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Using of I-Distance for Ranking Regions and Municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Level of Socio-Economic Development

Every country invests a lot of effort to achieve a balanced development of its territorial units. Such problem is worldwide defined and included in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). There are several SDG's dealing with needs for balanced development and equally chances for life within and among countries (SDG8-SDG11). All of them can be sublimated into the SDG1: End of poverty in all its forms everywhere, since „Leave no one behind“ and „Leave no place behind“ become a new world development paradigm.

Measuring regional disparities in Bosnia and Herzegovina is very defficult especially due to the lack of relevant statistical data for such analyses. This problem is more evident when measuring socio-economic development at subnational and sub-entity levels. Some attempts in assesment of regional and municipal disparities in Bosnia and Herzegovina were made within UNDP Office. This paper offers an alternative approach for measuring the level of socio-economic development of Bosnian regions and municipalities. The new method is based on distance metric (I-distance) producing a composite indicator which aggregates several indicators into one value, thus ensuring measurement multicriteria phenomenon. The paper deals with ranking Bosnian regions and municipalities according the socio-economic development. It introduces new methodological approach in measuring territorial differences in an objective way and it concludes with proposals for improving in nearest future.

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