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Abstract

Regional (or geographical or spatial) inequality is a major dimension of overall inequality with socio-economic and political repercussions. This type of inequality is a topic of significant academic interest and is becoming a fundamental issue for human society, governments and policymakers. For instance, its reduction is one of the key policy objectives in the EU agenda, mainly due to the strong focus placed on achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion. In light of this situation, the main goal of the monograph is to examine in a comprehensive and systematic way the patterns and evolution of spatial inequality in Greece in an evolving socio-economic environment. Greece is a developed country with significant socio-economic problems presenting not only a distinct kind of spatial dualism in the form of Attiki (and its small near satellite regions) and non-Attiki, compared to the most common north-south and east-west dualism found in other EU countries, but also a high level

of income spatial disparity. Moreover, the context for spatial inequality has been dramatically reshaped and become significantly more challenging during recent years since Greece has undergone a number of significant changes which can be connected with processes operating on both international and national scales: the acceleration of the European integration and the recent 2008 economic crisis are, probably, the most serious. As a result, the Greek regions have been experiencing a period of unprecedented transformation affecting not only their socioeconomic status but also the strength, intensity, direction and structure of spatial inequality in the country. For the investigation of regional inequality in Greece, a number of spatial statistical and econometric techniques are employed; these types of techniques can highlight the role and importance of geographic space, draw more valid inferences than traditional (a-spatial) techniques and unmask additional aspects of the issue.