

Title: Sustainable territorial development and regional disparities in Tunisia

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Territorial disparities and inequalities between different regions or within the same region are the result of many factors and can affect the quality of life, economic opportunities, and access to public services in these areas. This article examines territorial disparities in Tunisia, considering economic, social, environmental, and political dimensions. It examines the elements that affect the growth of territories, such as competitiveness and sustainability. Our interest in the case of Tunisia is essential because territorial development is at the heart of the country's public policies, notably through strategies such as positive discrimination, decentralization, and the implementation of pilot projects. Nevertheless, the country faces specific challenges, such as disparities between regions, the management of natural resources and the impact of climate change. Examining these challenges from a territorial perspective can provide food for thought on the resilience and adaptation capacity of marginal territories.

One of the key questions is whether the community has sufficient resources for more sustainable and inclusive development. Natural resources are particularly important for promoting regional development and social equity throughout the country. We therefore need to find a formula for governance of natural resources that guarantees strong social cohesion within the country. Among the key aspects that make countries more resilient are local governance of resources and the involvement and shared support of their stakeholders. In this context, the social dynamics of trust, organization and collaboration to solve common problems are paramount. This means that decision-making and the management of community affairs must include all genders, people with disabilities and all social and political sub-groups in society. Similarly, communities are stronger and more resilient when all their members participate in public life and decision-making. A number of social and spatial aspects need to be taken into account in order to improve the diversity of economic opportunities and the inclusiveness of economic growth. However, these aspects covered by the dimensions of sustainable and equitable development may vary considerably depending on the local context of each country.

Key words: Territorial development, place-based approach, sustainability, Tunisia.