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Abstract

The present textbook highlights the issue of economic asymmetries between regions and explores the main causes of this phenomenon, which can range from the geographical and geophysical landscape, to infrastructure, means of transport, or even culture itself. The main policies aimed at sustainable regional development and many of the strategies and methods followed to solve the economic problems of the regions are recorded, with sustainable development as a dominant aim. The textbook emphasizes that through regional policy, modern societies seek to face economic problems and achieve financial growth, with the ultimate goal of social cohesion and ensuring the quality of life for their citizens. In order for this policy to succeed, it should take into account many different parameters, such as the level of development of each region, the nature of the economic problems it faces and the reasons

behind them. Therefore, first of all, the correct diagnosis of the problems is required. At a second stage, strategic policies aimed at reducing financial, social, territorial, environmental, cultural etc. inequalities that exist between regions should be drawn up. All these policies have been developed in recent years and they can contribute to the removal or reduction of such inequalities and the improvement of living conditions. The textbook takes these policies into account and highlights them. Emphasis is placed on the spatial planning of regional development. After all, today, spatial planning is directly linked to the achievement of optimal management and utilization of available financial resources both at a local and a regional level. But, above all, emphasis is placed on sustainable development and the four pillars that constitute it; environment, economy, society and culture.

