

Abstract

The thesis deals with the regional identity of the Frýdlant micro-region. The main objective is to analyze a potential for forming of the identity according to the theory of institutionalization of region by Finnish geographer A. Paasi (1986). The thesis discusses conditions for creation of the shape of the region, observes current borders and the symbolic shape of the region and its polarization (peripherality), assesses a degree of institutionalization of the region and the current potential for forming of the regional identity in the area of interest. The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first part provides an overview of general background of studies of territorial identities, focusing on the observed phenomena (the identity, the regional identity, the potential of regional identity). In the second chapter the territory of interest is defined and the situational analysis of the Frýdlant micro-region is provided with a focus on demographic and economic indicators, respectively on the assessment of conditions for formation of the regional identity. The third chapter deals with the potential for formation of the regional identity with regard to various stages of the process of institutionalization of the region. This chapter is divided into subsections according to these stages. The first subsection is dedicated to the spatial shape of the region (boundaries, natural and landscape potential). The second one deals with the symbolic shape of the region (names, signs and symbols, historical references), while the third subsection characterizes regional organizations and institutions. The last chapter analyzes results of the inquiry research aimed at determining a degree and variability of regional consciousness of the local population. The conclusion of the thesis synthesizes results of assessment of the potential for formation of the regional identity of the Frýdlant micro-region. The assessment of underlying presumptions is accomplished and possible ways of further development of the regional identity in the Frýdlant micro-region are outlined. The thesis is based on research of literature related to the topic of regional identity, study of regional literature and official documents of regional institutions. The thesis is also based on statistical data and analysis of the inquiry research addressed to students and teachers living in the area of interest.

Keywords: region – regional identity – institutionalization of region – potential of regional identity – Frýdlant micro-region