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## **CONNECTING OR DISCONNECTING EUROPE? OPENING SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENT AND EXPLORING HYPOTHESIZED NEW REGIONALISM CYCLE: REGIONALIZATION-COMPETITION-POLITICAL POLARIZATION-DESTABILIZATION**

***Summary.** The article is based on game theory, on regional approach to economic development and grounded on regional development theory, neo-institutional theory and neoclassical economic theory. The quantitative model that was generated is based on comparative study, case study and qualitative approach. The problem is the circular nature of new regionalism: regionalism is being followed by regionalization, competition and polarization, that can destabilize political apparatus of any organized structure.*

***Key words:** regionalism, regionalization, polarization, destabilization, economy, demography*

### **Introduction:**

**Conceptualization:** The primary purpose of this interdisciplinary research is to argue that major political and economic changes have altered the relationships among various layers (horizontal and vertical vectors of adjustment) of the regional system and that these changes have had different effects in the institutional, functional and instrumental spheres of life. Political and economic international relations are in the continuous process of strong vertical reorganization, in which the priority is being shifted downward from the national level. Continental and currently also transcontinental regionalism, although both remain controversial and complicated in their nature became an inescapable feature, and in some cases even an inspiration for modern international relations. Geography, history and culture, but above all specific demographic features are deciding certain political and economic trends, requiring close attention of scholars and proper analysis.

The attention is the bigger the more criticized is an advance of globalization and transcontinental economic integration. The proclaimed cost-cutting transformation of global market becomes more and more deformed in the times of economy crisis, especially in fragile economies of emerging markets and those with structural problems. The performance of self-established global governance remains doubtful, and in contrast to such unimpressive progress the regional initiatives seem to prevail and develop in rapid speed as the rise of multi-polarity continuous. The regional multi-polarity however is not giving yet any answers about probable vector of development, and especially not about the anticipated transformation of politics and policies into polity.

The new regional divisions of multi-polarity have two main cross-cutting aspects, that can impose the required sustainability: financial and political endurance of regions, which are both being a result of multi-puzzled and multileveled game of interdependency in unitary, regionalized and in federal states of Europe [1].

New regionalism is playing an important role in reshaping structural order in Europe. It can do both: bring comfort in a daily struggle on a bumpy road towards political and economic integration but also endanger political balance by questioning hierarchy of existing institutions and change economic profile of regions by introducing high level of competition and competitiveness: **1.** Regionalism (bottom up) can be a specific response to the democracy deficit of the EU and to the crisis of nation-states (i. a. widening participation in democratic procedures). **2.** Region has greater ability than a nation-state (no blocking agent of nation-state's 'xenophobic' nature) to redefine for any higher political purpose the shape of cultural, social

and political structure, hence it can accelerate integration processes. **3.** Regionalism as a model of integration can neutralize so-called paradox of choice (EU officials also partaking in national elections can't act against the national interest). Representatives chosen in the electoral process in the Member states are obliged to represent the national interest and held accountable for any 'doubtful' political decision on supranational level. **4.** Ultra-heterogeneous environment of regionalization (different stages of political and economic development) makes any universal forms of participation absolutely impossible and the natural consequence of the drastic difference at the beginning of the process is the unpredictable difference at the end of the day. **5.** No guarantee of stability (new regionalism is mostly motivated by profit). Regionalism is NOT altruistic and the consequences CAN be dramatic. Regions can't be bound in pursuing cooperation by anything but an efficiency factor and will pre-select the partners. In the effect the core-peripheries division and dependency structure will grow together with important 'side effect' of economic migration. **6.** The possible formation of interdependent hierarchical system. Regional structural diversity can create the channels of formalization and further expanding of institutional inequality. **7.** Regionalization could increase the strive for local empowerment. Centrifugal process can result in the birth of bottom-up social movements, calling for secession, or at least gradual deepening of political autonomy [2].

**The general research questions:** The process of regionalization can be viewed from several economic perspectives, but they often concentrate on how to better stimulate and address development of regions. It is important to note a methodological dispute, that puts stress on eight fundamental questions: Does the system of subsidizing and refinancing thy needy favor the development of the whole cohesive economic structure or only improve the condition of the beneficiary regions and by weakening the natural competition within the economic organism hurt the skilled ones? Does enlarged economic ability of strongly subsidized regions reduce the natural competitiveness and impair the development of the 'global' system? Does the regional policy (short term vs. long term equalizing policy of regional development) and implementation of top-down stabilization mechanism cocktails result in the divergence or convergence of the peripheries? Is the balanced regional development more or less effective than the polarized system from the 'global' perspective? Does the polarization result in creation of highly dependent or interdependent economic system? Does the economic migration (long term and short term mobility) caused by polarization of economic market result in stabilizing or destabilizing (increase labor effectiveness in host regions vs. i. a. potential housing market crash in less developed regions) the 'global' economic organism? Does the economic migration result in deepening polarization and economic inequity? Does the economic migration effect positively or negatively (top-down spatial solutions for emerging social problems) the political balance and social equilibrium in regions?

The neoclassical theory claims that the priorities of equality and efficiency remain in strong opposition and can't be achieved simultaneously in one economic organism, but it is important to note, that the dispute in that particular area remains inspired by many partially contradicting approaches (endogenous development vs. exogenous development, polarization vs. balanced development). According to some figures from Eurostat the European (urban) regions are economically converging, flattening out income across the continent. What seems interesting, this greater equity of income distribution does not come at the cost of economic growth. The proverbial economic pie both got split more equally and apparently grew in recent years bigger. However what still remains unknown is if the same figures can be maintained if the financial resources of European regional policy will dry out.

The process of regionalization can be viewed from several political perspectives, that mostly concentrate on effectiveness of the political process in balancing sociological and structural challenges of incoherency and historical differences of regions. The methodological dispute differentiates most crucial platforms of explanatory approach by formulating five fundamental questions: Can the heterogeneous nature of regionalism that determines the 'imprinted' lack of structural (vertical and horizontal) and sociological stability be properly maintained by hierarchical political agendas? Can the dynamic nature of regionalism (heterogeneous political actors) be put in one-speed political mainstream of 'regional' development? Can the regions be politically and economically adjusted to fit the frames of institutionalized pro-

cess of regionalization? Can the process be effectively legitimized concerning the low politicization of institutionalized form of regionalization? Can the inevitable result of the low-politicized and interdependent nature of regionalization - the enhancement of informal mechanism in decision making process (low factor of social control) be neutralized by constructivist political discourse and deliberation?

Regionalism is characterized by a high degree of unpredictability. It determines the formation of unorthodox cooperation and corporative mechanisms and procedures, institutionalizing the progressive divergence of potential economic and political players. The result is a scene of rivalry, a hybrid mechanism of networks and behaviors of varying degrees of politicization and formalization and high degree of participation of the economic factor enhancing the competitiveness [3].

But it is important to note, that although strong economic and political competition is decisively influencing the pace of regionalization by deepening differentiation and disparity of all players participating in it, it is also strengthening the level of interdependency. And the interdependent system remains an efficient tool in building a functional network of cooperation and is being perceived by many scholars as a political guarantor of its duration by enforcing procedural and formal stabilization and development of cohesive methods of communications.

**Methodological approach and hypothesis:** The interdisciplinary project requires the cross-cutting approach deriving from various scientific sub-disciplines of social science such as: political science, economics, sociology, cultural and ethnic studies, area studies; sub-disciplines of formal science: statistics and system sciences and sub-disciplines of professions and applied sciences: family and consumer science, public administration, law and business. The study is based on interdisciplinary application of game theory and on regional approach to economic and political development and grounded strongly on regional development theory, neo-institutional theory and neoclassical economic theory. The quantitative model that will be generated is based on comparative study, case study and qualitative approach. In general the project consists of four major sections:

1. Research into political regionalism and regional economic development theories. This includes the development of a comprehensive definition of new regionalism and a review of research into approaches to economic regional development and political top-down regionalization.

2. Exploring 'practical' dimension of political and economic regionalism by conducting research on social, political and economic developments in European regions.

3. Precisely defining the extend of the structural change and vectors of regionalism (divergence-convergence-polarization-balanced development) in European regions by analyzing interregional and trans-regional economic transfers (degree of polarization) and directions of cross-cutting trans-regional economic migration (dynamic process of polarization).

4. Developing of a applicable economic and political theories-driven quantitative model of regionalization. Quantitative and qualitative research on political and economic processes mirrored by labor migration and economic mobility will deliver hard data concerning potentials, speeds, vectors and political challenges for regionalization in Europe. The model will be presented in form of a game theory driven search engine, verifying (input) given data and delivering (output) the prognosis of the most probable development scenarios and projecting the plausible economic and political threats and chances of regionalism.

By focusing on the labor mobility as on indicator for economic polarization, the process of regionalization can be assessed in its dynamic nature and more 'realistic' dimension. It is also important to note, that, by using a combination of staff surveys, interviews (migration, regional and individual economic activity), and in-depth case studies (regional political and economic institutions) it will be possible to understand the non-quantifiable factors that contribute to broad problem of regional development.

#### **Discussion:**

After carefully assessing the impact of indicated theoretical approach (section 1) the followed working hypothesis shall be verified in a process of analysis and synthesis (section 2,3,4):

Hypothesis 1: *A sustainable growth of centrifugal tendencies in Europe is by redefining political identity shifting vertical and horizontal vectors of political balance both in nation state and in the EU*

***and by increasing perception of regional autonomy enhancing competitive behavior in regional economy.*** Regional growth depends on regional, national and international factors, so the effective economic growth model must take all these indicators into account. Regional economic development is strongly connected with political regionalism. It is an environment where comprehensive regional strategy encourages innovation and supports the region's industrial clusters, and promotes high employment figures. In the times of economic crisis and limited development subsidies for the transformation of peripheries and distressed regions, the efficient political management seems to be the key to successful regionalization. Such management requires a comprehensive partnership between local economic and political leadership and creation of effective vertical and horizontal communication system. The network can only be efficient when all parties are implementing solutions necessary for regional development to succeed.

The complicated mosaic of politics, national identity and space is instrumented by the growing tension between centripetal and centrifugal tendencies. Orthodox endogenous political tendencies (regionalism) are being strongly influenced by processes of globalization, Europeanization and economic interdependence, but also are being confronted with newly emerging phenomena like 'new' regionalism [4] and ethno-nationalism; de-territorialisation is being confronted in reciprocal relationship with ethno-territorialism [5], and socio-political identity is becoming key factor in determining economy (globalization vs. regional development) and politics (particularization vs. universalization).

The bottom-up character of regionalism should clearly be distinguished from traditional processes of top-down regional policy. The off-balance position of new regionalism in Europe is to be blamed on the fact that it is not always clear if regionalism means purely institutional top-down regionalization or more political and identity-based bottom-up, constructivism-touched phenomena [6]. In such case, the problem of new regionalism is the proper translation of the social into the political, just to mention popular constructivists-deliberative perspective, in which "participation" is a category of translating people's projects into political spaces – society becomes political when it articulates itself and seeks proper representation.

But going beyond the nation state's "old political societies" and following the process of building a regional society can also increase (to moderate degree) danger of political disintegration of statehood's mechanisms and danger of putting Europe and European regions of today at a critical juncture where, without considering specific presentational mechanisms and proper symbolisms [7], it would be difficult to even conceptualize the integration of newly forged local communities. Such integration becomes also more complicated, when the inevitable question of the legitimation of regional institutions arises.

Every aspect of institutionalization, whether it is a question of social, economic or political order has its special context and is being embedded in symbolic frames. Those frames build a space, a cognitive macrocosm, in which different institutions are being procedurally explained, ordered, integrated and (also normatively) legitimize in an encompassing sense. The process of legalizing and converting institutions into one political organism comes with a prize of inevitable adjustment. The prize seems to be extremely high, only considering multi-polarity of regions and different stages of regionalization process in Europe. Any considerable adjustment patch-work can also be particularly difficult due to ongoing political and social changes or changes in socialization on the regional level, so the mentioned symbolic universe for regionalism as a common concept becomes problematic and consequently the created local representation of regional institutions might become unstable and even questioned if not efficient as expected – it is important to note, that the specific dual relation between people and regional institutions is based on concept, in which the representative is being perceived by the represented as a proper and efficient tool of making-things-done rather than the mutual understanding of structural order that is embodied by those institutions.

Regional representation is not limited to the formal organizational structures performing duties in politics and economy and defining and articulating the lead values. It must be perceived as informal and complex system of involvement and interdependency, that is lacking in symbols and universal patterns of political behavior but is including neoclassical competition-driven behavior and competitiveness as key features of horizontal and vertical relations.

Searching for conceptual tools relevant in dealing with regionalization as a phenomenon related to bottom-up process of bulking political self-awareness in Europe the neoclassical theory seems to be adequate for one important reason: the overwhelming advantage of rational (economic) behavior in new regionalism in contrast to hard-to-specify and complex emotional explanatory mechanism of constructivist approach. A horizontal reorganization in Europe is characterized by the way how various subnational and regional units develop networks that cross and overlap territorial boundaries. This constructivist approach is to perceive regional processes as a tool arranging the political coherence of the region and the resistance to globalization. Regionness [8] is strengthened (theory of externalities) by the inside-out effects of political, economic and cultural processes that establish new boundaries of regions through spillover effect and flexible and dynamic emulation.

New regionalism is much more than just institutional representation of regional interests. It is based on historical and cultural 'heritage', so in order to be effective it has to be institutionally organized in policy-making system. Legitimizing regions in a process of strengthening the political and economic self-awareness involves two main categories: space-time and territory-history. The discursive composition of a region equals the necessity to construct an individual space-in-time territorial entity (parallel concepts of territorialisation and temporalisation) [9]. The need for effectiveness requires finding conceptual connection between discursive form, economic activity and individualism (autonomy) and, *last but not least* distinctive regional identity (experience as a combination of common past and noting differences between regions). Successful combination of those three elements can legitimize the concept of regional individual entity (inside and outside directed arrows of interests) and set foundation for stable and safe regional governance (common political expectations of interdependent future) [10].

Regional societies have become increasingly pluralistic. They use different symbolic universes and are very competitive. The evolution is evident, and clearly visible in the way that business bottom-up initiatives play in the institutionalization of regional economic cooperatives. The combination of political plurality and economic freedoms affects the behavioral pattern and changes the institutional structure of political order. It seems that economic regionalization depends on both political decisions made by regional institutions (on formal and informal basis) and following locational decisions made by private sector (often stimulated by incentives granted by host). In order to maintain the appropriate level of competitiveness the regional governance must stimulate the network of cooperation and political participation securing required level of efficiency. However strongly differentiated European regions remain incapable to equally take part in this game of touch. In fact, expansion of regional economy has been often manifested in the rapid rise of economic pivot regions and of capital-intensive metropolises supporting local enterprising spirit.

Hypothesis 2: ***The strong competition leads to polarization of the economy in regions and between regions and increased labor migration. The mobility (both inflow and outflow) effects the political environment in regions by challenging the social and economic equilibrium. Migration is one of tangible indicators of the process of regionalization.*** Many scholars support the opinion that sustainable differences in regional economic growth rates can depend on a combination of local (political and economic) conditions and their linkages (or lack of it) to the global economy. That could mean, that state and regional government can only stimulate the development but not secure the efficiency of the end-project. That alone depends on combination of local resources, transnational capital, and public-private cross-cutting relations. The combination of regional specialization and economic growth of free European trade space together with specific endogenous factors help to expand the investments securing the rapid increase of regional economy. Lower transaction costs are determining the relocation of production within and between regions. The inevitable result is deepening rift between center and periphery that changes only when economic need integrates new regions with the center. Inward and outward trade linkages and spillover effect force the economy to agglomerate to areas with similar pattern of production, regardless of the intensity of existing trade connections.

Regional economies are based on efficiency factor far more than national ones (regional policies, subsidiary and stimulatory mechanisms) and connected to one another often across national borders, building clusters of activities, in which economic actors operate in territorial and functional spaces bonding characteristics of the global and regional systems. The centers of regional economic development are being organized by horizontal interdependencies between key actors and through hierarchical patterns. They are based more on non-standardized and unique new technologies, requiring the agglomeration of producers and distributors to agreeable places. They potentially strengthen the polarization between the regions weakening peripheries in result. Single market and economic freedoms guaranteed by European treaties are enabling the rapid spurt of economic migration. In opinion of many scholars, the degree of polarization can be measured to some point by the outflow of labor force from peripheries and consequent inflow into the centers of regional economy.

The problem of labor market mobility in Europe has been widely discussed in recent years [11]. Theoretically there are many potential gains from both geographic and job mobility. Important gains might be derived from the relocation of labor from regions with a sustainable surplus of workers to locations with labor shortages, but also from allocation of labor to more productive regions (productivity growth and patterns of efficiency). However, potentially crucial effect of migration (as migrants are often over-represented in low-income jobs) could be the inevitable competition with residents that would depress earnings and exacerbate inequalities [12].

According to general and partial equilibrium model for the world economy, the economic effect of regionalization and opening markets can be of positive nature, but it can be determined also by negative effects of regional labor mobility (i.a. inflow of non-skilled workers) and in result lead to a reduction of the GDP per capita. Labor mobility could, however, help flatten out variance in economic disturbances. Even if labor were able to relocate itself according to the market's needs, assets and infrastructures that the labor uses are not all flexible. Large and sudden (because mobility implies a fast speed of change) fluxes in labor's location would be likely to destabilize regions losing an important share of labor and could potentially be more destabilizing than stabilizing [13]. In the EU context, labor mobility between Member states is limited due in part to the many languages of the EU that would often not be the case considering the trans-regional mobility.

Besides the economic effects, the cultural effects of large scale migration within regions and between the regions can be of a substantial nature - the challenging nature of the migration problem in Europe is caused by the fact that it is NOT only an economic matter, but also a matter affecting very basic social and political conditions of regions.

Intentions to relocate are very strongly embedded in decision-making hierarchy that contains a plurality of competing considerations. It is important to note, that migration intentions must be balanced with diverse and diverging psychological, social, political and economic costs. In order to properly understand the diffusion directions of migration and subsequently to perceive the dynamics of regional polarization researchers must investigate the main factors influencing the process of migration: the micro and macro determinants of regional mobility.

A need for an economic self-improvement (recognizable earnings growth in the host country) is the strongest micro determinant of the choice to migrate. Indicated by scholars pull factors include such elements as employment opportunity, expected wage, social security benefits (welfare magnet), availability of affordable living space in the host country and accessibility of social networks (transferability of social capital to incoming migrants). Migration decision is often related to interpersonal issues such as separation from one's partner, or from relatives, and to personal experience potentially increasing the mobility. It can also be a household decision, in which case the migration is only rationally explainable when utility increase of some of the household members exceed the utility decrease of others and when, according to the risk assessment patterns a possibility to balance a chance to maximize income with a risk of employment is real.

A significant number of social and economic macro determinants can influence the decision to migrate. Indicated by scholars push factors include such elements as: the current labor market situation in the home region, no or bad employment opportunities, excessive taxation and other fiscal burdens, low and irregular income and more generally a low level of wealth mirrored in low GDP. It must be also noted that the relationship of the GDP and migration is not direct and linear and needs more attention: it requires some labor skills and financial possibilities of the potential migrant to successfully relocate. In the effect migrants are mostly representing the low or moderate, but the lowest income cohort (inverted U-shape model).

Different region equals different employment opportunity and often also different income generating process. For highly skilled workers a different income expectations for similar positions held in home and receiving region can play a decisive role as an mobility incentive. It can have largely positive effect in self-selection process, if the wage distribution in the host region is more unequal than in the home region, and negative one, if the income dispersion in the home region is larger. It is important to note that such differences in inequality and differences in average income in host regions are being perceived by low-income workers as a strong scare-off factor.

Due to the financial and economic crises the labor market in Europe has become a central element of both integration and regional policies and politics. The direct correlation between migration and regionalism and their impact on the regional economy is still under debate in Europe [14]. The debate is strongly politicized and still requires scientific approach. The central question of research remains: how these changing conditions (i.a., dynamic nature of polarized economy but also varying regulations towards migration and specifically dynamic regulations explaining how the migrants might enter and operate in the labor market in regions/states) can be put in the frames of systematic comparative study and how to measure the economic impact of migration on the autochthonous population and regional economy. For now, such influence can be only partially measured by the analysis of the wage level development, increase/decrease of job opportunities, unemployment rates and competitiveness. The full impact of migration on the economic systems, on tax revenues of the state/region, etc. can only be estimated but not properly evaluated. The reasons for that are: the uncertainty of how sustainable the number of migrating population is (increase/decrease scale) [15], how the rapidly changing demographic conditions effect both the market (especially import and export), and productivity and consumption levels of the region.

The impact of migration on trans-regional import and export levels can throw a light on the polarization problem. The constantly changing consumption and trade patterns requiring innovative investments, and especially growing capacity of both tradable and non-tradable sectors in centers of development are causing a deepening disproportion in economic potential between metropolises and peripheries. What seems obvious for many scholars is that migrants do contribute to economic growth of a host region as long as they are highly qualified (brain gain effect) and recruited for the expanding sectors of the economies and do not interfere with the social system to much, in which case they might become a liability for a state/region political system [16]. From that perspective cohorts typically affected by migration are the less-educated natives or the earlier migrant population. From the drained region perspective, migration of the same highly educated employees is adding to the polarization of the economy by causing a “brain drain” effect [17] in less developed peripheries (it is important to note, that according to some scholars, regardless of the real scope of labor mobility, it would hardly be politically acceptable that economically-performing regions drain the best workers out of the less-performing regions). There is also little evidence that migrating cohorts entering new economic market can achieve full convergence to native levels in matters of employment and earnings. That is most unlikely considering the required assimilation skills, given heterogeneity and existing sociological limitations. The assimilation is even less predictable for people migrating for non-economic reasons (members of family, relatives). In the effect the migrating population will hardly achieve the average level of productivity unless the native population significantly decline and the migration cohorts will be rewarded with noteworthy economic, social or political incentive.

The correlation between wage and assimilation is evident, same as correlation between migration and politics. Strong polarization and increased migration can not only damage the fragile regional political and economic order, but by inspiring the network of interdependent entities influence the formation of organism of strong vertical and horizontal political dependency.

**Conclusion and estimated project effects:** This research will provide both scholars and decision makers a scientific model and applicable tool, with which to study actual development trends of regionalization and assess potential risks deriving from the political and economic spatial reconstruction. Additionally, the theoretical framework could be applied to actually facilitate discussions concerning regionalism in its 'practical' dimension. The proposed model is required in order to highlight the optimization-oriented nature of the regionalization at its inception. It can also serve as a comprehensive informational program for local economic and political organizations on the importance of regional transformation and its possible impact on political and economic development. The direct goal (short term effect) of the proposal is to achieve a definitional progress in explaining the new regionalism in Europe as political and economic phenomenon and by closely analyzing the processes of economic transfers and especially by conducting study on trans-regional migration to design a prognostic model for political regionalism trends and possible economic diffusions in regions. The secondary goal (long term effect) is to transfer the unique data gathered in process of conducted interviews, and in-depth case studies on migration into the model of mobility for Europe. The model can find broad use in strategic conceptualization and in finding political answers to economic and sociological challenges of regionalization. Further research can be done to expand the roster of evolutionary mechanisms and to further define the impact of the regionalization mechanisms on a higher number of regional and local participants.

The problem of regionalization is well addressed, documented and thoroughly analyzed by many significant scholars. What is rare is a holistic attempt to put all the little pieces of puzzle together and combine the driving factors specific to different scientific disciplines of politic, economy and sociology that are influencing the diffusion of regionalism in Europe. What is missing is an interdisciplinary model of diffusion operating on hard economic, soft political and *last but not least* hard demographic data. A creative concept, reaching out for patterns defining the nature of the change and ordering the complex of political and economic behaviors of cohorts. Finding the mechanism of evolution can result in ability to project the structural adjustment processes within the political organism, answering political priorities and properly locating the emerging trends (centrifugal vs centripetal tendencies).

The problem of regionalization is complicated for the nature of regional (economic & political) behavior lacks of rigid structural norms and well embedded paradigms. However the scope of the problem of regionalization is of the local, national and global nature, the transformation of European substructures calls for special attention considering the dynamics of political and economic redefinition of the continent. Changing and unpredictable dynamics of regionalization is one of the key challenges of Europeanization and EU-ization, especially considering potentially deepening economic polarization and increased trans-regional migration. However the initial analysis of short-term effect of new regionalism circle indicate a rather low-to-moderate impact of its features upon politics and economy, the long term effect considering the intensifying, multiplying and accumulating effect of migration (i. a. demand/supply ratio) can hardly be overestimated and must undergo proper investigation.

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**Анотація.** Стаття заснована на теорії ігор, на регіональному підході до економічного розвитку і ґрунтується на регіональній теорії розвитку, неоінституціональній теорії і неокласичній економічній теорії. Сформована в статті кількісна модель, ґрунтується на порівняльному, казуїстичному і якісному підходах. Проблема статті полягає в круговому характері нового регіоналізму: за регіоналізмом в даний час наступає регіоналізація, конкуренція і поляризація, що може призвести до дестабілізації політичного апарату будь-якої організованої структури.

**Ключові слова:** регіоналізм, регіоналізація, поляризація, дестабілізація, економіка, демографія.

**Рафал Бянда**, Главный представитель в Европе и уполномоченный Института прикладных наук и технологий Вирджинии, Маями, Флорида. **Объединяющаяся или разъединяющаяся Европа? Открывая**

*научную дискуссию и изучая предполагаемый новый регионалистский цикл: регионализация-соперничество-политическая поляризация-дестабилизация. – Статья.*

*Аннотация.* Статья основана на теории игр, на региональном подходе к экономическому развитию и основывается на региональной теории развития, неинституциональной теории и неоклассической экономической теории. Сформированная в статье количественная модель, основывается на сравнительном, казуистическом и качественном подходах. Проблема статьи состоит в круговом характере нового регионализма: за регионализмом в настоящее время следует регионализация, конкуренция и поляризация, что может привести к дестабилизации политического аппарата любой организованной структуры.

*Ключевые слова:* регионализм, регионализация, поляризация, дестабилизация, экономика, демография.

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## **ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКОЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ КАК СОЦИАЛЬНЫЙ ФЕНОМЕН И ПРОДУКТ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНО-ЦЕННОСТНОЙ СРЕДЫ ВУЗА**

*Аннотация.* В статье рассматриваются основы современного понимания профессионального педагогического образования как социального и педагогического феномена. Показывается детерминационное влияние специфической среды педагогического вуза на организацию процесса подготовки будущего педагога. Определен комплекс значимых характеристик педагогического вуза в региональном контексте его деятельности.

*Ключевые слова:* педагогическое образование, педагогический вуз, учитель, профессионально-ценностное сознание, профессиональная деятельность, профессиональные отношения, научно-исследовательская деятельность, регионализация образования.

Последние документы министерства образования и науки РФ свидетельствуют, что одним из ведущих направлений реализуемого сегодня процесса реформирования профессионального образования выступает приведение его в соответствие с современной социокультурной, экономической, правовой и политической ситуацией, взаимосвязано проявляющейся как в общероссийском, так и региональном контекстах. Понимание нюансов этого процесса принципиально важно в отношении педагогического образования, так как именно профессия педагога (профессиональная модель личности учителя, модель педагогической деятельности и др.), да и любой вуз, осуществляющий подготовку педагогов, как социальный институт, как дидактическая и воспитательная системы в наибольшей степени испытывают деформации и потрясения от изменений и неопределенностей в трактовках общих смыслов и предназначения образования в обществе, требуют максимального учета регионального контекста, представляющего как синтез специфических факторов и потенциалов региона.

Соответственно представляется целесообразным рассмотреть современные ведущие смыслы педагогического образования, уточнить ценностно-смысловую и технологическую архитектуру вуза, осуществляющего подготовку будущих педагогов, определить комплекс значимых характеристик педагогического вуза в региональном контексте его деятельности