

The Integrated Development of Mountainous Areas. Theory and Practice

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Abstract

This paper documents the modern theory and practice of Worth-living Integrated Development at the research, scientific, economic, social, political, technical/technological, cultural and environmental levels, with regard to the particular - or even unique - conditions of the natural and socio-economic reality of mountainous areas, as these conditions are related to, depend on and interact with the broader-global environment. Worth-living Integrated Development is a reliable alternative, particularly for mountainous areas, to the usually one-dimensional thematic/sectoral perspectives, forms, theories and practices of economic growth/development, which are founded mainly and/or exclusively on competition.

The technological tools, the methodological and technical steps and the optimal policy practices for the pursuit of the Worth-living Integrated Development of mountainous areas are defined, determined and documented in the theory's basic methodological components. Such components include interdisciplinarity and the need for holistic approach, inventory, mapping and systematic monitoring of the elements, features, appearances, phenomena and facts, which constitute the - unique in each case - unity of natural and socio-economic space. The importance of Integrated Surveys, which are a fundamental pre-condition for planning the Worth-living Integrated Development of mountainous areas, is highlighted. The valuable contribution of the edge technologies of photo-interpretation, remote sensing, digital image processing and Integrated (qualitative and quantitative) Information Systems in composing the Integrated Surveys infrastructure is documented by evidence from international and Greek paradigms and applications.