

## **Editorial foreword**

### **1. MOTIVATION**

#### **1.1. The importance of the problem**

Economic development is a fundamental problem on a world scale. The economics of development with its different approaches, has evolved as an area of scientific enquiry into the mechanisms of development and has thereby provided a more rational basis for the policies and programmes of action and economic cooperation of international organisations. Having been neglected for a long time, regional and urban issues have now become increasingly important and are recognised as such in development analysis and policies, with the setting up of decentralised institutions in the Third World, the launching of local development programmes, actions aimed at more balanced distributions of population and an improvement in land utilisation.

#### **2.1. The originality of a specialist journal**

There are many English and French language journals, with wide circulations and of differing quality, which address either economic development or regional science, but there but there is not any french or multilingual journal to our knowledge that which is devoted specifically to the overlap of the two areas: economic development and regional and urban economics. This is regrettable in that work in the area is published and often badly labelled, and differences in experience, methods, definitions and evaluations of policy measures are rarely directly confronted. The work undertaken by French and international researchers on the subject deserves to be brought together and published periodically in a specialist journal. The journal, by providing a medium for scientific enquiry into the spatial approach to development, will have a substantial influence: it will ensure a superior quality and validation of research, it will serve as a major source of information for experts and practitioners in the field and it will be a basic reference.

### **2. THE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS OF THE JOURNAL**

This journal is devoted to the socioeconomic aspects of regional development.

The areas of analysis addressed will be principally : the spatial dimension of development, the growth and socio-economic disparities of regions, the location of

economic activity, regional planning, communications, the environment, rural development, the functioning of regional labour markets, housing, towns and urban networks, migration, regional information systems, regional economic modelling and impact studies, project appraisal, competitiveness and technological potential of regions, the policies, institutions and strategies of regional development, finance and local development, tax-free zones...

Articles will be theoretical analyses, applied economic analyses and case studies of aspects of regional development.

Articles will mainly be in French, although some articles will be in English and Spanish. Abstracts in all three languages will accompany each article.

One of the main objectives of the journal is to diffuse the methods and analytical tools used in regional development in developing countries themselves.

Audience envisaged: researchers, experts and decision-makers nationally and internationally.

o o o

The first number of the review is devoted to the Morocco economy. It proceeds from the conference "Regional and national strategies of development" organized in Marrakech in October 1993 by the Ministry of Moroccan Economy and the Centre d'Économie Régionale of Aix-Marseille University.