

CONCEPT-TERMINOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS IN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Abstract: The term (the word) as a lexical unit, which in science is the name of a place, object, phenomenon, property or attitude, goes a long way from its transformation to a scientific concept that is relevant. This change means that the term, while remaining in use within the colloquial language, is also placed in another higher and more obscured sphere where it establishes systemic relationships with other, longer-lasting scientific concepts and acquires a more general sense. The term (the word) has a communicative function, and the term is heuristic (cognitive).

Conceptual apparatus and specific terminology are the natural basis of any scientific study on which the skeleton of the studied problem is built. Although each concept has its own life, related to the development of science, it has no clearly defined boundaries. Often in the practices of different scientific fields or countries a concept has a different interpretation, different denotation and understanding.

The study examines key concepts and terminology in regional geographic research, focusing on those that are subject to scientific discussion. The ideas and research queries of a number of authors on this subject are shared, analyzing the changes dictated by the development of scientific theory and public practice. In addition, an attempt was made to formulate author's opinions on some key concepts and terminology.

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Introduction.

One of the most important areas of any science, an essential part of its foundations and a fundamental element of any scientific research, is the concept of apparatus and specific terminology, as well as its content. For this purpose, they need to be filled with content as a result of in-depth scientific research. According to philosophical and logical literature, the concept is "a form of thinking, and is a reflection of the objects and phenomena of their essential attributes, and the term is a verbal indication of the notion" (Voischillo, E., 1989)[1].

The concepts have their own lives, they emerge at a time of necessity to designate a new phenomenon, a new fact, a new direction in science or practice. In its development, the concept is enriched or cleansed, acquires unambiguous or multifaceted sound, evolving leads to the emergence of new concepts or being lost, disappearing. That is, it follows and covers the development of the respective direction in science. The concept has no clearly defined limits. Often, in the practices of different scientific fields or countries, a concept has different interpretations, different denominations and comprehension. According to Ganev (1997)[2], the differences observed in many cases arise from the subject of the individual sciences, without altering the content of these concepts substantially. "

Material and methods.

Various scientific publications - multiple analytical materials, normative, strategic and planning documents - are described in our and other literature. They analyze the opinions of a significant number of authors and institutions on basic concepts and terms, as well as their interpretations in a number of

documents related to the strategic planning of spatial organization and development. On the basis of a comparative analysis of conceptual-terminological problems, our opinion is sought and presented on a number of the surveyed questions in the study.

Results and discussion.

The discussion of the etymological foundations of the term "region" has continued in the scientific community for quite some time. Widespread opinion among many authors such as V. Boyadjiev (2005)[3], K. Andonova (2012)[4] and others. is that the origin can be searched by the Latin word "regio", which means a part of territory, area, region. In antiquity in Rome, this term was meant to be an area that should have been governed in principle without being associated with a particular state institution (Boyadzhiev, 2005). According to some authors, "comes from the Latin verb" regere, which means "I manage, manage, exercise power" (Shishmanova, 2010)[5] or territory "on the" border line (Boyadjiev, 2005).

According to another group of authors such as G. Geshev (1999)[6], E. Georgieva and K. Simeonov (2005) originate from the Latin word "regionalis", which is interpreted as referring to "one area or several neighboring countries". The Latin word "Rex" - in translation: "Rule with a Ruler", which puts a political and rule element according to V. Boyadjiev (2005) and also allows for interpretations related to the origin of the term region.

The emergence of the concept of region in scientific terminology and related conceptual discussions in Western Anglo-Saxon schools, according to R. Funck (Funck, 1995)[7], began with the experience of Bertil Ohlin in 1933 to bring out the general features of interregional and international trade in a common stand-up theory. After him, authors such as T. Palander (1935), A. Losch (1940), and most notably W. Isard (1956) further developed it.

Despite sustained efforts, there is still no satisfactory definition of a region "that is both comprehensive and universally recognized". In English-language geography, a profound use of the concept of "region" by P. Hagget (1979)[8] has a strong influence, which perceives it as an open functional system consisting of "stepped" of the following spatial elements: movement, networks, nodes, hierarchy, fields. A. Paasi (2009)[9] gives a clearer definition of a geographic region: "A traditional key category of geographic thinking. A spatial unit that is somehow distinct from the surrounding area. It is understood as a mental category that can be used in the classification as a "real unit of the world".

The American geographer P. James (1957)[10] assumes that the region is "a territory homogeneous in terms of the criteria adopted by the researcher", according to which the classifications of the regions are carried out.

The region is used to designate a territory in which selected criteria that explore the nature of the phenomenon sought and its spatial manifestations create a specific effect on the territories outside it, have a certain dose of homogeneity and therefore, in regional surveys, the key factor is the choice of meaningful criteria (Stoychev, 2012)[11].

For Lichev (2001)[12] the content of the term "region" as opposed to the territory "is used with a significant dose of relativity as a range". The region is the result of a concentration of active and passive factors with varying intensity, whose own dynamism stems from inner equilibrium and spatial attitude.

With a pronounced administrative character, the definition of the Assembly of European Regions differs: "The region is a territorial body of public law established at a level immediately below the state and having the right of political self-government." (Declaration on regionalism in Europe - 4. XII. 1996).

In the end, we believe *that a region can be divided into a homogeneous surface from the Earth's space, depending on one or more characteristics of a different nature (natural, social, economic, political, cultural, etc.) distinguishes it from the rest of the territory.*

Geography in the 18th - 19th century is defined as a territorial unit with a clearly defined center. It is of French origin - "Rayon" and means a ray or radius that illuminates the zone of influence of a

particular center. The border in the area is not clear but it is rather a stripe of territory with a uniform influence between the center of the area and similar centers of other regions (Boyadzhiev, 2005).

The term "region" is established in the first half of the last century in the economic geography and social practice of the former USSR, from which it gradually becomes necessary in the Bulgarian scientific, planning and normative literature.

The dangerous freedom with which the term is used in Bulgaria, introducing different territorial and functional content, is increasingly causing a conceptual chaos, which suffers from all participants in the process of regionalization of the national space. Even the unique regulatory paradox has reached, in all the regional development laws in Bulgaria, the territorial basis in which it is carried out is related to the definition of different areas of scope and administrative-territorial functions. The term region is not even mentioned in normative acts, although this is required by logic. Thus all informal territorial formations in our literature and in social practice are called areas - central, peripheral, depressive, urban, rural, border, mountainous, etc.

The review of various sources in the scientific and vocabulary fund makes P. Slaveikov (2000)[13] argue that "the word" region "is not only a rusified version of the French word" rayon ", but its content is entirely borrowed from the content of the word" region " "Having German-English origin". According to him, it is "normal and correct in the characterization of detached parts of the earth's surface, which are distinguished by their specific natural and socio-economic conditions to use the term" region ".

The use of the two terms most often relates to the spatial organization of the territory. The implementation is related to the process of regionalization and / or zoning, which, according to Patarchanova (2013) [14], involves the "division of the territory of certain territorial units called regions (regions) into the national territory".

In regional geographic studies, as well as in all geographic science from a methodological point of view, the notion of space stands out as a fundamental role. It defines the horological character of geography as a science.

A number of researchers such as Hettner (1927)[15], Hartshorne (1939, 1959)[16][17], Markov (1965)[18], Bunge (1967)[19], Harvey (1974)[20], Hagget (1965)[21], Valerstein (1992)[22] time (chronological) nature of geography. Based on this, Boyadjiev (1995)[23] presents it as "geochronological science".

The geographic space is a kind of "taxonomy" and in this sense it verifies the veracity and the persistence in the scientific methodological relation of the private concepts in geography and territorial economic sciences (Lichev, 2001)[24].

The significance of space unambiguously speaks of the fact that in the 1960s and the 1970s the discipline of Perceptive Geography (Geography of Space Perception) was developed and the development of mental maps was used not only in education but also in planning different spatial processes.

According to B. Kolev (2008)[25], space, especially in its intuitive understanding, mostly as distances, has so far entered into people's being that they do not fully understand its meaning. Perhaps, it is normal and understandable for the everyday life, work and being of almost all people. It is taken for granted as natural conditions and is not always perceived as the most important potential and resource, because it is that natural court or receptacle in which life has emerged and developed as a planetary phenomenon, followed by society.

Consideration of space as a potential and resource is not yet fully realized by modern societies. But both in the past epochs and now, it and above all its territorial or flat i.e planar in a geometric sense, the component again becomes an important motive and a factor for undertaking some or other political and economic actions (Kolev, 2008).

In geography, the notion of "space" is conveyed most often by philosophy, but taking into account the peculiarities of the Earth. Geospatial is understood as a form of existence of geographic objects and

phenomena within the geographical envelope. In recent times, attempts have been made to separate different types associated with one or the other side of being (Stoyanov, 2015)[26].

Regardless of the differences between the geographers' views on spatial and spatial relations, on the one hand, and on territory and territory on the other, V. Boyadzhiev (1995) adheres to the notion that geography studies them as synonyms, including accessible earth nets, and the usable part of the adjacent atmospheric space.

In addition to the above-mentioned researchers, worked on issues concerning the essence of the scientific category of geographic space and various aspects of its assessment and use B. Kolev (1980, 1997, 2007)[27][28], L. Zypakov (1997)[29], Geshev (1997)[30], Dimov (2002)[31] and P. Stoyanov (2000, 2008).

The geographic space has structures that reflect its complex structure. Private geographic spaces are segregated according to research objectives, but also geographically meaningful. For example, in the socio-economic space, structures and processes are studied - localization and spatial disunity of human activity. The organization of the socio-economic space is an important task of society and the state that occupies an important place in the United Nations Development Program and many other examples of world practice (Zarkov, 2017)[32].

Today, the role of geographic space and its assessment will increasingly grow as a natural result of the active and parallel processes of globalization and regionalization. Thus, the strengthening of the spatial relations at the various territorial levels -local, regional and global will allow more and more efficient use of the resources of the different types of space.

One of the most commonly used concepts in regional geographic research is the term "territory". Relatively often it is used inaccurately, even wrongly, instead of the concept of space, as they differ significantly.

The territory is characterized by specificity, attachment to certain coordinates, certain boundaries. The term Territory is tertiary land and forms part of the earth's land with its inherent natural and man-made properties and resources (Geographic..., 1988)[33].

According to Lichev (2001), the term "territory" appears to be somewhat opposed to the abstract space, since it includes geographical specificity.

The area of the region / country consists of territory, aquatory and aerodrome. In some cases, there is also an underground and underwater space. In regional geography and in the country, the territory is characterized by the existence of a specific type of resources: area (size); peculiarities of the geographical situation (absolute and relative); certain types of landscape (natural and cultural); degree of economic absorption; ability to play the role of a "spatial basis for the development of society" (Stoyanov, 2015).

The resource potential of the site and its rational use requires regulation at different levels. The territory of each region is determined by three basic parameters: size, boundaries and configuration, which have a very strong influence on the processes taking place on it, and to the greatest extent on the possibilities of human activity.

Although the larger size implies larger and more diverse resources of natural and anthropogenic nature, this may be a problem in management. Often the small population and the large size of the territory limit its absorption, even for the "overcoming of space" and the realization of the contacts between the different parts of the region.

According to A. Mintz (1972), the territory is a "generic resource" (in an economic sense) that can not be replaced by anything. Therefore, in the modern society, the quality of the organization of space is among its main problems (Mironenko, 2001)[34].

The scarcity of territory has led to the development of concepts to compensate for this disadvantage by absorbing unfavorable areas for habitation with extreme conditions (desertification of

coastal marine or oceanic areas), the development of new spatial space-saving spatial organization - toyotzam vs. fordism".

The increasingly intensive use of the site is related to the concentration of population and economic activity, especially in industrial areas, while in the rural areas there is depopulation leading to serious environmental problems of the reconciliation of functions in the same place ("development conflicts").

The unequal distribution of territorial resources between regions of the world and their assigned parts requires special attention from regional science. Y. Mashbitsz (1998) stresses that the "territorial resource provision" indicator is very expressive, but needs geographic analysis. This regional analysis would make it possible to clearly identify the correlation between the lack of integrity and the poor absorption of as well as between the low demographic density and the difficulties in its socio-economic progress.

An important element of the analysis and interpretation of the territory is its configuration, as it affects the social processes. More K. Ritter notes that if the continents had other outlines, then the world geography would be quite different. The American geographer, D. Griffith, seeks causally-related relations depending on the configuration and concludes that the shape of the territory influences the distances and the duration of the daily labor trips (Stoyanov, 2015).

The influence of the "configuration of material conditions" on different territorial / spatial levels is encountered by different researchers. In "country" territories, a good example is the comparison of Bulgaria and Cuba, which have approximately the same area but a different configuration that affects the peculiarities of the spatial structure. This also implies a different policy for spatial and regional development. A similar comparison can be made e.g. between Italy and France, between Austria and Hungary, and others.

However, when analyzing and presenting a region, it is necessary first to study how its territory, the inhabiting population, its history and the geography of its territorial changes have been formed. It is possible and necessary to group the regions in terms of historical features and territory formation by applying concepts from cultural geography (for the cultural core, for cultural diffusion, etc.).

In glossaries in Bulgarian and foreign languages, the following definitions for the term "development" are found: "constant transition from one stage to another - higher, more perfect" (Glossary of ..., 1978)[35]; "Growth, Progress, Progress, Enhancement, Enhancement" (www.dictionary.com ..2014)[36]; "a higher degree of manifestation of some qualities, properties" (Contemporary vocabulary ..., 2001)[37].

In terms of content, the term "development", like "integration", is often used in terms of words such as: economic development, socio-economic development, territorial development, spatial development, development of the national territory, development of the region, etc.

Marinov (2005)[38] defines "development" as "progress in the political, social, economic, environmental, health, technological, cultural and recreational aspects of a community (or society)". More specifically, it can be formulated as "improving the quality of life in the community" (2000). Stoyanov (2009)[39] offers a similar definition, "... long-term improvement of the living and working conditions of the population". According to Gavrilov (2014)[40], the term "development" usually implies a progressive change, primarily due to specific socio-economic indicators. " Madjarova (2002)[41], according to whom the term "development" identifies any process of purposeful and qualitative change of a certain system, has similar definition. A region (municipality, city) and regional (local, urban) community can be viewed as a state where human-controlled factors lead to the rational use of resources for the benefit of the population.

In contrast to these opinions, Georgiev (1998)[42] expresses doubts about the "unfounded positivism" that is used in the use of the term "development" without taking into account that we may have a downward effect on development. In this spirit, Gavrilov (2014) also said that "development

must be in accordance with a predetermined system of objectives, which can be defined as progress - progressive development if it is directed in a positive direction, or such as regression / degradation - (regression / degradation) if the development line is in the opposite direction ".

For writers like Selier (1989)[43], development depends on values that are important to society and can not be described unambiguously. It contains not only the material but also the non-material aspects of life as opposed to economic growth that is only directed to increasing the public wealth, goods and services. "

Over the last three decades, in practice, science and politics, the term "sustainable development" has been widely embraced. It is generally accepted that sustainable development has three main aspects (pillars, objectives) of development, between which a balance must be maintained - economic, social, ecological. The most popular definition of sustainable development is formulated in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development "Our Common Future," known as the Brundtland Report (1987) [44]. It states that development is sustainable, "which satisfies the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs" (1989) [45].

Very often, the term "development" is associated with a certain spatial (territorial) level - regional development, local development, urban development and internal urban development. According to Boyadzhiev (2005), one of the main goals of reform development is the regional (sub-national, infra-state, sustainable) development."

Regional development is determined by Georgiev (1998) as "spatially limited development of a certain territory".

In Bulgaria, the State Policy for Regional Development creates conditions for a balanced and sustainable integrated development of the regions and municipalities and encompasses a system of regulated regulations, resources and actions of the competent authorities aimed at: - reducing the interregional and intraregional differences in the degree of economic, social and territorial development; - providing conditions for accelerated economic growth and a high level of employment; - Development of Territorial Cooperation "(RDA, 2008) [46].

The definition proposed by the legislator does not differ materially from that given in the 2004 RDA. The new one in this case is the dropping the notion of "planning regions", i.e. the areas are no longer planned, they are not economical, they are only statistically of the level ... (Boyadzhiev, 2006)[47], adding only the category "integrated" to the balanced and sustainable development of the territory. Such a defined regional development can be seen as a process of activities to achieve the objectives set by law. This implies, in the process of regional development management, the development and implementation of various scenarios and development models, including integrated ones.

In the monograph of BAS 2002[48] "Geography of Bulgaria" it is defined as "a complex of demographic, economic, social, infrastructure, ecological, etc." processes that take place in different ways and intensity, leading to the emergence of territorial differences and their specific problems in territories called regions. "

Lichev (2001), for its part, believes that "the basis of regional development and planning are the municipalities with their key importance for the functioning of the national and local economy and for the realization of the full life cycle of the population". According to N. Dimov (2012) [49], the regional development of natural, socio-economic and natural-social systems is an objective process due to the existing objective regionality. The organization and governance of each country is accompanied by the application of a differentiated development policy in the different parts of the national territory. It is usually aimed at limiting and reducing regional disparities in socio-economic and cultural-ecological development.

The definition of "regional development" is multifaceted and varied. With right Djildjov and others. (2001) [50] point out that "One of the serious challenges is the varied interpretation of the notions

of" regional development "and" regional development policy ", despite the categorical definition given in the RDA. Indicative in this regard is the finding in the 1999 Human Development Report: "... regional development means different things for different people."

From what has been said, we can summarize that *regional development is scientific knowledge of interdisciplinary character. Its aim is the synthesis of spatial-territorial (natural, economic, social, environmental and technical) and policy-planning aspects of development, management, coordination and control at national, regional and local levels.*

The process of regional development has a direct connection with:

- localization of sites from production and non-productive spheres;
- the organization of the settlement network and the individual settlements;
- the construction of transport, technical, manufacturing and social infrastructures; - resource and market availability;
- ecological equilibrium;
- rational utilization of the resources of out-of-town territories;
- governance and self-governance of regional and local communities and society as a whole;
- development of civil society with active participation in the process of preparation and implementation of regional policies;

There is a problem in the interpretation of the categories "*spatial development*", "*spatial planning*" and "*spatial development policy*". The draft of the Methodical Guidelines for the Preparation of Concepts and Spatial Development Plans (2015)[51] in the Republic of Bulgaria states that "in the area of planning and management of the territory there are no commonly accepted definitions of the concepts of spatial development and regional development". Therefore, they often have the same meaning and are used as interchangeable concepts.

The same applies to the concepts of spatial planning and regional planning. The reasons for this are varied. From purely academic interpretations and conceptions of understanding and exploration of development in a spatial aspect to political-administrative meaning that is used in the use of these concepts in different national governance systems at different levels and by various public and other organizations. As a result, there are many definitions that vary between traditional land-use planning and strategic planning of regional development. This in turn leads to difficulties in understanding not only in everyday life but also in specialized literature.

The strategic nature of spatial planning provides methods and tools that help "the public sector to influence the future spatial distribution of activities. In this way, a more rational territorial organization is expected to be set up to apply the different land use patterns and the links between them, as well as a balance between development needs and environmental objectives "(European Commission, 1997).

In the EU, these terms are also interpreted differently. Sometimes they are used in a strategic sense at various levels to summarize political intentions and actions addressed to optimize the organization of society in a spatial aspect (Faludi A. 2002) [52].

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that "spatial planning" is used as synonyms of the term "spatial development / planning" (Hrelev and Kalinkov, 1995) [53], (Hrelev, 2000) [54], Kovachev, 2009)[55], (Kalinkov and Gospodinova, 2013)[59], (Borisov, 2016 and 2016) [57] [58], "Territorial and Town Planning" (Andreev, 1987) [59], (Kovachev and Robev, 1994) [60], (Grigorov, 1996)[61], "Territorial and Administrative device" (Dokova, 2009), "Spatial planning" (Evrev, 1999) [62]. The situation is similar with other concepts such as: "spatial organization" (Bertaud, 2015) [63], etc. "space organization" (Stoyanov, 1992, 1993, 2009) [64] [65], (Stamenkov, 2014) [66]; "territorial development" (Methodological guidelines ..., 2010), (Kovachev, 2007) [67]; "spatial development" (Shishmanova, 2010).

Spatial Planning Procedures and Instruments concern the coordination and / or integration of spatial dimensions of sectoral policies through targeted territorial strategies, which largely draws them

closer to classical strategic planning of regional development at the expense of spatial planning (UN, 2008)[68].

According to Stoyanov (2009), the following terms are often used synonymously: "organization of space and space organization policy (mostly refers to overriding levels); spatial planning and spatial planning (most often referenced at all spatial levels). They should distinguish between: landscape planning; regional policy, regional structural policy (regional economic policy); regional development planning, regional development policy".

The current RTP deals with the concept of "spatial development", respectively, of "spatial development planning". In Art. 7a states that "spatial development planning involves the development and updating of a system of spatial development documents at national and regional level defining an integrated spatial development strategy taking into account territorial potential and the principles of balanced sustainable development" (RDA, 2008).

According to the terminology dictionary adopted by the European Council of Ministers responsible for spatial development at the Council of Europe (CEMAT, 2006)[69], the term "spatial development" refers to the evolution / development of the territories in all their dimensions (economic, social, ecological and physical). It is considered to be a synonym for "territorial development", which is defined as "a process of constant and usually positive change of the territories inhabited by human societies" (CEMAT, 2006). It includes the development of physical components (infrastructure, nature, urban environment, etc.) as well as the territorial structure and structure of the urban network. Territorial development as a concept is striving not only for economic growth but also for sustainability in economic, social, natural and cultural aspects. Therefore, spatial development is a high-quality dimension, which implies a high coherence in the area of design (spatial planning) and the implementation of public policy policies.

The term "spatial planning" in turn is interpreted as "an organized set of methods used to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces (territories) on a different scale, as well as the deployment of different types of infrastructure, urbanized, natural and recreational areas" (CEMAT, 2006). Here, we have to make a difference between the concepts of "spatial planning" and "land-use planning, zoning".

Land use planning or the term "spatial planning" is generally defined as "a complex of activities involving the exploration, design and establishment of a particular spatial planning regime in a given territory" (Kovachev, 2009). Zoning in turn is an important component of spatial planning. Typically, it includes: the type of activity that is eligible on a given territory (such as green areas, residential, agricultural, commercial or industrial areas), the density of the activities that can be carried out on them and the range that the different structures can occupy.

Spatial planning replaces traditional spatial planning by closely linking the development of physical space (land use) with social, economic and environmental policies. In particular, spatial planning looks at how the site is organized and used, the available resources and existing issues (ecological, socio-economic, urbanization and infrastructure). Identified resources and problems are analyzed, evaluated and predicted, vision, alternatives (spatial models) and a spatial strategy (Project of Methodical Instructions ..., 2015) are offered. The scale of planning tools is broad and represents a variety of analytical, evaluative and forward-looking tools that interact with institutional and legal, economic and financial instruments, in an optimal situation, achieving a synergy effect.

The analysis of the conceptual apparatus requires special attention and consideration of the concepts of "*local development*" as it has the closest connection to the studied informal territorial communities at this level.

The term "local" derives from the Latin word "localis" and is defined as "local, unique in one place" (Glossary of ..., 1978), "which is or only affects a certain place". The derivative of the term "local", "localize" is defined as "limit something by place" (Bulgarian ..., 1993)[70].

Local development as an understanding underlying Bulgaria includes both the development of only one settlement and the development of the smallest administrative-territorial community - the municipality. Similar to "regional development" in the scientific and reference literature, there are many definitions: "Growth or progress in any aspect of the community, defined or limited to a given and usually small area" (Glosbe, 2014)[71]; "Mobilization of unused area resources through local action in partnership with national and regional agencies to improve the quality of people and places" (RDSTP, 2001)[72].

Very often, local development is identified as "local economic development" and is defined as a process in which partners from the public, non-governmental and business sectors work together to create better economic conditions growth and employment "(Swinburn and ..., 2004)[73], or as" a change that leads to the improvement of living standards of local residents and increase of municipal revenues in the framework of sustainable development "(Velikova, 2009)[74]. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life of the local population.

In the end, *local development* "should be seen in at least two aspects: as a practice of organizing the local potential in which development actors affect the process, or development factors, with a view to influencing it the benefit of the community and as a process of generating and using wealth - the "talents" of the territory.

According to some views, *regional policy* is a way for the government to intervene in the distribution of different activities across regions, focusing primarily on the distribution of economic activities and the construction of infrastructure of national importance. Regional policy very often involves a wide range of actions aimed at redistributing economic activities to regions in economic decline facing the need to restructure the economic sectors within their scope.

Regional planning offers spatial solutions to regional problems through a system of coordinated actions, and regional policy focuses on specific priorities and measures to be implemented within the region. Regional planning focuses on a wider range of issues within the region through the preparation and implementation of an integrated regional development strategy implemented by the relevant institutions (Territorial Authorities of Local Government and Local Authorities) (MRDPW, 2016) [75].

The concept of *spatial policy* is interpreted as a "structured set of planned activities and interventions that influence: the spatial development of the different categories of territorial communities, on the production, market and communication systems and on the distinct natural, urban and social environment" (CEMAT, 2006) [76].

Conclusion and Conclusions

The great conceptual and terminological diversity that is observed in regional geographic research is the basis of the varied interpretations of their content and thematic essence. The lack of both authorial and institutional unity, even in basic concepts or terms, creates prerequisites for great freedom in their use. This often leads to their inaccurate or even misuse or interpretation that negatively affects the overall process of organizing, planning and managing formal or informal spatial and territorial education and processes.

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