualitative methods for collecting, processing and analyzing data and information relating to the socio-economic and environmental impact of plans and programs for regional and local development. As well as documentary and content analysis to establish the relevance of formalized decisions and provisions concerning the strategic vision and priorities for regional development, including in respect of the related legislation and implementing acts, monitoring of controls on regional development of different

territorial levels socio-economic partners and civil society organizations in the field of sustainable development and equal opportunities.

Outlining of the spatial patterns of regional development.

The most important characteristics of space are: density (population, gross regional product, natural resources, fixed assets, etc. per unit area), accommodation (rates uniformity, differentiation, concentration, distribution of population and economic activities), connectivity (intensity of economic). The analysis is important to distinguish the relationship between the parts and the space in terms of the mobility of goods, services, capital and people-driven development of communication networks. Place of regional science in modern science is seen in two dimensions. Of territorial units for the implementation of common goals and priorities of the territory. In terms of administration – management and control of spatial processes, it is appropriate to re-evaluate and discuss structure, place and role of the regional level in the administrative-territorial division. In regional issues focusing on a specific aspect of its implementation instead of seeking its targeted terms. At least, because the problems of regional development in territorial systems and communities have integral functional and structural section. Assuming that the integrated problems determine the nature of the process behavior of territorial systems, this means that the first starting point is to determine the characteristics of issues relevant to territorial levels- regional, subregional and local. Based on typological classification covering all territorial systems are emerging types of systems similar in sign and qualities. By outlining the prevalence of processes can also be identified specific common issues related to regional development and implementation of relevant development policies (Докова, НИКОЛОВ, 2014).

The regional approach is directly associated with the progress of globalization in all spheres of development of society. There are new spatial and economic structure and urbanization are increasingly becoming manageable territorial systems. Localization of manufacturing, services and capital allocation is highly dependent on global and regional markets and spatial development of transnational production, distribution and commercial corporations. New information and communication technologies create opportunities for intensification of managerial processes in all areas, especially in an increasingly liberalized commodity, labor and capital services market.

Regional Policy, Regional Planning and management are the focus of the research. The theory and methodology for the management of territorial systems subject to the attention of scientists from different fields of scientific knowledge. The regional approach is increasingly being used by the business world in economic management, finance, IT, infrastructure, industry management systems,

architecture, spatial planning and urban development. And what requires the study of territorial systems, processes and phenomena occurring in a given territory under the active influence of globalization and internationalization (Докова, Петров, 2012).

Localization process on a particular territory, which can be viewed in two ways:

1) The object of localization, the effect of different factors on regional economic activity that will develop in the defined territory;

2) The direction is the environment where activities will be developed, taking into account the character and specificity of the area.

In these cases, localization factors are related to the economic sectors that will develop on the territory. The factors of economic development influence the localization and the processes of economic activities taking place in the territorial communities. By their very nature, they are identical, commonly accepted, used in scientific economic literature. They can be classified into two groups – territorial and extraterritorial. The first includes – location, natural resource potential, geodemography. The second group – international division of labor, scientific, technical and infrastructure development. For each territory, the factors are specific, and their implementation is based on interaction between them. This calls for the process of bringing regional development as a process. This means that regional development is a process of constant social change that contributes to the sustainable development of the community in a particular region. It implies a multisectoral and complex process linked to certain goals: economic growth, sustainable development, social integration, meeting basic needs, quality of life, regional autonomy, environmental protection.

Thus, in regional development there is also its economic nature and it is determined mainly by economic zoning. Under the new conditions, this approach means that specific regional programs can and should be "attached" to specific areas that are relevant in terms of economic and social development. This requires a vertical division of the regions in order to reveal the degree of economic relations between them, to define areas of gravity and the role of large settlements and individual settlement structures in their functioning, to make a typology depending on the objectives of regional policy. Of particular importance in this aspect is the proper typing and functioning of the regions on the basis of the concept of polar development in accordance with the national and regional specifics. For each country, the relevant types of regions can be identified: hypertrophied, heavily industrialized, poorly industrialized, highly urbanized, dominated small populated areas and dispersed population localization, transport areas, peripheral economy areas, specific functional areas (agrarian, Tourist, mountainous) and others. and to implement the relevant regional policy.

The experience of Western European countries in regional policy implementation through the regionalization mechanisms shows that the large typological diversity of the regions can be systematized in three main types: weakly industrialized regions with a preferential regional policy and accelerated investment activity; Depressed areas requiring industry and industry restructuring on the basis of an accelerated investment policy and highly-urbanized industrial areas where a policy of restrictions, prohibitions and anti-economic incentives should be pursued in terms of their economic development objectives.

In the circumstances of our country, it is difficult to identify areas with sufficient potential to emerge from the crisis. At the same time, there are areas in critical condition that should be subject to state impact in order to prevent them from being completely disrupted.

In the context of very limited resources, which regions should be subject to state regional policy: those with some support can escape from the crisis and through their dynamic development to accumulate resources for redistribution in less developed and difficult regions; Or subject to this policy should be the so-called problem areas. This in practice means implementing a promising regional policy, mainly by respecting the principles of efficiency in developing the investment and economic components of regional policy, mainly by respecting the principles of effectiveness in developing the investment and economic components of regional policy. Regional preferences in the promotion of regional development should focus on areas with the highest development potential, while urgent measures including regional aid for critical areas should be taken. This means assisting and prioritizing development areas that can become locomotives of progress and development as well as viable projects in areas with extreme difficulty in properly dispensing infrastructure, economic and social measures. In this sense, regional development characterizes the pattern of development of the country as a whole. This implies a significant level of decentralization in order to be able to identify – for each individual territorial community – the respective autonomous space to realize the potential and comparative advantages for better participation in national and international markets in the global framework of the national development strategy.

Formation of Territorial Systems and Regional Development

Throughout the epochs of the emergence and development of human society, regional development has evolved into one of the most dynamic scientific disciplines. It carries a specific cognitive approach – spatial systematization and search for causal relationships explaining spatial relationships. The optimal spatial organization of the life of society based on the study of the resource, human and technological capabilities of a particular country or region is the

eternal task of regional development and related fields of application. It follows that regional development is a science of dynamic spatial systems formed on the Earth's surface due to the interaction between society and nature, the laws of their development and management.

One major feature of regional development can not be overlooked, as science – the ability to study subjects and phenomena simultaneously, both in vertical and horizontal hierarchy. Vertically, world, national and local levels are used, and the distinction between territorial systems in a horizontal section is done by looking for the territorial boundaries of the thresholds defining the characteristics of one or other area of the earth's surface and the territorial communities.

The combination of the vertical and horizontal hierarchy of the territorial systems studied by the regional development enables it to participate creatively in the management and planning of different levels and territorial configurations. This suggests that regional development can be perceived as a system in which there are marked sectoral links that create a condition for its functionality. This gives us an additional reason to look for a fundamental definition of a system (Sheppard, 1995, pp. 283-303). The term "system" entered the economic literature in the 1960s. In connection with the dissemination of systemic research along with modeling, the general theory of systems was gaining great popularity. In this direction, we assume that by applying the ideas stemming from the theory of systems, the theorization of regional development is achieved as a methodological basis of territorial knowledge. Thus, we can assume that, as a systematic paradigm, regional development can be embedded in the general theory of systems such as governance and structural science. In practice, in the conceptual apparatus of system analysis, a central place belongs to the very notion of system itself. There are a number of definitions both qualitative verbal and formalized. For the needs of regional development, we can assume that the system is a complex of elements that interact and complement that it is a multiplicity of objects together with the relationships between the objects and between their attributes.

This largely allows us to assume that the **regional system is a combination of objects with successive interconnections, which gives new qualities: integrity, autonomy, sustainability and, above all, functional. The objects or the set of objects performing a function in the system are defined as elements of the system.** This gives us grounds in regional development to assume that the system is defined as a multiplicity of elements with relationships and relationships that form a definite entity, thus defining the necessity to bring regional development as a new scientific direction of a systemic nature. Moreover, the knowledge of the qualitative specificity and the essence of the objects as a system means revealing their structure, understood as a sequence of elements in the system in a certain respect and having an invariant character. At the same time, we realize that in the course of their development the general theory of systems underwent a significant

evolution, in the course of which the subject of its study gradually became concrete. Today it is right to treat this theory as a system-structural analysis that reveals the structural dependencies of different systems.

Thus, regional development can distinguish the spatial organization of society as the main object of research. **Thus, we can assume that regional development is a science that studies the laws and peculiarities of the spatial organization of society in different countries and regions.** An important point to be made is that, as a systemic methodological approach, regional development has its own management philosophy and focuses on the spatial organization of society through assessment, analysis and forecasts of assessment of the socio-economic environment, which should be considered simultaneously as a process, and as a phenomenon. Thus, the spatial organization of society represents a combination of processes and phenomena manifested in spatial, temporal and component forms. It is characterized by a wide range of investigated objects, phenomena and processes. It includes territorial and aquatic organization of production, population, infrastructures, natural uses, and spatial combinations – between sectoral and production-territorial complexes, economic areas, urban agglomerations, socio-economic territorial systems.

In the structure of the spatial organization of society, the interaction of the territorial (regional) division of labor with the processes of regionalization and complex formation takes place. Territorial division of labor is closely linked to spatial differentiation of natural and socio-economic conditions, territorial concentration of production and population, spatial specialization and economic structure of regions, development and location of production and social infrastructures, utilization of labor force and migrations of the population, the integration of labor, the cultural image and the safeguarding of ecological balance.

The diversity of the forms of spatial organization of society and their components determine the necessity of different regional studies of a number of sciences: economic, social, geographic. The specificity of regional development is determined by the integrity of the approach to the objects studied. Unlike private sciences studying individual components and functional-structural education, she studies the production-territorial complexes and socio-economic systems. The latter are the main form of the spatial organization of the whole society. In this direction, for the needs of regional development, it is necessary to assume that a **territorial system means economically and socially effective interrelated combinations of the elements of society, purposefully operating in a given territory as units of the public from the point of view of administration and management.** In this direction, a territorial system includes the whole set of different types of productive forces and production relations, developed in certain proportions and interdependencies of a given territory in terms of governance and administration, which are called to satisfy the material and spiritual needs

of the population. In order to establish the character and the regularities of the formation and development of territorial systems, it is necessary to determine the composition of the elements and the links that unite these elements into a system.

In the field of regional development, territorial systems are the objects of material production, non-productive sphere and demographic resources. Moreover, the population and the objects of the service sphere are related to the social ones and the objects of the mining and processing sphere to the economic elements of the systems. Simultaneously as a social and economic element of the system, the workforce can be considered. From the point of view of public consumption, the labor force has a social character and, from a position of production, it is an important economic category. In all socio-economic territorial systems, the population is considered in relation to the economy or the economy in relation to the population. Moreover, at regional level the system has a certain territorial scope. The Territory plays the role of an environment that provides the spatial community with the social and economic elements of the system, which makes it distinct from other structures of the specific features of development and governance. The territory is also connected with the peculiarities of the natural conditions and resources, which are the basis for development of the demographic and economic processes. Notwithstanding the existing differences in the wording of different authors, it can be rightly argued that the definition of a territorial system in the field of regional development needs to consist of multiple elements or territorial subsystems, multiple relationships between elements and presence of direct and inverse relationships And have relative wholesomeness (spatial and functional). In practice, territorial systems are characterized by the following features – a composite set of elements related to different levels of functional-structural subsystems. Correspondingly, the functioning and development of the basis of the regional public reproduction, which is an unchanging component of the public, incl and the territorial division of labor. There are interconnected and interdependent relationships in space and time between the elements of the system and the subsystems, ensuring economic and social effects. Typical are three main types of connections: material-subject, migration, information, as well as dynamism and balance with the environment, management of socio-economic systems and processes in them. In order to study the construction and development of territorial systems, a number of scientific and research approaches are used: system-structural, synthetic, territorial-structural and hierarchical.

The system-structural approach explores the manifestation of the functional-structural subsystems as well as their interrelation. Each system consists of separate subsystems operating in unison. There are no sharp boundaries between the subsystems, because they are subject to adaptation and complexity through the process of human development and living activity. The following subsystems can be identified in the socio-economic territorial systems: production, natural-

resource, population, social, recreational, infrastructural. All of them are subject to the common goal of development to resolve key economic issues.

The operation and development of the three leading subsystems – population, production and natural resources – is possible in the presence of all other subsystems. The system-structural approach in regional development is used in the study of the time-based systems and their structures. These systems and structures form a unity in some or other territories with no arbitrarily bounded boundaries but defined according to objective laws. In this direction we accept in the field of regional development **the spatial system and its structures, which should be considered as a whole and as parts of this whole within boundaries which are functions of the process of development of this whole.** Boundaries play your role in shaping the system and its structures. Changing the limits occurs when the system state changes. In regional development for territorial systems it is mandatory to analyze the distances, directions, spatial concentration, dispersion and hierarchical subdivision of the points, zones and areals [1]. In this direction, morphological systems that contain information about static relations or links between elements may also be important in the chronological order for the purposes of regional development. Such are maps showing populated points, paths or descriptions of functional dependencies by equation. From a spatial and hierarchical plane, cascaded systems that take into account the existence of energy-to-energy relationships are also important for regional development. Each of the elements of the cascade system may exist as a separate one that determines their hierarchy. The process-response systems allow you to study the links of the elements with each other. If the systems of the first two types concentrate the attention of the forms, then the ones of the processes and the causes of interconnections. According to the "process-response" systems, they are an excellent tool for exploring social geography. The latter type – "controllable systems" – is a special case with additional regulating elements – "valves", which are used to control the sanctioning of systems, so the system-structured approach is a general-science method with certain heuristic capabilities. Although essentially empirical, it plays a significant role in the theorization of regional development through the discovery of the positioning of the individual economically active individuals and their adjacent sites characteristic of the different territorial systems. This calls for a synthesis approach. It is aimed at studying the integrity of socio-economic territorial systems and allows the conclusion that the structure of the systems is formed by the integration of the general and private structures as a qualitatively new functional education. Similar is the structure of the resource-energetic-material cycles, which are the most generalized functional-structural education of the systems that have their territorial significance. Their essence is limited to the stream-flowing transformation of the raw materials and energy outputs within the boundaries of the system. Each of the cycles includes a certain

kind of natural raw materials and energy, forming a kind of economic and technological chain of production. In this direction, for the needs of regional development, the spatial-structural approach, which is related to the sector-concentric differentiation of territorial systems with high-end center-periphery functions, is also important. Each system has a specific core center where the highest concentration of socio-economic elements is observed. The common center of the system is usually formed as a result of the spatial assembly of the subsystems. Concentration and localization of the stages and units of resource-based cycles in the center enhance its polyfunctionality. The center of the system is surrounded by a sector-concentric functional field. Approaching system boundaries reduces the number of field functions. By moving away from the center of the system, the field exhibits increased selectivity to the spheres of human activity and has the slightest functional load. This approach is linked to the diffusion pattern of innovations (specification of statistical laws), later known as the "center-periphery" model (Kovalenko, 2008).

The hierarchical approach explores the manifestation of the taxonomic ranks of the functioning systems. Territorial systems as spatial forms of life for society are characterized by a hierarchical subdivision. The taxonomic rank of each system is accounted for based on the analysis and synthesis of system-forming relationships. When the hierarchical taxonomies are shown, all types of relationships are taken into account, since only their combination forms the organic integrity of the system. Typically, macro, meso and microsystems are separated. All these ranks include several administratively formed and unformed taxonomies. It should be noted that effective methods have not been developed to objectively determine the amount of levels in the hierarchy of systems of any kind. Existing system design proposals use heuristics based on expert judgment or qualitative features for the functioning of a particular system. Therefore, depending on the purpose of studying one or another structure, a different amount of hierarchical subsystems can be emitted.

It is necessary to observe the unity between the functional and hierarchical structure of the systems. Each functional subsystem has its spatial organization of elements oriented to natural, economic, ecological, social, historical, demographic and others. Prerequisites and resources. At all hierarchical levels, the production subsystems play a decisive role in the socio-economic system. The connections between the system's units are investigated by W. Kristaller and in 1933 he developed a spatial model and the central location theory. It establishes that settlements are located in the geographical area in a certain order and, depending on their location and size, perform different functions. Later these theories were further developed by V. Leonetiev and W. Azard (Isard, 1998).

Structuring of Regional development as a scientific direction

Regional development is a process that reflects the economic reality in spatial and territorial terms. Through it, people are aware of economic processes, acquire knowledge they use to transform them to the development of the respective territory or to assess the change in its structuring and development. The approach to regional development usually begins with its subject area, differentiating the range of problems being explored, and revealing the specific methods that are being applied. Concerning the first round of questions, a chronological and spatial approach is applied which reveals how the ideas of the main theoretical directions in regional development are being developed and changed. The second, broader set of problems presents the scientific toolkit of regional research and the functions that implement regional science in the context of development. In this aspect, regional development is a science of the interests and behavior of economic subjects, of their rational choice in the presence of resources and limitations in territorial and postural aspect from the point of view of their functional organization and management. Thus, the fundamental task of regional development is to describe, explain and predict the rational behavior of economic subjects in spatial and territorial terms. Moreover, the systematization of regional theory offers a variety of definitions of its own subject mainly to the fact that regional development studies the regional relations and peculiarities of the production, distribution, exchange and consumption of the wealth of society in a territorial and spatial aspect. In particular, we perceive the view that regional science characterizes the daily economic activity of people by indirectly studying the changes in socio-economic life – production, prices, unemployment, etc. (Pile, Rose, 1992). In fact, regional development explores how people organize production and consumption, seeks answers to the core business issues – what, how, and for whom to produce. Of course, as a discipline and for the purposes of training, regional development is limited to studying the behavior of economic entities in the territorial aspect, spatially based on resource constraints and the interdependence of objectives and alternatives for their realization.

Regional development has a functional dimension and, in practice, is a science of choice arising from the spatial and territorial development of society and the planet. Regional development has the task to develop the theoretical and practical models of the geo-economic choice of people caused by the scarcity of goods and the territorial position of productive forces and the foundations of a functioning regional economy and the implementation of regional development policies. In this sequence, in regional terms, regional development allows for the study of changes in the regional economy through the analysis of price dynamics, unemployment, etc., and at the same time from a functional point of view, to develop decisions and strategies for conducting an impact policy on the part of

the government On the national space in its entirety and specificity of its regional variations and peculiarities. Thus, regional development as an impact and choice science shows how people decide to use limited resources to produce goods and distribute them among members of society. In this direction, we must distinguish between the regional economy and regional development. The regional economy is studying functional and investigational dependencies as they appear on the surface, in the detriment of the market mechanism for regulating the economy in the territorial aspect and mainly in the local choice. Consequently, the main subject of the survey is the regional and local market and the local and regional supply and demand law.

Regional development studies the management decisions and the organization of the environment arising from the relations between people in the process of production, distribution, exchange and consumption of material goods and the implementation of public management. In practice, we can say that the regional economy is part of the regional development. This allows regional development to be enriched, diversifies the subject of the rapid development of economic life with the enrichment of geo-economic theory with new tools. Thus, regional development is a science that explores the developmental phases of the territorial plan and the stages of public production in its entirety, with a view to the rational utilization of the productive resources for the satisfaction of needs, while respecting social justice in the spatial and territorial terms. So let us summarize that regional development is the science of the most rational choice of ways to make the most efficient use of limited resources in the production, exchange and consumption of material and intangible goods and services in a spatial and regional aspect in order to develop the functional links between the different Sectors to better meet the increasing needs and wishes of individuals in society and the imposition of sustainable management decisions and practices. Moreover, regional development is interested in the analysis of various economic systems from the point of view of the rational conservation and utilization of resources in order to select the optimal model of national and regional economic development, especially of the less developed countries according to their natural and social economic peculiarities and territorial differences (Bennett, Payne, 2000).

In a purely theoretical aspect, regional development addresses the needs of the individual consumer, examines consumers related to the company's manufacturing decisions, pricing and market equilibrium. It rationalizes the behavior of the companies depending on the dynamics of the national economy and the world market situation through the assessment of the labor market (unemployment) inflation, gross national product, etc. Related issues of macroeconomic equilibrium and economic growth in individual regions, regions and municipalities. This allows for regional development to operate between local communities and the national space, characterizing at the interface the results

of capital concentration in production and their transnationalization in purely territorial and spatial terms. The subject of research is the investment activities and the role of economic actors of different scale affecting the whole countries and the international trade and the impact and on the regional development of the national state. Thus, regional development studies the behavior of geo-economic forces in business and their influence on the development of national economies and on the processes of world economy. This model of regional development has its mega-regional dimension when it examines the relationships between national economies, consisting in the exchange of goods and services, capital and labor. The geo-economics toolkit is then used to illustrate the development of the international economy, financial, political and economic systems, international financial markets, international institutions and the rights to the functioning of the world economy, the process of integration, etc. in spatial and territorial terms.

From a conceptual point of view, regional development is also interested in the analysis of the different geo-economic systems from the point of view of the rational conservation and utilization of resources in order to select an optimal model of geo-economic development, especially of the less developed countries according to their natural and socio-economic features. With the systematization of regional development knowledge, we can identify several types of scientific fields. The first strand is "Comparative regional development (pontiff regionalism and regionalization theory)" it is an explanation and analysis of the facts, it shows the reality as it was, is and will be. It takes into account the practical experience verified by facts. It is positive that "regional development policies stimulate business to investment". The second strand is "Regional Development Management (Regulatory Regionalism and Regional Management)", which provides an answer to how it should have been, to be and would be in regional development, based on the regulatory environment and moral evaluations of different processes. In practice, the normative regionalism shows the importance of the regulatory environment regulating regional development and the possibilities for its rational use as well as the management of the processes and phenomena in the regional development. Thus, regional development is called to enrich the knowledge of economic life, revealing the specifics of the regulatory environment, laws, categories and mechanisms of their action and practical use, building a scientific system of views and their application in regional development. The third strand is "Strategic Regional Development" (Regional Business Forecasting and Programming), it consists of statements about what we would want it to be. In practice, regional development is a process, and its change and future require strategic measures, so on the basis of the theoretical knowledge, regional development must develop a strategy, plan and mechanism for transforming the theoretical knowledge into practical skills that will help us in our most rational and useful geo-economic behavior and have a real connection with the reality of de-

velopment. This direction is related to building a comprehensive geo-economic vision of the world, helping us in the criteria of socio-economic justice, rational economic order against chaos in the management of economic processes. From a strategic point of view, the domains undergo research on regional development by means and principles for revealing the objective relationships between phenomena and processes (Патарчанов, 2005).

The conclusions that regional development makes with the help of its methods are checked in practice. Achieving these conclusions is done by exploring the facts of socio-economic life. In this direction, thought experiments are the most important point, which are the only possible ways of exploring because phenomena and processes in regional development are not always available for direct observation. Thus, for the shedding of processes and phenomena in regional development, theoretical models are constructed on the basis of a hypothesis reproducing the most characteristic traits of those surveyed in socio-economic phenomena. Thus, in regional development, it adopts a categorical apparatus of scientific abstractions reflecting the most common qualitative characteristics (countries, properties, relations) of socio-economic phenomena in spatial and territorial aspect. They are the most essential features of abstract thinking, the result and the basis of the process of knowledge. The regional categories reflect the quantitative aspects of the socio-economic processes in the territorial and spatial aspect and are considered as variables. They can be endogenous – inherent in a given socio-economic process and exogenous – outside the process. From time stance they are distinguished from dynamic – changing and static – not time – related. This calls for the regional development to define the relevant regional principles. A few basic principles of regional knowledge can be listed: economic goods are scarce to spend money and time; The behavior of economic subjects is rational; A person strives to optimize their choice; Economic thinking is marginal; Economic behavior is appropriate, giving it an economic character, any economic action has a secondary effect, and so on. This also implies the fundamental regional law, which is the epitome of repeated, sustainable relations between the socio-economic phenomena characterized by universality and validity in territorial and spatial aspect. And since socio-economic processes do not fully comply with these requirements and there are exceptions, regional laws are perceived as law-tendencies. The basis of the method is a certain idea of the nature of regional problems. The approach to regional development includes the prerequisites, the problems, the basic notions and the hypotheses determined by the majority of regional development. Thus, under regional development is meant everything that makes the business subject. This concept is wider than the transaction because it covers phenomena that are not transactions. The ultimate goal of any regional activity is development. Therefore, the development is related to those economic entities, whose interest is ultimately management activity,

which has the final result. The public economic entities, collectively referred to as the "state" in the spatial sense, are the central and territorial authorities of the state (municipalities, districts), as well as the departments for economic policy, budget organizations and public enterprises. Thus, regional development in the public sphere is realized through the implementation of regional policy. In our circumstances, we distinguish two types of regional policy. The first one is a regional economic policy that explores the study, the economic process is determined by its determinant ways of behavior and objectives of the economic subjects, the institutions, the technical and other conditions. Regional economic policy is always driven by the state of the process at a given moment or by a given process in a given period. The given state or process of the process represents the baseline situation in the analysis, its change is studied. The proximity of the starting situation in the spatial and territorial context is observed. The second type is the regional development policy, in some cases also by some participants in regional development, it is interpreted as a policy of the state with regard to the development of the municipalities, in others – as "territorial projection" and consequently the coordination of sectoral policies and actions, in The third – as a component of the overall national development policy, in the fourth – as a separate autonomous policy. Marinov's view that "The need for a regional development policy is conditioned by the fact that the principle of territorial solidarity requires the creation of relatively equal living conditions in the different parts of the territory of the country, The regional differences existing in each country give rise to social and political problems that regional and national economies are closely linked (national development can be presented as a sum of regional development Of the country) and that only market forces can not provide balanced regional development" (Human Development Report, 1999, 2000)

Delimitation of the territorial system and regional development

One of the important issues in each research of regional development as objects and phenomena is the question of determining the boundaries of their processes. Very often these are not straight lines, but stripes in which processes and relationships gradually change their intensity. Until now, there has been no common methodology for revealing the boundaries of territorial systems. Practice shows that moving towards an increasingly complex combination of indicators and criteria. This very important issue in our country has not been solved yet, despite numerous attempts. The term "boundary" is most clearly stated by the Russian scientist. Aliev, who states that "the lines in regional development are equally ordered points having the same indicators (in this case there is an isolia) or fixing the same relationship to the nuclei of nearby taxa, in which case there is a limit among the taxa. (Алаев, 1983, p. 350). From a research point of view, we can

assume that **the border passes where the gravitational force of the economic nuclei of two neighboring regions, ie where their attractiveness in the field of production and distribution ceases, is extinguished**. When defining boundaries (delimitation), it is essential to locate the object under investigation. The term localization derives from the Latin root "loso" which means set, disposable. In the dictionary of foreign words in the Bulgarian language (1982), the localization is defined as "concentration, restriction of a certain stretch", and localization according to the same source is "restrict something within certain limits".

The following elements can be found in the localization process:

- The object of deployment.
- The place to place this object (the environment).
- The reason for convergence of the subject with the chosen environment.
- The consequences of this process.

The object to be localized is a territorial system through divisibility. The term "territorial system" is formed by the term territory, which means a limited part of the hard surface of the earth with certain natural and anthropogenic properties and resources, and the term system, meaning an object that consists of multiple sub-objects linked together in a single complex. The way in which the constituent elements of the territorial system are arranged according to a certain attribute and the relationship between them is called the structure of the system. Each territorial system is characterized by the following properties: integrity, divisibility, autonomy and sustainability. The functional relations between the elements that make up the social and economic subsystem of the territorial system are manifested through their form of territorial organization. The clarification of the question of the classification of tertiary systems is directly related to the definition of the primary element, building the structure of each territorial system – that is, System-forming element.

It must meet the following requirements:

- To be territorially distinct from the point of view of its functions.
- As a territorial system of the lowest rank to contain the main subsystems – natural, social and economic, characterizing the national territorial system, but at a lower hierarchical level of functioning.
- To have a modular character, in terms of objective references to other systems of this rank, allowing the formation of spatial combinations at a higher level, carrying new qualitative content.

A peculiarity of regional systems is that they have territorial divisions. The units of the set are located at certain geographic points, each of which can be determined by two geographical coordinates. For this, the location of units of sets on a given territory can be considered as a two-dimensional distribution. When investigating such distributions, there is a need to determine their center. This means finding such a point on the geographic map of the surveyed territory,

which is the center of the two-dimensional territorial distribution. When investigating such distributions, there is a need to determine their center. This means finding such a point on the geographic map of the surveyed territory, which is the center of the two-dimensional territorial distribution. Instead of geographic coordinates, this center can be found along the points between two points and two mutually perpendicular lines tangent to the most exposed to the west and south points on the border of the area, represented on a stylized geographic map. Then calculate the values of x and y – these are actually the coordinates of the centroid (center of gravity) of the population located in the surveyed territory. This is the result of the ongoing changes in the territorial disposition of the phenomena. In regional research for the needs of regional development, we take the centrographic method as the guiding principle. Normally, over time, the centers of gravity are displaced. The severity centers and the degree and direction of their displacement can be judged both for the unevenness at a given time and for the time changes in the unevenness of the territorial distribution of the population by settlements and the direction of their migration (Докова, Петров, 2013).

However, the question of the delimitation of this system remains open. In the geographic systematization we use the term "hiatus", which means a rift, a jump in the row of comparable indicators and signs, namely the existence of hiatus allows to precisely define the boundary of the objects in the systemapy – class, type, taxon. Coefficients of structural differences, when compared to more than two systems for each of them, the relative shares are given, in which case the differences (or similarities) between the sectoral structure / primary, secondary and third at the level of districts and municipalities. The coefficients of difference (or similarities) are found empirically. Consecutively, the relative shares of the three sectors of the economy are calculated, the differences between the relative shares are found. Then the squares of the differences between the relative gullies refer to the sum of the squares of the relative shares, all being root. Given that the coefficient of structural differences is in the theoretical range of 0 to 1 / or 0 to 100% /, the degree of differences between the sectoral structure of 10 districts or municipalities can be estimated. His analysis of dynamics makes it possible to ascertain the extent to which the compared structures are converging or moving away. The comparison of the differences of the coefficients for a certain period of years will characterize with specific numerical dimensions the processes of reduction or amplification of the differences in the regional structures. These municipalities, which have similar indicators or small differences and approach the center of the system, will be included in the research site and will outline the boundaries and its territorial scope. In practice, this creates the conditions for regional development to be presented as a manageable set of measures by local and regional authorities to improve the quality of life of the population and create prerequisites for business development. Each community is distinguished by specific local conditions

that strengthen or reduce the potential for local economic development, and these conditions determine the relative advantages of the municipality in terms of its ability to attract, create and retain investments. The economic, social and material features of the municipality direct the development and approaches to the implementation of the local economic development strategy. Good practice proves that in order to build a strong local economy, each community needs to clarify the nature and structure of the local economy in a collaborative process and conduct an analysis of local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This highlights the most important issues and opportunities for the local economy and the area of influence of the main centers and their adjacent areas. Active analysis of the economic base helps municipalities clarify the opportunities and barriers to growth and investment. Through regional development, municipalities have the opportunity to take steps to expand the economic base and employment by developing and implementing strategic programs and projects that will remove barriers and facilitate investments (Докова, Петров, 2015).

Implementation of regional development in government

The need for an effective regional policy is to bring regional development as a national priority. Despite the effective membership of Bulgaria in the European Union, the state of the individual regions does not improve significantly, even in some of them there is a deterioration and deviation from the necessary pace of socio-economic development, which is in contrast with the EU-led regional policy. It is not without a fact that, from a chronological point of view, from the 1957 Treaty of Rome to the European Economic Community (EEC), the European Union (EU) is pursuing a purposeful and solid regional policy to reduce disparities between regions in the Member States, To ensure "their harmonious development by reducing existing disparities between regions and supporting less favored regions." In this direction of reasoning we must assume that the Bulgarian regional policy should rest on the ideas of regionalism. His postulates have been popularized since the 1970s, when the reflections on "Europe of the Regions", which were marked by the socio-cultural sign, are particularly popular. This, in turn, is to a great extent the current philosophy of our new regional policy, which must undoubtedly have a cultural specificity. In other words, Community policies must be applied in our policy as an expression of the sustainable functioning of multicultural communities in a particular territorial aspect. This means that the integration of individual border regions needs to acquire a new profile and content. For example, the formation of the Euroregion "Lower Danube" imposes from the conceptual framework a new philosophy of the regional policy of Bulgaria, which is to bring forward the foreground of the Bulgarian Danube cities in the foreground in order to modernize them and to be

able in practice to turn towards the river, and from there their economic profile changed so that cooperation on the Danube could become an economic bridge between Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria. Formally, in the national reference framework and the regional development programs in the period 2015-2030, precisely the priorities related to the integration of the country into Central Europe and the bridge between Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to the Western Balkans should be laid down. This means, as a priority, the restoration of Bulgarian navigation along the Danube, mainly related to passenger transport, first in the Silistra-Rousse-Vidin direction and then towards Silistra-Ruse, Vidin-Belgrade-Budapest-Vienna and Vidin-Rousse- Silistra-Izmail and Braila in the direction of Ukraine and Moldova. This means that the modernization and doubling of the railway line Rousse – Varna, the electrification and the modernization of the railway line Samuil – Dulovo – Alfatar – Silistra, will be included in the main priorities of the transit routes and the national development programs, and a modern railway Logistics center for freight and wagon repair center. In this order, it is possible to think in the town of Alfatar that a railway line will be built in the direction to Romania and Constanta in particular, which will further promote the economic links in the Dobroudja region by creating a homogeneous region with future connections with Ukraine. It is imperative to turn the road Shumen-Silistra into a speed of 115 km, which will connect the Danube River with the districts of Shumen and Targovishte with the aim of their socio-economic development, as it will increase the possibility of better regional interconnection between them. Closer integration between Dobrich and Silistra districts, as well as Silistra, Shumen and Targovishte is needed, on which programs should be the construction of a modern first-class high-permeability road in the Dobrich-Tervel-Dulovo direction for connection to the Shumen-Silistra highway. Undoubtedly, similar ideas of regional connectivity will create conditions for national efforts to resume operations at the airports of Colonel Lambironovo, Caynardzha and Targovishte.

An important strategic importance may be the city of Tutrakan. It is 58 km east of Rousse, 62 km west of Silistra and 74 km north of Razgrad. The harbor facilitates communications and determines the significant place that Tutrakan occupied in its historical development, but the city needs to build a large port and hence a ferry connection with the Romanian town of Oltenitza. The idea is from 1996 and even a joint venture "Tutrakan Ferry Complex" was established. However, the intention was not for a variety of reasons. It is time, however, within the European Union to become a reality.

On the other hand, under the Lower Danube Euroregion, Rousse is the main city. Ruse lies on the European Transport Corridor number 7 – the Danube River Highway, which is a key EU project and is related to the improvement of shipping.

The other big proposals are the construction of the intermodal terminal and the railway link Ruse – Varna.

A strategic necessity is the concession of the Shtruklevo airport and the radical change of rail links in the city related to the removal of the railway line for Romania from the coast into the inter-zone zone and thus the reversal of the city towards the Danube.

For the rest of the Danube, cities like Svishtov, who needs a permanent ferry connection with the city of Zemun and build a new passenger port and modernize freight. Furthermore, the city of Nikopol is also in need of national and European support to become a regional center of cultural and historical heritage and tourism development. The cities of Belene and Kozloduy have their importance for the country's energy and should look for ways to develop this sector. Important is also the town of Lom, which has to be established as a leading industrial center, because it is the port with the best aquatory on the Danube. It is necessary to build a ferry connection between Lom and Rastu. On the Romanian coast begins construction of a port, which will allow the ferry to be launched. The project for the construction of a port in Rastu is funded by the EU. The Lom-Rastu ferry will be the most direct link between the Balkans and the northern European countries. It is also important to seek investment for the modernization of the port of Somovit, which needs reconstruction and modernization of the railway. There is a lot of effort to be made in the modernization of Oryahovo, both in infrastructure, port, ferry and other activities that make it attractive place to live.

We can say that the Romania-Bulgaria Program 2014-2020, which functions through six priority axes – "Well-Linked Region", "Green Region", "Safe Region", is of key importance for the entire Lower Danube Region", "Qualified and Inclusive Region", "Efficient Region "and" Technical Assistance". Its total budget is EUR 258.5 million. Of these, the European Regional Development Fund contribution (ERDF) is € 215.7 million, and national co-financing is 13% of the approved project partners' budget. Of course, these funds are not enough and more investment is needed, such as the construction of Danube Bridge 3 at Silistra, Danube Bridge 4 at Rousse and Danube Bridge 5 at Oryahovo-Becket, construction of ports, ferries, railways and Others.

In recent years, it is unnecessary to talk about strengthening the investment policy in Vidin, but it is worthwhile to pay attention to the cities of Kula and Belogradchik, which need investments first to halt their decline and secondly to their transformation In regional centers for development of tourism and trade between Serbia and Bulgaria in this region. This is going through the modernization of the Vrushka Chuka Crossing Point and other activities related to the socio-economic development of the border areas. With regard to Bulgaria-Serbia cooperation, EU funds will be allocated through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and co-financed by the national

budgets of partner countries. The program priorities for Serbia and Bulgaria will contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the European Territorial Cooperation Strategy. In practice, in recent years, Northern Bulgaria needs a targeted impact and economic revival, so in Southern Bulgaria, measures need to be more specific and sectoral, for example, to focus on creating new productions and a specific regional economy. Leading centers are Burgas, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Pazardzhik. These centers still have great potential for development and are not in a permanent decline, and in the last two years there has been a slight recovery. In practice, these are the natural centers of Southern Bulgaria, and their approach must be very serious, they need strong support from the Structural Funds and more autonomy in government. After that, with significant potential, but with a need for concrete impact with investment policies for development by the state are the municipalities with marked urban profile such as Yambol, Kazanlak, Sliven, Asenovgrad, Smolyan, Velingrad, Karlovo, Dimitrovgrad, Gotse Delchev, Ivaylovgrad and Madan . In these municipalities there is a preserved demographic potential for socio-economic development and, in the case of a serious investment policy, rapid results will be obtained. These cities may have a pull-out for the whole national economy and form the new industrial map of Bulgaria, but a purposeful policy on the part of the state is needed through more flexible legislative concessions and solutions to encourage decentralization in them. In other municipalities such as Straldzha, Elhovo, Aitos, Karnobat, Parvomay, Chirpan, Zlatograd, Belozem, Krichim, Harmanli, Lyubimets, Topolovgrad, Stamboliyski and Nova Zagora are formed so-called new large agricultural centers that need support for the development of the Bulgarian Agrarian sector and its chemical industry. Legislative changes are also needed in these areas to promote agricultural production through fruit and vegetable, livestock, poultry and construction.

From the analysis to the present it can be seen that to a great extent there have been large contrasts in the national territory. Besides, the population from the periphery moved to Sofia and the big cities in southern Bulgaria and partly to the regional cities in northern Bulgaria. However, this in practice leads to the deepening of the problems in the periphery. There is, of course, no way to achieve results now and immediately, but there is also a need to work hard on the development of the border regions and their adjacent municipalities. Especially not to be merged or clustered, but to seek other intense solutions for their preservation and gradual revival.

In this respect, the experience and, in particular, the European Union's attitude towards border areas must not be overlooked. Since the mid-1980s, within the European Economic Community, an enhanced regional dialogue on practical regional policy has been carried out in degraded border regions. At this

stage, these regions have undergone a clear change, and have become "actors in European politics" as engaged actors with a pretense to engage in European affairs. Similarly, the policy of our country should elaborate a special chapter in the new Regional Development Act, where to find a place for the development of the border regions and the mountainous and semi-mountainous municipalities and settlements. In this direction, with regard to the development of the poor territories, our country should have a special role. Moreover, from a chronological point of view it is clear that the EU member states from the mid-1980s and their representatives from the regions of different European countries have drawn up common catalogs of their requests, such as the "Düsseldorf Declaration" from June 1991, and the Declaration of Regionalism in Europe of the ABBA Assembly of Regions in Europe (AEP) in December 1996. This allows us to use the experience gained and to approach integrated management of the border territorial communities. We also have certain results, but they are not enough and the effect of them is not good at the moment. In fact, Bulgaria approves the draft cross-border cooperation programs, which will develop the partnership between the different Balkan countries. The programs cover the cooperation between Greece-Bulgaria, Bulgaria-Turkey, Bulgaria-Serbia and Bulgaria-Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.

Through the programs to be implemented in the 2014-2020 period, opportunities would be created to implement projects for the development of cross-border regions and to promote partnership between the participating countries.

The territorial scope of the Greece-Bulgaria program includes the regions located on the border between the two countries – Haskovo, Smolyan, Kardzhali and Blagoevgrad for the territory of Bulgaria and the Greek prefectures Evros, Xanthi, Rodopi, Drama, Kavala, Thessaloniki and Serres. The program will operate with five priority axes – "Competitive and Innovative Cross-Border Region", "Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Cross-Border Region", "Cross-Border Enhanced Interconnected Area", "Cross-border High-Level Social Inclusion" Technical Assistance. Its total budget is EUR 129.6 million. Of this, ERDF funds are EUR 110.2 million. National co-financing amounts to 15%.

Cross-border cooperation programs with Turkey, Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia are funded under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Turkey's € 29.6m program is planned. For Serbia, the EU is expected to approve € 34.1m. Under the cooperation program with Macedonia, € 19.4 million are given. National co-financing is 15% of the approved budget of the Bulgarian partners in projects under the programs.

The Bulgaria-Turkey program will operate through three priority axes – Environment, Sustainable Tourism and Technical Assistance. Cooperation with Serbia will be four axes – "Sustainable Tourism", "Youth"; "Environment" and "Technical Assistance". Projects with Macedonia will be developed under

four axes – Environment, Tourism, Competitiveness and Technical Assistance. The main beneficiaries of the programs are states, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, cultural institutes and educational institutions.

In practice this is a serious opportunity for our country to overcome some of the contrasts in the national territory, with emphasis on everything that can be explained by Evolution: adaptation to the conditions. Placed under elementary conditions, individuals live cluttered and become elementary. And that's what is happening today – all technical progress makes life easier and shows us that we do not have to think of anyone after someone else can do it for us. But in practice in these municipalities and regions, sustainable territorial communities must be built. Thus, while the Europe 2020 Strategy places emphasis on promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The aim is to build a low-carbon economy based on the foundations of knowledge and innovation that spends the resources more efficiently while contributing to the strengthening of social and territorial cohesion. In general, our regional policy needs to be aligned with the priorities of the European Regional Policy and above all with the priorities of the EU Danube Strategy, which are aimed at joint activities and projects of the Danube countries related to improving accessibility, transport links and communications on and to the Danube, tourism, culture, multicultural dialogue and preservation of regional identity and rich cultural heritage. The strategic objectives of the North-East Regional Policy region, which are in practice in a precarious state, are focused on several areas: road and rail development. Infrastructure of the Pan-European Transport Corridors VII, VIII, IX and TRACECA – completion of Hemus Motorway, construction of highways Rousse-Shumen, Varna-Durankulak and Black Sea Motorway, Port of Varna as the main logistics center for connection; Support for the sea economy in line with the consolidated priorities of the Black Sea region program and the requirements of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and its environmental pillar – the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive; Development of scientific infrastructure, technology parks and technology transfer offices; Development of tourism and in the interior of the region on the basis of natural and cultural heritage and enrichment of the tourist products; Development of the agrarian sector, improvement of the competitiveness of agricultural production and activation of rural areas; Territorial development and cohesion through broadening cross-border, regional and transnational cooperation, establishing Varna as a city of transnational significance according to the European classification of urban cores with potential for inclusion in a category of cities of common European significance.



Fig. 1. Territorial coverage of OP Regions in growth 2014-2020

The goals for the North Central Region are aimed at stimulating the socio-economic development of the most deprived municipalities and settlements, thus reducing internal regional disparities and boosting the overall development of the region. Efforts to achieve better development of the region are mainly focused on providing optimal business conditions with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, diversifying the economy in rural areas and generating revenue from higher added value of agricultural production. A strong tourism sector based on the rich natural and cultural heritage and the promotion of region-specific tourism, the development of corridors of national and European importance will be possible.

The strategic objectives for the South-East region are aimed at utilizing the specific potential of the region for the development of sustainable forms of tourism. Stimulating traditional cultural and creative industries is directly related to raising the cultural level, quality of life and image of the area. An important priority for development is the integrated maritime policy with emphasis on the protection of the Bulgarian Black Sea aquatory and the development of the maritime and fisheries sectors. It will be supported in the direction of Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Maritime Surveillance and Studies, Exchange of Good Practices and Enhancement of Dialogue at the International Level. It is of particular importance for the region to improve its connectivity both nationally and internationally by completing and modernizing the regional road infrastructure.

The strategic objectives of the South Central Region Plan cover the main aspects of cohesion – economic, social and territorial, taking into account the specific features of the region and its potential in the field of small and medium-sized businesses, various forms of tourism (ecotourism, Rural, etc.), cross-border cooperation, rich biodiversity and the road network. The reconstruction and modernization of the Republican road network will improve the connectivity of the region on national and international level, of which specially significant are the roads Plovdiv-Smolyan-Rudozem-Xanthi, Kardzhali-Podkova-Makaza-Komotini, Tserovo-Septemvri-Velingrad-Yakoruda-Gotse Delchev, Gotse Delchev-Smolyan-Kardzhali-Bourgas.

In the area of regional development, the Operational Program Regions for Growth 2014-2020 is of fundamental importance. This is one of the operational programs with which Bulgaria will participate in the implementation of the EU Common Strategic Framework for the new programming period. Its indicative budget amounts to EUR 1 376 788 235, with a national co-financing of 15%. The main objective of the program is to ensure sustainable and balanced economic growth in the regions and create new jobs. It will be achieved through investments in energy efficiency, industrial zones, regional tourism, road infrastructure and the use of financial instruments to promote entrepreneurship. Limits will be set for each level of cities (from 1st to 4th), thus not compete with each other, but will be able to plan their projects and resources. Of course, a higher weight will be given to the engines of growth – Sofia and the eight big cities from the second level – Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Rousse, Pleven, Stara Zagora, Blagoevgrad and Veliko Tarnovo.

The indicative funding model provides for an opportunity to update and redistribute funds to more active cities in the middle of the programming period (2018). The investment priority will be implemented through a combination of grants and financial engineering at the level of a financial instrument.

Eligible activities include the development of traffic management plans and the deployment of traffic management centers, vehicle detector stations, remote interchangeable information boards, video surveillance systems, as well as improved accessibility of bus stops and infrastructure (subways and overpasses), the development of an infrastructure route network with new destinations to more remote residential areas, etc.

The implementation of the measures and activities envisaged in the regional development plans in different sectors will help to create better conditions for balanced and sustainable socio-economic and territorial development of the regions, overcoming the existing regional disparities and internal regional disproportions, improving the investment Climate and achieving a higher quality of life. By focusing on following integrated approaches to addressing the challenges faced by specific regions, regional policy support can be given to the

specific needs of communities within their respective territories, following the vision of modern development and respect for the rules of the game.

Conclusion

In modern social, economic and legal sciences, regional development has acquired a new fundamental significance that characterizes the socio-economic development of the national space. This gives grounds to find that regional development is one of the foundations of the national state, it is called upon to carry out those functional and sectoral relations that build the architecture of the national economy and promote the development policies of the territory. This necessitates the strengthening of the foundation of regional sciences by bringing regional development as a fundamental science discipline. In this direction, regional development needs to be strengthened and new scientific quests in the assessment and analysis of ongoing processes in the spatial development (at the global, national, local and level) of the country. After the use of space by society is increasingly necessary for its optimization, remodeling and sustainable development, the new field of scientific development will be in the search for answers to what regional policy we have to realize and what results we can achieve in the context of the new global change. Therefore, for the modern national state, the establishment of a functioning institutional structure able to implement an integrated regional development policy and the development of the regional development tools is of great importance for ensuring the achievement of regional policy objectives. This is because, despite the improvements in developed economies, the vulnerability of emerging markets remains high, the appetite for risks has diminished and the risk to market liquidity is high. In practice, regional development needs to support the imposition of state governance by the state. In this direction, mechanisms should be developed to analyze the effectiveness of current policies in order to make more effective policy decisions for present and future developments. Regional policy is largely expressed in the co-ordination (integration) of sectoral policies and actions and policies and actions at different levels. For example, switching to an export-oriented policy on innovation, building a good name for the country and finding partners becomes a priority for future development of modern territorial systems. Under the new conditions, regional development assists in the implementation of effective management skills and knowledge through which efficiency gains are needed to ensure the successful development of national states towards improving government policy, environment and business potential. The qualitative changes in the implemented regional development policy are related to the realization of qualitatively new objectives and functions with the use of specific regulators and mechanisms, with the emergence of a system of formal and informal institutional

structures implementing this policy. In addition, there are ongoing needs related to improving infrastructure, education, mobilizing financial and human resources, and regional branding to promote regional economies on the national and global markets. The modern nation-state must well rethink its innovation system and regional development, thereby implementing its governance so as to focus its development on the specifics of territorial systems through the implementation of effective spatial development policies.

Notes:

[1] The Importance of the system-structure approach is reflected in the work of V. Sochis, Y. Soushin, A. Mintz, V. Gohman, A. Armand, V. Preobrazhenski, D. Harvey, P. Haett, R. Bennett, R. Chorli

References:

- Алаев, Е. (1983), Социално-икономическа география М., с. 350, Мисъл.
(Alaev, E. 1983, Sotsialno-ikonomicheska geografia M., s. 350 Misal)
- Докова, С. (2010), Териториална и административно устройство. Издателство Тракия-М
(Dokova, S. 2010, Teritorialna i administrativno ustroystvo. Izdatelstvo Trakia-M)
- Докова, С., Николов, Г. (2014), Държавни политики и стратегии, изд. Нора.
(Dokova, S, Nikolov, G. 2014, Darzhavni politiki i strategii, izd. Nora)
- Докова, С., Петров, К., (2013), Геодемография, изд. Стопанство, УНСС
(Dokova, S., Petrov, K. 2013, Geodemografia, izd. Stopanstvo, UNSS)
- Докова, С., Петров, К. (2012), Регионално развитие и регионална политика, Авангард прима.
(Dokova, S. Petrov, K. 2012, Regionalno razvitie i regionalna politika, Avangard prima)
- Докова, С., Петров, К. (2015), Геоикономика и регионално развитие. Стопанство (Dokova, S., Petrov, K. 2015, Geoikonomika i regionalno razvitie. Stopanstvo)
- Патарчанов, П. (2005), Теоретико-методологични основи и развитие на регионални географски изследвания, в: Годишник на СУ, книга 2 – География, с. 97
(Patarchanov, P. 2005, Teoretiko-metodologichni osnovi i razvitie na regionalni geografski izsledvania. – Godishnik na SU, kniga 2 – Geografiya, s. 97)
- Haggett P, Chorley R J. (1969), Network models in geography. London
- Hartshorne R. (1958), The Concept of Geography as a Science of Space, from Kant and Humboldt to Hettner, Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 48, No. 2 (Jun., 1958), pp. 97–10

-
- Human Development Report, Marinov, 1999, 2000.
- Isard, W., and collective (1998), *Methods of interregional and Regional analysis*, publish, p. 35, Ashgate Publishing Company
- Kovalenko, E. and co, (2008), *Regional Economics and Management*, 2-nd edition, Pitar press, St.Petersburg,2008
- Kolotievskiy A.M. (1967), *Questions, theories and methods of economic zoning*, Riga
- Patarchanov, P. (2005), *Theoretic-methodological fundamentals and development of regional geographic research.-GSU*, book 2- Geography, t.97
- Pile S, Rose G. (1992), All or nothing? Politics and critique in the modernism–postmodernism debate. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 10: pp. 123–36.
- Sheppard E. S. (1995), Dissenting from spatial analysis. *Urban Geography* 16, pp. 283–303

NATURE AND SHARPNESS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODELING OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT OF BULGARIA

Abstract

The main purpose of the present article is to present and trigger the discussion about the problems of regional development in the present times. An attempt for giving a definition of the specific features and trends in the regional development is made in this article. A comparative analysis of the present status of the regional development sciences is made. Also a methodological assessment of the regional development peculiarities was made as well as the inter-disciplinary relationships with other sciences have been outlined. The foundations of the regional studies have been highlighted and new possible tendencies for the development of this scientific field have been drawn. A mention of the different branches of the regional development studies has been made while a focus on the problems of the urban development and the surrounding environment was put. Also, the problems of the separate territorial communities and the processes of regionalization were analyzed. Last, but not least the article aims at provoking a discussion on the regional development problems and completing the methodology of the regional studies.

Key words: regional studies, regional development, processes, methodological, science, problems

JEL: R110