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Introduction

The processes observed in the modern world are characterized by various kinds of changes, often of a rapid and concurrently multidirectional (turbulent) character, which results in a considerable increase in the level of uncertainty in all the areas of social-economic life. This is accompanied by the fact that spatial development is characterized by constantly increasing complexity, which is a result of an increase in the social and economic life openness degree with deepening specialization, widening multisubjectivity as well as differentiation in functional-spatial arrangements. Social-economic life openness leads to an increase in population mobility, goods transfer and an accelerating dynamics of information civilization, which results in new standards of behaviors challenging current value systems. Increasing scientific and professional specialization develops society's creative abilities, enabling the utilization of a more advanced technology. Specialization directly affects improved quality and competitiveness, forcing far-reaching reforms in the spheres of education, production organization and public services. Since not all spatial units adapt to these dynamic changes in a similar manner, this causes an escalation of disproportions in their development level. This differentiation is deepened as a result of a polarization phenomenon caused by various degrees of space elements susceptibility to absorption of modern achievements of human activity. In consequence, the phenomenon of differentiation in the level of social-economic development is observed in the modern space. Concurrent empowerment of the society of particular spatial elements (regions, subregions, local units) leads to their stronger interest in development processes creation.

In this issue of the "Regional Journal" you will find a collection of interesting scientific articles devoted to current issues and problems of local and regional development, knowledge-based economy, creativity and innovation, regional policy, public administration, as well as spatial development in contemporary realities.

Wishing you pleasant reading, we hope that the findings presented in this publication will be an inspiration to you for further discussion and research devoted to regional development.

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