

## Region as a category of spatial development

**Prokopiuk A.**

PhD, Rector

Białystok School of Economics

The aim of the article is to outline the conceptual provisions of the region's study as a category of spatial development.

Conceptual bases of research of the region as a category of spatial development are determined. It is proved the economic space should be seen not only as a place of concentration of economic actors and their interests, but also as a sphere of realization of economic relations that provides some form of economic interaction. It allows treating space as a set of relationships between the economic operators in relation to the objects and the economic process.

Foreign theories of regional development, taking into account the spatial factor, are systematized. The essence of regional economic area in evolutionary and contemporary aspects is explored. The rela-

tionship between the concepts and the regional economy is shown. The author has proved the fallacy of methodological approach, which is the exclusive identification of economic space in the region with the administrative area of limited geographical boundaries.

It is found that the economic space in the region should be investigated by the impulses formed in the centers of concentration of economic activity, and the degree of their impact on the environment, hence economic space could go beyond administrative region, as well as being less than the entire region.

Consequently, studies of regional processes should unfold in a plane rather study of the economic space in the region than its geographic areas.