

Abstract

The idea behind this paper is to counter traditional thinking on economic and social development that considers development as dependent byproduct of macroeconomic policies led by governments, or as a sole byproduct of entrepreneurial dynamics on the micro level. The idea we are defending here is that the "Community"¹ as defined by German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies, (a tighter and more cohesive social entity) is a context where the "social" and "economic" are less separated and where the spatial dimension becomes more significant. This context could be an adequate analytical framework and a tool for regional development in the context of a developing country like Lebanon.

In this context several questions arise: Could the concept of "community" be considered as an appropriate analytical framework of socioeconomic dynamics in the context of developing countries and how? What tools, does a community approach provide for regional development in Lebanon? What role do the existing tangible and intangible resources in the community play in the development process?

In order to find answers to these questions, we shall employ the wine industry in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon as a case study.

¹ **Gemeinschaft** — often translated as "community" (or left untranslated) — refers to groupings based on feelings of togetherness and on mutual bonds. Note here that some theorists may use the term "territory" in translation of the French concept "territoire".