

# Abstract

**Title:** Regional Identity and Regional Differentiation of the Baltic Countries

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**Key words:** regional identity, regional differentiation, Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

The thesis deals with the regional identity of the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) at different scale levels. The theoretical baselines of the thesis are the dynamic concepts of institutionalization of the regions and their formation, disappearance and restoration. This abstract view on the formation of regional identity is based on theories of social identity and social representation. In the thesis, mainly the „macroidentity“ of the Baltic States, i.e. their formation in the space between the European and the Russian spheres and within the superior regions of northern, eastern and central Europe is evaluated. The concepts of these regions and subsequently their influence on the territorial identity of the Baltic States are discussed. The elements of internal identity of individual Baltic States, according to which the Baltic region can be considered a distinctive region within the concept of northeastern Europe, are discussed in later section of the thesis. Attention is also paid to the internal coherence of the Baltic region and the elements that integrate or disintegrate this region. The final part of the thesis concentrates on the analysis and evaluation of regional differentiation within individual Baltic States as a consequence of and also as a prerequisite for the formation of their identity.