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Review on "Dezvoltarea regională. De la teorie la practică" authored by Daniela ANTONESCU, LUMEN Publishing House

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Abstract: The volume *Dezvoltarea regională. De la teorie la practică* (Regional Development. From Theory to Practice) authored by Daniela Antonescu, published by LUMEN Publishing House, aims to create an image on the process of regional development in Romania starting from the analysis of the evolution of territorial inequalities as well as of the economic convergence process that takes place under the impact of the cohesion policy of Europe 2020 strategy.
The specific approaches to this volume are of a theoretical-methodological nature, with the aim of reviewing the entire range of recent theories in the field of regional sciences as well as the model of analysis of public policies, as well as a second direction aimed at the analysis of territorial cohesion as well as the economic and social inequalities that have emerged at regional level, both in Romania and at European Union level. (Antonescu, 2019, p. 14).

Keywords: *Daniela Antonescu; regional development policy; institutions.*

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Introduction

The issue of regional development is becoming more and more important, as globalization and deepening differences and inequalities between different parts of the world. Regional development is defined as "a complex process that targets a series of interdependent, legislative and institutional components, establishing new types of relations between different sectors and fields of activity, between central, local institutions and communities. Also, this process is related to mentality, traditions and behavior, professional training and adaptation to new changes taking place at local, regional, national and international level "(Antonescu, 2019, p. 13).

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The specific approaches to this volume are of a theoretical-methodological nature, with the aim of reviewing the entire range of recent theories in the field of regional sciences as well as the model of analysis of public policies, as well as a second direction aimed at the analysis of territorial cohesion as well as the economic and social inequalities that have emerged at regional level, both in Romania and at European Union level. (Antonescu, 2019, p. 14).

Theories Related to Regional Development

The volume proposes an exhaustive theoretical approach that departs from the classical economic theory of regional development according to which the market is the engine of regional development. According to these theories one can reach a specialization of the regions and an integration of them, the regions specializing in the areas where they have the largest resources and the free exchange allows the rapid development dynamics.

Another theory presented in the volume is that of growth poles (Antonescu, 2019, p. 30). The economic and social growth is not uniform, some areas being more developed and the regions where the specific domains predominate become growth poles.

Among the theories regarding the territorial inequalities presented in the volume we point out the theory of the relation center-periphery, the theory of circular and cumulative causality, of the endogenous development, etc.

The volume presents a series of territorial strategies and policies, emphasizing the theory of regional decline, that of the long cycles of regional developments, etc.

Analysis of regional development

Beyond the theoretical perspectives, the volume proposes a series of models and techniques for economic analysis of regional development. In general, the proposed techniques are econometric and statistical in nature, the proposed analysis models being explained mathematically but also analytically. A series of indicators and analysis techniques used in the European Union are described, which are also based on statistical calculations.

Territorial planning

Territorial planning is defined as "a set of coherent actions that aim to direct the economic activity according to the anticipations, determined scientifically, within a plan. The planning is materialized in a theoretical-applicative plan for one area or another of human activity" (Antonescu, 2019, p. 71).

Contextualizing in the regional planning, an activity is envisaged "through which some alternatives of evolution of a region / area are pursued, taking into account the existing potential (natural, human, capital, etc.), the external tendencies" (Antonescu, 2019, p. 71).

The volume analyzes the regional development policies considered as forms of adjustment of public policies to the socio-economic particularities of the region in which they are applied. From this point of view the analysis of the regional public policies is treated from the perspective of the European practice in the field.

Administrative Reforms as Territorial Development Strategies

In the second part of the volume, the focus is on the presentation and analysis of the evolution of the administrative-territorial reforms in Romania from 2018-2019. Each administrative-territorial reform brings with it a series of strategies and perspectives of regional development according to the growth poles, center-periphery relationship, etc.

The strategies of regional development are dependent on the administrative-territorial structure but also on the communication nodes created between each administrative-territorial unit in the immediate vicinity or at some distance.

The cohesion policies of the European Union represent a unitary vision at the level of the whole community block on local development that takes into account both local, national and general interests at European Union level.

Instead of conclusions

The present volume represents a true study manual for those interested in studying regional sciences and regionalization, the theoretical and applicative issues being treated in a didactic manner and in the same type coherent and scientifically complete.

We strongly recommend the volume of both specialists in the field of regional studies and students from the specializations of sociology, economics, political science, public administration.

References

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