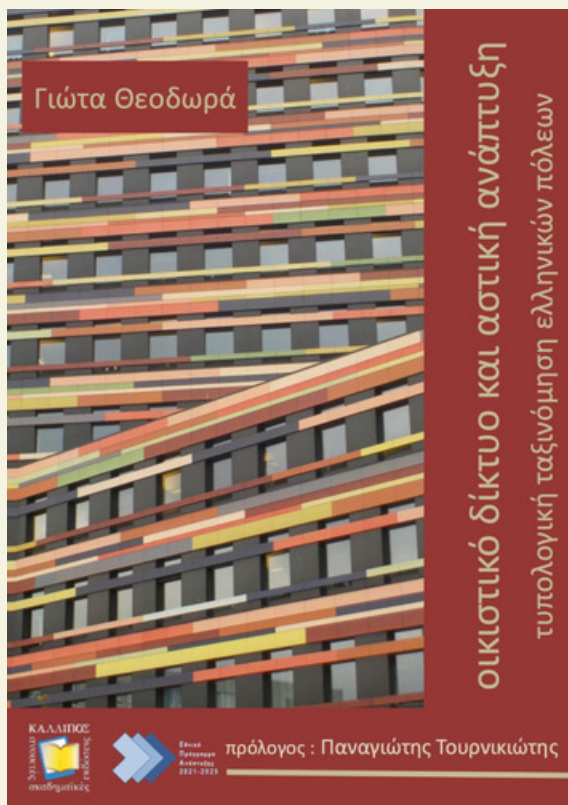




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Abstract

The global political and socio-economic rearrangements of the past two decades have signaled dramatic changes in the organization of urban space as well as in the development and planning perceptions - practices. In conditions of globalization and network organization, climate change and multifaceted crisis, we are at the dawn of a new era in terms of cities' role in spatial development. Cities are changing, acquiring complex structures and increasingly functioning as hubs of broader urban networks regardless of borders - administrative boundaries. This requires an immediate change in the approach to the urban dynamics of urban networks and a redefinition of methods - criteria employed to evaluate it, so as to allow quantitative and qualitative assessments of the supralocal reach of urban space and to highlight the importance of medium and small-sized cities. In these circumstances, Greece is of particular interest since urban dynamics are still assessed based on obsolete methods and outdated criteria in the context of policy making, affecting diversely the

country's territorial cohesion and competitiveness on the global map. The aim of the book is to contribute to the discussion at a difficult time for Greece, where actions to modernize the national planning and administration system are under way. In this direction within the wider context of modern theoretical and methodological approaches to urban development, and prioritizing the reinforcement of the Greek urban network based on a 'multi-centred perspective', a new proposal is formulated for a typological classification of cities/settlements with spatial criteria of regional importance, which is assessed through its pilot implementation at national level (cities - seats of prefectures/former regional units) and island territory (small border islands of the Aegean). The structure and content of the book are based on the threefold of 'theory - methodology - research' with the aim to be used in the academic and broader scientific sphere (didactics - planning methodology - implementation) as well as in the administration (development policy making).

