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A Place-Based Approach to Inclusive Growth: A Development Path Towards Greater Sustainability in Tunisia

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Abstract

The aim of this work is to identify the conditions for inclusive growth, to make a significant contribution to a more sustainable transition in a developing country. The emergence of new challenges from a global perspective requires regional explanations more than ever. Currently, our planet is being faced with economic and social challenges caused by the financial crisis and taken up by the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Using a diversified theoretical corpus of inclusive growth, this study also aims to explore data in relation to inclusion and exclusion in a spatially explicit context. Beside this, the main hypothesis of this work is to give particular attention to the place-based approach in contextualizing and reflecting on the inclusive growth objectives within a country such as Tunisia. Thus, we use a corpus of information that integrates data post 2011 reflecting the inequalities of access and inclusion towards an inclusive and sustainable transition in Tunisia. By consolidating the link between the inclusive growth objectives and sustainable development, we conclude that a territorial approach is a necessary condition for analyzing more closely the processes for more sustainable regional inclusion.

Keywords: *Inclusive Growth, Place-Based Approach, Tunisia, Spatial Transition.*

Introduction

The race between inclusion and exclusion has entered a new phase in developing countries. Economic growth is a necessary and indispensable condition for social development and continued production in a country. Indeed, strong economic growth is always good, but it is not efficient or uniform. Firstly, it is good because it contributes significantly to socio-economic improvements. More specifically, it improves a country's macro-economic aggregates in terms of unemployment, exports-imports, as well as living conditions such as health, education, housing and so on. On the other hand, it is not efficient, because in some countries, high growth neglects intangible resources (Wang et al., 2021) and masks social inequalities and regional disparities. It may reduce poverty, but income inequalities persist and exacerbate it, particularly in poor and middle-income countries.

The quest for equity and growth has long encountered a number of structural difficulties. According to the economist Williamson (1965), the existence of a contradictory relationship between achieving a high rate of GDP growth and reducing regional disparities results in a dilemma between equity and growth (Bourdin et al., 2011).

Despite efforts to address this issue, the equitable sharing of economic growth remains a challenge. Persistent regional disparities slow down the implementation of an inclusive

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economic model. And even strong economic growth can lead to massive consumption of natural resources in a region that itself sometimes does not benefit from the spillover effects of this growth. This leads to numerous environmental problems, instability and regional imbalances in economic development (Li et al., 2011).

Likewise, regional disparities appear to be a problem that is worsening within countries and between them. The existence of disparities is not new, in every major historical period, prosperous cities and small regions have coexisted with poor areas (Combes et al., 2006).

However, in the context of inclusion, it is essential to take into account the evolution of accessibility to services and its repercussions (Zheng and Cao, 2021) on regional disparities linked to the physical realm. Thus, inclusion is a strategy dependent on very strong regional synergy (Liu et al., 2019) especially at a time when the world is talking about common international rights (17 SDGs) and inclusive growth. Consequently, in the face of the many challenges confronting a country, the place-based approach emerges as a key solution for inclusion and a more sustainable transition.

In the present work, we attempt to extend the traditional research framework and discuss inclusive growth from the new perspective following the Agenda for Horizon 2030. The new conceptualization of inclusive growth should be both spatially based and explicitly stated. This approach offers a new perspective that allows us to understand the conditions of regional inclusion in particular, and the mechanisms of inclusive and sustainable growth within a country. Therefore, the aim of this research is to answer the following question: Can the place-based approach promote inclusive growth? More specifically, can this approach really promote regional inclusion, or is it just a targeting method?

In this study, we aim to rethink and renew the concept of inclusive growth at the regional level. This will contribute to enriching the current scientific field of inclusion and regional sustainability. This analysis is relevant for a country like Tunisia, in order to deepen research into a sustainable transition that can make all regions more inclusive. Putting the place-based approach at the forefront of reflections on inclusive growth would, thus, mean changing the basic mindset from a traditional research framework to a current, broader framework of inclusion and economic prosperity. This goal of this article is to focus on using geographical realities as territorial units to analyze inclusive growth, in order to find new alternatives for sustainable regional development.

Inclusive growth and the place-based approach: an overview of concepts

Inclusive growth : Definition

The genesis of inclusive growth can be traced back to a number of facts put into perspective and linked to current discourse. This discourse is transformed over time as a function of cognitive problems. Indeed, the idea of seeking to define inclusive growth first requires a look at history in order to grasp its theoretical roots.

Inclusive growth is not a simple linear process. It faces many challenges, and the changes it generates are simply too complex. It is, therefore, difficult for any single discipline to tackle the issues in isolation. In this sense, it is certainly a concept that cannot be confined, but rather attaches itself to a multi-disciplinary path that will always be moving forward. In fact, inclusive growth requires a strongly networked approach.

Theoretically, the idea here is to engage in a reflexive and critical exploration for two reasons.

Firstly, to understand how the discourse on inclusive growth took off, it may be relevant to explore its history in the light of the major stages and ideas expressed. The scientific discontinuity of grasping renewed subjects implies new theoretical and epistemological choices formulated differently. The emergence of new questions, in a particular context, calls for a critical reading of the various transformations within the discipline. Secondly, the term "inclusive growth" is based on an uncomfortable observation: inequality. Although economic growth may be high, inequalities still persist, and the distribution of wealth is far from equitable. This old observation still plays a fundamental role in theoretical changes and guides new ideas in the wake of historical events.

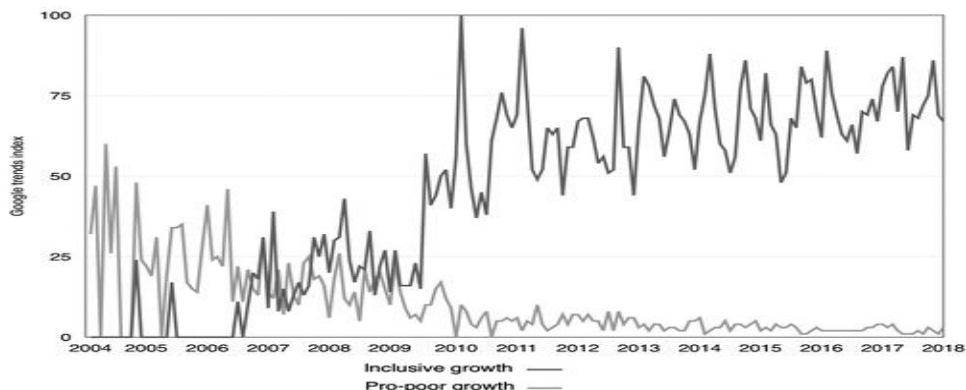
In this context, a look at the theoretical background to this concept is essential before exploring their definitions. However, such a return helps us to better appreciate the reasons for their ever-present existence on the scientific and political agenda today. It also provides a simple answer to the following question: where does inclusive growth figure in theory?

In addition to economic development, there was a conceptual change in growth. At a time when economic growth in China has reached very high levels, inclusive growth is becoming a new branch of research. A number of researchers at the Asian Development Bank are involved in scientific research into inclusive growth (Ali and Zhuang, 2007).

With advanced scientific progress and a view to inclusive growth, this topic is now being taken up once again. Indeed, the environment and sustainability are at the forefront of the discourse. A shift towards ecology could have a major impact on the main pillars of inclusive growth. At this stage, it's difficult to separate these pillars of sustainable development and inclusivity.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, the inclusive growth agenda has seen a groundswell of publications. The paper "Inclusive Growth in cities: a sympathetic critique" by Neil Lee (2019) is a step forward in a critical reading of the concept of inclusive growth. This author considers it to be a "buzzword" that has been gaining ground since 2004, but it remains a concept that is difficult to operationalize.

Lee provides a summary here of the historical reasons influencing the emergence of inclusive growth versus pro-poor growth. Indeed, the interest in inclusive growth is not just the issue of poverty. Inequality and unemployment are the main arguments in favor of a new, more inclusive form of growth. The figure below gives an echo of the global debate on inclusive and pro-poor growth. It was during the period shown that the concept of inclusive growth rapidly became part of the discourse. (*Fig. 1*)



The trend of research for inclusive growth and pro-poor growth (Lee, 2019)

This new historical moment is not limited to a shift from economic growth to inclusive growth. It has brought a different perspective to many other conceptions that were previously very attached to the economic aspect. Several developmentalist authors give major importance to a development model that focuses on nature.

According to Aliste et al., the modern discourse on well-being must not be limited to the old motifs of poverty, inequality and exclusion, but must also include the environment and sustainability (2017). Several global challenges call for a new model that enhances well-being not at the expense of natural resources. This idea has been around for a long time. Indeed, the environment and sustainability are not new concerns in the developing world.

Asian developing countries have long been recognized as the epicenter of inclusive growth. This group of countries initially set out to reduce inequality. A few years later, their objective became inclusive growth as a long-term strategy. As a result, it spread rapidly around the world and became a key issue. In the context of social struggles, inclusive growth was triggered to combat the unequal sharing of the benefits of economic growth. It is essentially about creating opportunities and making them accessible to all. So, on an equal basis, inclusive growth also means growth with more chances and opportunities. This means that all members of a society, whatever their situation, can participate in and contribute to the growth process.

In the absence of a formal, accepted definition of inclusive growth, we are attempting to identify codes of interpretation (*Table 1*) of what is implied in various countries' policy statements and development programs.

Authors	Inclusive growth definitions	Interpretation code
(Ali and Yao, 2004)	Inclusive growth is the expansion of markets. It is growth that creates significant opportunities for job creation.	Job creation Infrastructure is a positive factor
(Roemer 2006)	Inclusive growth based on equal opportunities differentiates between inequalities due to individual circumstances and those due to individual efforts.	Equal opportunities
(Ali and Zhuang, 2007)	Inclusive growth means growth with opportunities. It therefore focuses on both creating opportunities and making them accessible to all. Most importantly, an inclusive growth strategy	Accessible opportunities and equal chances

	embraces the key elements of an effective poverty reduction strategy and broadens the development agenda.	
(Ali, 2007)	It's about growth that shares equal opportunities between different social classes. Equality of opportunity and the prevention of extreme deprivation are the core values of an inclusive society.	Opportunities for all
(Ali and Son, 2007)	Equal chances	Social opportunities
(Klasen, 2010)	Inclusive growth offers more opportunities to participate and share results with more people. Inclusive logic focuses on non-income dimensions.	Access to participation Access priority

Table 1

List of inclusive growth definitions

Note: by author

A special focus on the poor is one of the fundamental building blocks of inclusive growth. Providing social protection and security helps to combat extreme exclusion. It also enables the poor to live better and maintain a minimum level of dignity.

For (Klasen, 2010), inclusive growth needs to be more general. It must benefit the many people upstream and downstream. Because of the ambiguity of the definition of inclusive growth, the author makes a distinction to emphasize the role of inclusive growth on regional and ethical disadvantages. It is non-discriminatory growth.

In the current framework, inclusive growth is not an approach that is simply applied in practice. Many factors are behind this new direction. This new path has highlighted the importance of moving towards inclusive development.

There is an abundance of literature on inclusive growth. This can be explained by a number of arguments, which also manifest themselves in stylized facts. For example, (Pecqueur, 2014) points out that the emergence of the territorial context overturns certain major economic paradigms. Similarly, according to (Hasmath, 2015), The 2008 financial crisis increased poverty. This has led to the emergence and concretization of the notion of inclusive growth. In this sense, we believe that it is useful to take historical facts into account in order to defend the new approaches and emphasize their novelty.

(Groepe, 2012) referred to inclusive growth as long-term sustained economic growth that is broad-based across all sectors and includes a large proportion of a country's workforce, significantly reducing unemployment. Policies that promote inclusive growth tend to focus on

removing constraints to growth, creating opportunities and a level playing field for investment.

(Goshit, 2015) says in this regard that inclusive growth concerns the well-being of nations in both developed and developing economies. But more specifically he takes stock of why inclusive growth matters today.

The pillars of inclusive growth

Keeping with the framework of inclusive growth, three pillars of inclusive growth remain closely linked to good governance and strong institutions. These are economic growth and employment opportunities, social inclusion, and social protection. They are outlined below.

Three pillars of inclusive growth	Dimensions and fields
Pillar 1: High, efficient and sustainable growth	Creating productive jobs and economic opportunities
Pillar 2: Social inclusion	Ensure equal access to opportunities, build human capacity and fill gaps due to circumstances beyond the control of the marginalized and disadvantaged in society, including women.
Pillar 3: Social protection systems	Dimensions and fields To protect the chronically poor and to mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities associated with transient lifestyles, caused for example by ill-health or economic crisis.

Table 2

The three pillars of inclusive growth (Goshit, 2015)

They can promote inclusive growth where all members of society can benefit from and contribute to the growth process.

In the same line of analysis, (Bérenger and Vérez, 2016) have taken a closer look at the definition of inclusive growth. Going beyond redistributive policies, the authors highlight the role played by the promotion of public goods in achieving inclusive growth.

Inclusive growth can include a range of policy areas. Although primacy is often given to labor market issues and the quantity and quality of work. There is a significant gap between unemployment and more and better jobs. As a result, Scotland has also explicitly referred to and targeted "fair work" issues. These issues of job quantity and quality are the focus of most definitions of inclusive growth (Green et al., 2017).

In this sense, (Zorn et al., 2018) devote a chapter of their report to inclusive growth. The authors consider inclusive growth as a diagnostic tool. They indicate that the use of this concept varies from one organization to another, but it essentially aims to integrate the majority of the population so that they benefit from the economic growth achieved. This helps to reduce poverty and inequality.

As part of the new development, (Frimousse and Peretti, 2019) refer to the “ethical” concerns of inclusive growth. They enclose several obligatory behaviors for growth to be inclusive. According to them, "ethically sustainable and inclusive growth is growth that reduces disparities between women and men and creates opportunities for all". (Frimousse and Peretti, 2019) thus consider ethics to be the key to inclusive growth. The emphasis is on the importance of ethics in a world in crisis. Ethics here is a set of fundamental and binding values that everyone must respect, such as justice, respect for others, responsibility, gender equality and so on. Indeed, ethical commitment in a company promotes inclusion, diversity and equal opportunity. It makes the workplace and living environment more virtuous and fertile.

Measuring inclusive growth

Measuring inclusive growth seeks to stimulate debate and the creation of new recommendations on all issues that have direct implications. These issues include, among others, rising inequality, migration, sustainable development, governance, social gaps: education, health, etc.

(Aoyagi and Ganelli, 2015) offers an analysis that aims to advance the debate on inclusive growth in Asia and the key challenges that exist. To achieve this goal, the authors focus on the underlying causes of these challenges and propose options for reform. Over the past two decades, inequality has increased while Asia has experienced very high and rapid economic growth. The authors argue that Asia can strengthen policies to achieve more shared growth. In this respect, the focus is explicitly on the expansionary effect of fiscal redistribution. In this empirical analysis, four determinants of inclusive growth are brought into play: (i) fiscal redistribution, (ii) monetary policy aimed at macroeconomic stability, and (iii) structural reforms aimed at stimulating trade, reducing unemployment, and (iv) raising productivity. To assess this, (Aoyagi and Ganelli, 2015) estimate a structural econometric model of the determinants of inclusive growth for a panel of 31 countries for the 20 years between 1992 and 2011. Indeed, this proxy for inclusive growth is a weighted average of average income growth and the evolution of a stock market index, (between 0 and 1) that considers income distribution.

This gauge is inspired by (Anand et al., 2013b, 2013a), treating it as a measure of average income growth "corrected" for the impact on equity. The empirical results show that fiscal policy and monetary policy ensuring macroeconomic stability appear to be effective in promoting inclusive growth in Asia. Redistributive policy depends on the sign and significance of the tax redistribution coefficient in promoting inclusive growth. If it is positive and statistically significant, it means that the government applies a redistributive policy that promotes inclusive growth.

The new emphasis on inclusion has led to renewed interest among economists and policymakers in new development models. As part of this renewed interest in inclusiveness, economists have been asking many questions about its definition, its determinants and the parameters for assessing it.

Aggregation

Multiplicative method

To compile the index, the African Development Bank uses multiplicative aggregation as an appropriate method for advancing a measure of inclusive growth for each country rated (CI). This method is well known in the literature on other related subjects. At this level of analysis, the lack of data, either for the countries or in terms of the indicators included in this index, poses

2110 *A Place-Based Approach to Inclusive Growth: A Development*
a problem for the precision of the results.

$$IG_i = \sqrt[n]{S_{1i}S_{2i}S_{3i} \dots S_{ji}} \quad (1)$$

Where

$$S_j \text{ is a normalized score : } S_{ji} = 100 \cdot \left(\frac{m_j - r_j}{m_j - 1} \right) \quad (2)$$

$i = 1, \dots, m$: number of countries i included in dataset,

$j = 1, \dots, n$: indicator j included in the dataset,

Arithmetic average

After equal weighting of each indicator and each item, this average is the sum of the normalized values for country i and each indicator S_j .

$$IG_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j \cdot S_{ji} \quad (3)$$

Where:

$i = 1, \dots, m$: number of countries i included in the dataset, $m = 153$ countries

$j = 1, \dots, n$: indicator j included in the dataset, $n = 14$ indicators

Through this analysis, the measurement of inclusive growth can change over time. In other words, the indicators used are not the same, depending on data availability and scarcity, although this is a broad list of indicators that focus on a multi-dimensional thematic approach. The choice of which indicators to use is also based on a selective analysis, as the number of indicators is constantly increasing due to current events.

This study formulates two points or recommendations concerning inclusive growth policy in the MENA region. Firstly, the labor market is the main challenge to be met if we are to move towards inclusive growth. Inclusive growth depends on boosting the creation of employment opportunities. Africa could achieve inclusive growth if it created more jobs and reduced unemployment, particularly among young people. Secondly, with the exception of Tunisia, the performance of these countries is weak. The broad dimensions of inclusive growth have specifically shown that growth outcomes are not inclusive. The development of a composite index of inclusive growth makes it possible to rank each country according to progress in this area. In other words, it measures the depth of a country's inclusion on a national and international scale.

To overcome the conceptual gap, (Mitra and Das, 2018) look to provide a global definition of inclusive growth. They refer to it as an integration of the different facets of human development. In financial and environmental terms, it is defined as financially sustainable participatory economic progress that ensures mass job creation, social protection and sustainable development of public infrastructure.

With regard to technical aspects, (Mitra and Das, 2018) measure inclusive growth by proposing a new Inclusive Growth Index (IGI). This index is composed of different development variables grouped into four pillars: sustainability, equity in access, efficiency of economic activities and

institutions.

The link between the place-based approach and inclusive growth

In the same frame of ideas, we can see that many researchers and academics are pursuing the goal of regional economics in the broader regional science movement. Indeed, these findings admit that the perspectives proposed by (Capello, 2019) strongly support the point of view of the research carried out by (Barca et al., 2012; Rodríguez-Pose, 2018). Reading these works invites us to reflect on a possible change in the scale of inclusive growth. It has to be said that the complexity of human life phenomena and socio-economic changes have greatly advanced research on inclusive growth. What's more, the idea of inclusivity is shared with other developmentalist and environmentalist currents through the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nevertheless, while the concept of inclusive growth has developed well in the literature over the past thirty years, the definition is not yet uniform. Here, economists do not hesitate to present the purely economic objectives of inclusive growth. They fully integrate the measurement of economic growth (GDP) to better explain the objectives of inclusive growth. Among regional economists, however, the use of inclusive growth may be different, as they integrate space into the analysis of the distribution of socio-economic phenomena.

The persistence of regional disparities is a major obstacle to achieving an inclusive approach on a global scale, the need for a new paradigm of inclusive growth at regional level. In addition, a symmetrical analysis of inclusive growth is more necessary than ever. Indeed, a more symmetrical analysis also avoids misinterpretation of the spatial structure of a statistic (Oliveau, 2010).

In fact, the situation of developing countries is becoming increasingly complex with the evolution of the idea of inclusive growth. An approach to the concept of inclusive growth must include social, financial, economic, political, sustainable, spatial, and cultural factors. These determinants translate into important new concerns. However, to date, there are no credible results in the field of inclusive growth, although it is very often mentioned by decision-makers in political debates.

Indeed, the paradoxical context in most countries calls for a new approach to bridging the gap between the conceptual framework of inclusive growth and operational frameworks. Within the problematization of this concept, reducing this gulf would enable us to narrow the gap between national and regional realities. This depends on an operational refinement of inclusive growth to a territorial declension. It should be noted that the question of operationalizing inclusive growth has been raised in the literature (Boschma et al., 2017), but the empirical work that has been done on this subject is actually quite limited, particularly in Asia. However, the subjectivity of inclusive growth has been the main reason for the inability to derive a single definition. The particularities of each country make the gap between conceptualization and practice of inclusive growth much wider. Within an individual country, regional particularities or paradoxes discourage an inclusive approach. Inclusive growth at national level can mask strong regional inequalities and social exclusion, as in the case of Tunisia. For this reason, comparing the degree of inclusion between a group of countries does not reflect the reality of regional inclusion in each country.

From this perspective, the problem of regional disparities calls for a new approach that can make inclusive growth more operational, taking into account their meaning in different spatial

contexts. In this respect, it is crucial to question the meaning of this concept between regions of the same unequal country. Nevertheless, the notion of inclusive growth can be assessed at both national and regional levels. However, it must be reaffirmed that it is more urgent than ever, especially as it asserts itself at regional level.

Understanding this, the objectives of inclusive growth can only be realized if they are part of a territorial approach. This approach is useful for achieving inclusive growth within a country. It can offer a broader framework for analysis, conditioned by new issues and challenges.

As a result, renewed interest in updated territorial declinations are more necessary than ever. This interest has given rise to the idea of **Place-based**, which is also present in regional work, notably the pioneering work of (Barca, 2009).

The place-based approach

The place-based approach is modern place-based thinking (McCann, 2019). Modes of thinking about regional development have long been place-based. However, these traditional modes have tended to focus on the competing characteristics of a region or locality (Pike et al., 2007). In other words, the place-based approach has focused on the factors that drive local economic development.

In the early 1990s, a number of researchers were interested in the role of place in creating an enabling environment for economic growth but preferred to focus on the macroeconomic conditions of economic development. There was a rapid shift towards the role of place in research among economists in economic geography, namely regional economists (Capello, 2019).

The origins of the place-based approach are described in a book by (Beer et al., 2020). It can be seen that this approach is the conclusion of several results of works that focus on the spatial aspect, such as the contribution of "new economic geography" NEG. The seminal contribution of (Krugman, 1991) explained how the role of cities and regions was crucial in linking trade to economic growth. Paul Krugman's efforts were summarized in the beginnings of the (NEG).

In addition, the work of (Glaeser et al., 1992) laid the foundations for a vast literature on how city characteristics encourage local competition and urban variety that can contribute to job creation in industries. Empirical evidence has shown that the effects of knowledge spillover between industries could contribute to economic growth.

Another important element of the discussion concerns the spatial level at which regional development is understood. The latter concept is always confronted with problems of spatial heterogeneity in regional growth. In moving from the global to the local in terms of development, several questions arise at this level of analysis: What kind of local regional development? (Pike et al., 2007).

Thus, intellectual and political interest in the region as a strategic location for economic activity has seen the rebirth of a "new regionalism" (Harrison, 2008). The author argues that the latter remains a productive means of disentangling the processes involved in the production of one or more spatial levels. Implicitly, the purely spatial approach remains a top priority for those involved in urban and regional research.

To address this, a burgeoning regional policy has emphasized the exploitation of regional potential (Bourdin and Torre, 2018). Many researchers increasingly rely on a bottom-up

approach, harnessing regional potential as a driver of national growth rather than directly addressing regional disparities. This is leading to a clear preference among regional studies research communities for finding the best way to better adapt policy actions and interventions to heterogeneous local contexts (Sébastien Bourdin, 2018). From this perspective, region, place and location have formed the core of all thinking related to development and economic geography.

Inclusive place-based growth: a very unknown subject

Building on the evidence above, it is therefore essential to define inclusive growth and the place-based approach together. Indeed, the results of (Barca et al., 2012) validate the relationship between economic growth and the place-based approach. They strongly insist that development strategies should not exclude this approach. They add that this approach may be more important when economies are undergoing major transitions towards new equity.

In the same context, the work of (Pike et al., 2007), (Barca, 2009) and (Capello, 2019) is increasingly focusing on the relationship between growth and space. Firstly, (Pike et al., 2007) focus on growth and space to study more deeply the type of regional and local development. Secondly, (Barca, 2009) analyzes the importance of space for social inclusion. And thirdly, (Capello, 2019) explicitly considers that a theoretical vacuum still leaves room for more in-depth analyses of space in regional studies.

In a way, this is what underpins the place-based approach and inclusive growth, which invite us to get involved in regional studies, if we see them as the two fundamental faces of regional science. Nevertheless, the regional dimension of inclusive growth has not attracted much interest from regional economists to date. Future work must strive to fill the box of regionally inclusive growth both theoretically and empirically, so as not to find ourselves wandering once again in theoretical voids or creating intellectual or practical ruptures in regional economics.

A framework to promote territorial inclusive growth.

Territorial inclusive growth can be defined as a new spatial conception of inclusive growth within each country. It aims to improve efficiency and equity within each space. Ensuring inclusive growth at territorial level will boost national growth. Through regionalized inclusive growth, economic opportunities are created in regions that are not recognized under the spatially blind approach. It revitalizes socio-economic interactions between institutions and all spaces. Moreover, based on regional and local specificities, inclusive territorial growth must consider the old approach of space as a key element to analyze the past to build the more inclusive future. It also makes it easier to identify the existence of regional disparities. In fact, inclusive growth needs to be underpinned by more regionalist policies to strengthen spatial interactions between different geographical environments. In a virtuous circle, it is regional inclusion and development equity that reduce socio-spatial inequalities and social exclusion. In fact, territorial inclusive growth can be explained by the equity accumulated at regional level.

For this reason, a place-based approach to inclusive growth is as much a strategic priority as reducing poverty and regional disparities. Indeed, the territorial approach associated with inclusive growth is no longer simply an option, but an indispensable standard for the regional development model. On the one hand, the Fig.2 below aims to present two approaches to tackling the problem of regional disparities. On the other hand, at the crossroads of these two approaches, we can propose new thinking in terms of local policies and of geo-territorial governance.

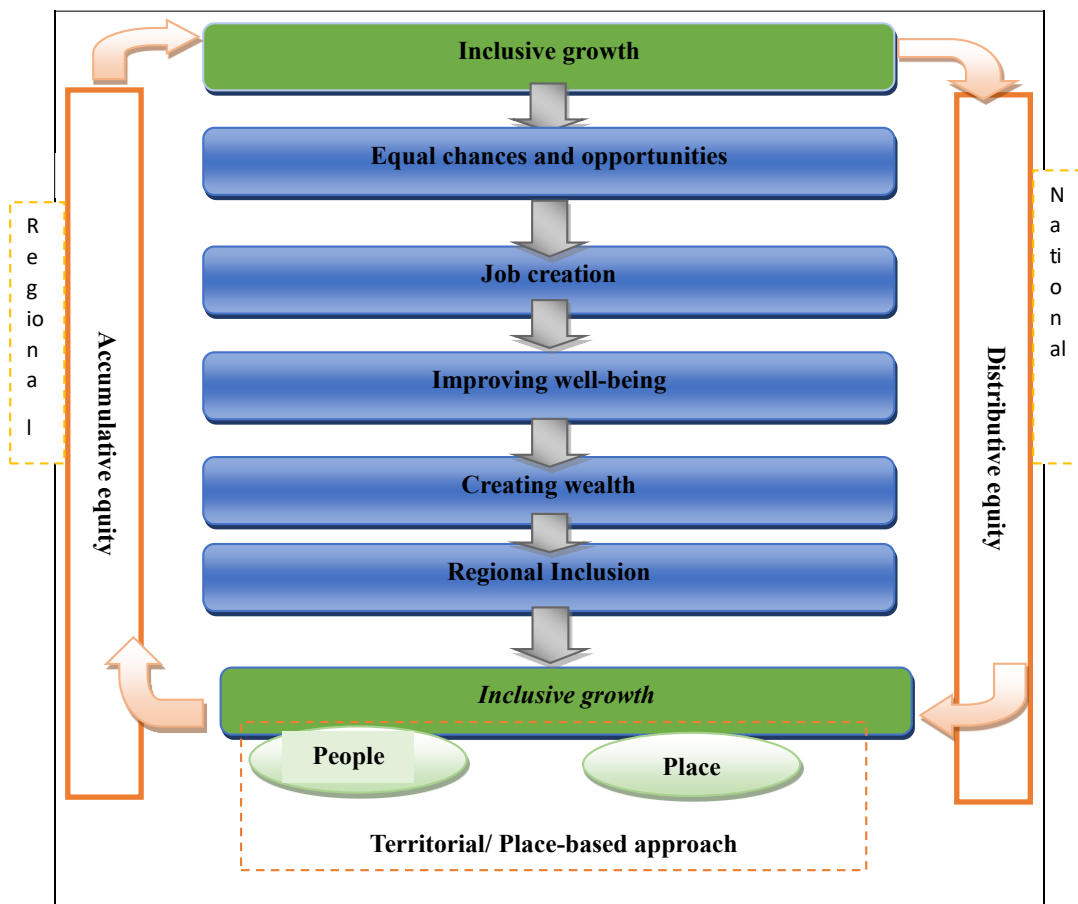


Fig. 2. Place-Based Inclusive Growth

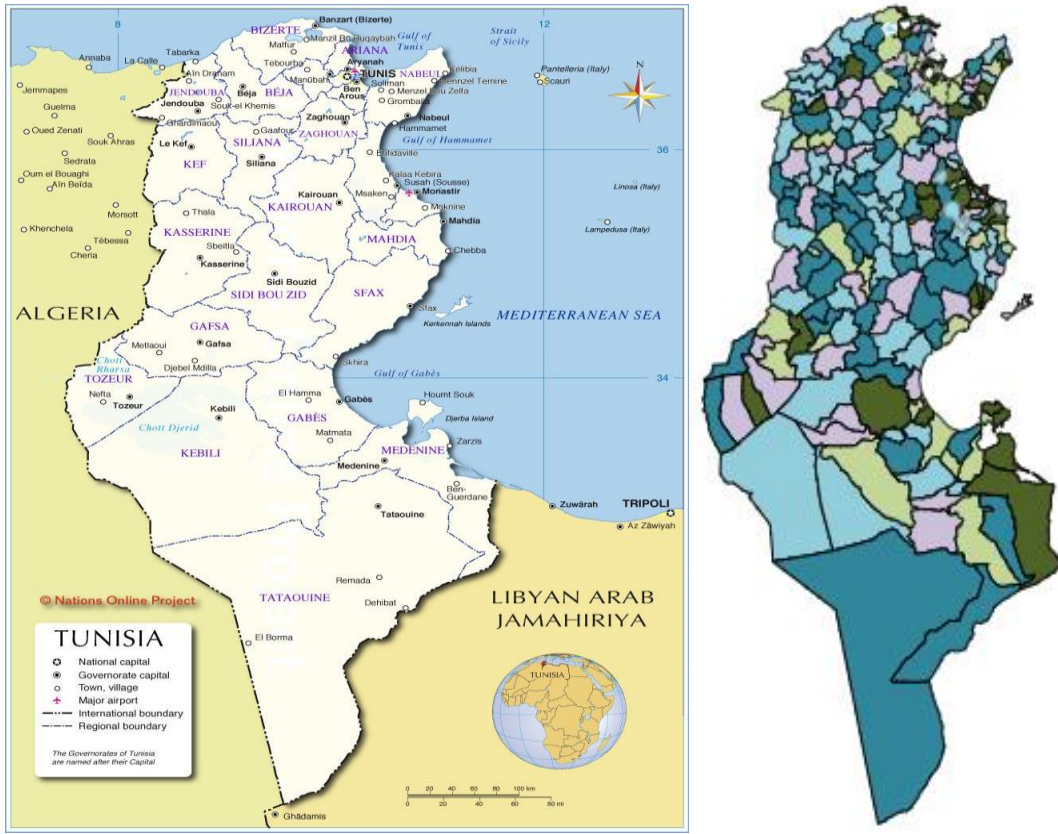
Materials and Methods

Areas of study

Tunisia is a North African country on the Mediterranean coast. Covering an area of 163,610 km², Tunisia is structured by 24 regions and 264 administrative districts. At the end of 2010, a popular movement was launched by young unemployed people in the central-western region, particularly in Sidi Bouzid. Discontent and hardship led to a revolution that broke out on January 14, 2011. This movement aspires to human rights, democracy, and inclusive development. Their main demands are employment, freedom and dignity (Belhedi, 2017).

This revolution called a rethinking of the political paradigm. It called for decentralization as a new orientation to take center stage on Tunisia's socio-political scene. Within this framework,

and given the coexistence of significant regional disparities, the new constitution adopted in 2014 aims to empower local authorities to meet the challenges of sub-national development and mitigate the social and economic consequences of unbalanced development.



Map of 24 regions districts

Map of 264 administrative districts

Fig. 3. Map of Tunisia - Credit Nations Online, Overview of the study area

Tunisia is currently going through a period of upheaval and post-Covid 19 crises: economic, political, social and health-related. The problems are multiplying dramatically. On the one hand, progress is slowing through declining performance; on the other, inequality and social exclusion are increasing. The situation is therefore becoming very worrying. And inequalities are on the increase. Basically, after experiencing an improvement in living standards and a decline in extreme poverty since independence, Tunisia unfortunately recorded its worst regression in 2020.

Over the 2010-2020 period, Tunisia's economic growth has been weak. Its GDP fell by -1.9% following the events of 2011. Tunisia is characterized by social movements and conflicts that are relevant to the closure of businesses in the industrial and tourism sectors. From 2012 to 2019,

Tunisia recorded positive economic growth, but it remains weak and with a downward trend, from 4.1% to 1% respectively. This period coincides with a period of very high unemployment in Tunisia Fig. 4.

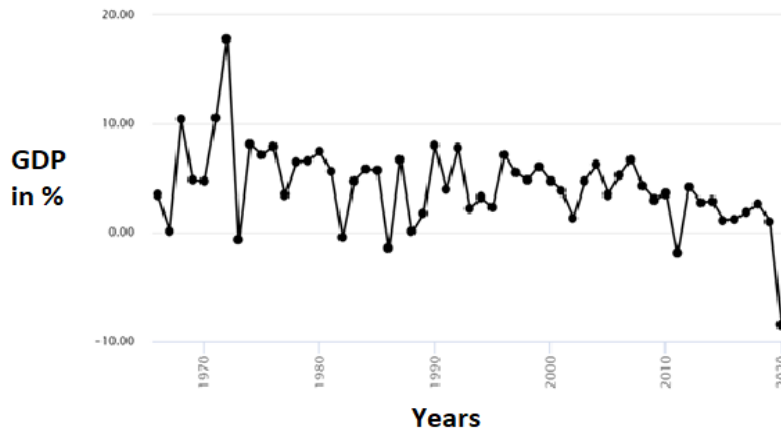


Fig.4. Annual Growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) In %.

The massive uprisings that took place in Tunisia from 2011 onwards show that regional development reform efforts were not sufficient to ensure prosperity and inclusion for a large part of the Tunisian population. Political and economic instability led to a decline in the level of annual GDP growth in the post-revolutionary period.

The intensification of the political conflict is affecting tourism, exports, and investment in the productive apparatus. In fact, the high unemployment rate over this period shows an upward trend in the underperformance of productive activities. More specifically, unemployment is high, particularly among young graduates. There has been a marked increase in the unemployment rate among higher education graduates, in other words, in the underemployment of qualified young people.

Regional disparities and social exclusion are equivalent to regional exclusion and social inequality. Together, these represent a major risk. It is for this first reason that we put forward the hypothesis in our thesis that the inclusive approach is not easy to achieve if we do not take into account the "unforgivable" regional disparities that historically have acted as a crucial brake. Now is the time to take serious action to address them.

It's important to remember that the Tunisian revolution remains incomplete, and Tunisia is still characterized by a strong spatial divide. Despite various policies, the objectives of the revolution remain a real ambition for young Tunisians. Unemployment is undeniably the fundamental focus of this uprising. The unemployment situation in Tunisia is becoming unbearable, and the country needs to prepare for a new, more inclusive development model. However, this shift requires a number of actions that focus on the material, social and regional determinants of disparity. Investment in the population in terms of education, health and employment is the cohort that should be the exception of such action.

Many studies have shown the benefit of the legacy of industrial investment, notably the work of

geographer (Belhedi, 2012) which points to "the territorial fracture : spatial dimension of the Tunisian revolution". The author describes in detail the industrial fabric in Tunisia and its repercussions in terms of job creation and increased income and reduced poverty. He shows that the creation of industrial hubs in the interior of the country (the phosphate plant of Gafsa in Mdhilla, the building-materials plant in ElHamma, etc.) and a greater concentration on coastal areas (textiles in Kaser Hellal, Monastir and Moknine, tourism in Hammamet, Sousse and Djerba, and the Chemical Group in Gabès), have contributed significantly to job creation and the improvement of living conditions. This industrial development, which remains predominantly on the coast, has helped to improve economic performance and reduce poverty at national level. However, this close link between the industrial sector and the unemployment rate has weakened under the impact of the 2008-2009 financial crisis and the 2011 revolts, which call for equitable regional development between coastal and inland regions.

Methodology

In contrast to studies that treat space as the spatial framework within which a phenomenon and a national policy with specific needs unfold, in a "spatially blind approach" (Clarke et al., 2016). Territorial inclusive growth proposes the hypothesis of maximizing development conditions that ensure social inclusion within a delegation at a more meso scale, and then at a national scale.

According to the literature consulted, we are attempting to exploit the various measures and indicators that enable the operationalization of an inclusive growth indicator at the territorial level. Indeed, the list of articles is quite extensive and provides relevant complementary information. In this respect, we favor in particular (Rabby et al., 2018 ; Ruth, 2018 ; Anand et al., 2013 ; Mikheeva, 2020). These works allow us to select two dimensions: Economic prosperity and social inclusion.

Methodologically, the work (Rabby et al., 2018) describes the different measures used in the literature to assess inclusive growth, among which they present three composite indices of inclusive growth. Nevertheless, we prefer to apply the composite index formula presented by (Bourdin, 2018), adapting it to the definition of inclusive growth presented by (Rabby et al., 2018).

Empirically, based on a broad literature on regional resilience, (Bourdin, 2018) has constructed a "bivariate indicator" of resilience. The author aims to examine whether spatial focus on individual regions lead to their resilience to crises, or, on the contrary, did not lead to resilience. In his calculation, he uses the unemployment rate and GDP/capita to compute the index and operationalize regional resilience in economic terms. We also use this methodology to calculate the composite index of territorialized inclusive growth. This index is formulated as follows:

$$ICIT_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{Economic prosperity; Inclusion}) \quad (4)$$

Data

Our study is based on data from the 2014 general population and housing census, published by the National Institute of Statistics (INS.tn). The selection of data is essentially linked to the availability of geo-localised data and post-2011 data.

The administrative and territorial scale considered in our contribution is the lowest level after the regions. This regional scale enables us to obtain relevant and comparable data. It also enables us to better reflect the spatial concentration of regional disparities. This concentration translates

into the identification of delegations that are included or excluded from the process of generating economic growth. At the same time, it becomes possible to make more inclusive policy recommendations in favor of delegations that are not the beneficiaries of economic and social benefits. Our sample is made up of 264 districts from 24 Tunisian regions.

In operational terms, inclusive growth needs to take a number of different paths to guarantee an ideal situation in terms of economic prosperity and social inclusion. From this perspective, the main interest is to focus on data that sheds light on the conditions likely to make regional inclusion more achievable or satisfactory in Tunisia. This approach advocates the use of socio-economic data, subject to availability, in line with the definition of inclusive growth, which considers the economic criterion of growth as a necessary condition. However, in Tunisia, economic growth has not yet been the subject of statistical institutes across geographical zones. We try to adapt according to the economic data available at delegation level, with proxies in terms of consumption and production (Zidi, 2013). However, in our view, the most important criterion is that the subjective indicators chosen should truly measure inclusive growth.

With regard to inclusion, the choice of data is made according to a thematic subjectivity essentially linked to the definition of social inclusion. Inclusion can be measured in terms of different dimensions of participation in society: consumption, production, political involvement and social interaction. Thus, social inclusion is effective when people participate in society despite their difficulties. It is not limited to the processes of professional and economic integration. It also encompasses the individual's social, cultural and civic participation. Social inclusion is defined in the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights as "a process which ensures that people at risk of poverty and social exclusion are offered the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in life and culture, and that they enjoy a standard of living and well-being considered normal for the society in which they live. Social inclusion ensures that they participate more fully in the decision-making processes that affect their lives, and have greater access to their fundamental rights" (Barca, 2009 ; P.34).

The inclusive growth index is divided into two dimensions (economic prosperity and social inclusion). Economic prosperity has three underlying dimensions made up of a set of three indicators. But social inclusion represents 4 underlying dimensions (see table 3). Each indicator is normalized, giving a minimum score of zero (0) and a maximum score of 1.

At this stage, the scores should be interpreted with great caution, bearing in mind the assumptions of the place-based approach. First of all, any of these scores can have values equal to 0, but the sum, i.e. the ICIT, must be different from 0. In the context of the place-based inclusive growth approach, space has a real value, so we cannot interpret a space equal to 0. In this case, if the value of ICIT is equal to 0, then the hypothesis of a place-based approach is rejected. Otherwise, we accept a place-based approach. In the operational framework of inclusive growth at the regional level, this can be formulated as follows:

- ◆ Place-based inclusive growth index (ICIT) = 0, absence of place-based approach, inappropriate space and spatially blind approach dominate.
- ◆ Place-based inclusive growth index (ICIT) \neq 0, space really matters and the place-based approach is strongly present.

Next, it's worth mentioning that the Territorial Inclusive Growth Index is a bivariate indicator, but the scores are not evenly distributed (are not equirrelated?). We may find districts that are weaker in terms of inclusion or not in terms of economic prosperity, and vice versa.

The Table 2 below summarizes the dimensions and indicators used in our attempt to calculate a composite index of inclusive growth for the 264 Tunisian delegations.

Dimensions	Indicators	Years	Sources
Social inclusion	Level of employment	2014	INS
	Housing conditions	2014	INS
	Exclusion from the labour market	2014	INS
	Location in relation to service	2014	INS
Economic prosperity	Manufacture production	2014	INS
	Employment rates	2014	INS
	Human capital	2014	INS

Table 4

Indicators Constituting the Index of Territorial Inclusive Growth in Tunisia

Results and Discussion

The index of Territorial Inclusive Growth (ITIG) provides a starting point for understanding prosperity and inclusion and how they are linked. The Fig. 4 below shows a high degree of spatial heterogeneity, reflecting strong regional disparities between delegations. There is a high density of delegations with values below the median. These delegations have below-median values in terms of inclusion and economic prosperity, for example, Hidra, El Alaa, el Aroussa.

At the other end of the scale, we find districts with higher values in terms of inclusion and prosperity, for example, Sfax ville, Sfax Sud, Ariana ville, Soukra. In this case, we can see that the distribution of ITIG values starts with delegations having a minimum of social inclusion equal to 0.09 up to a maximum of economic prosperity not exceeding 0.55.

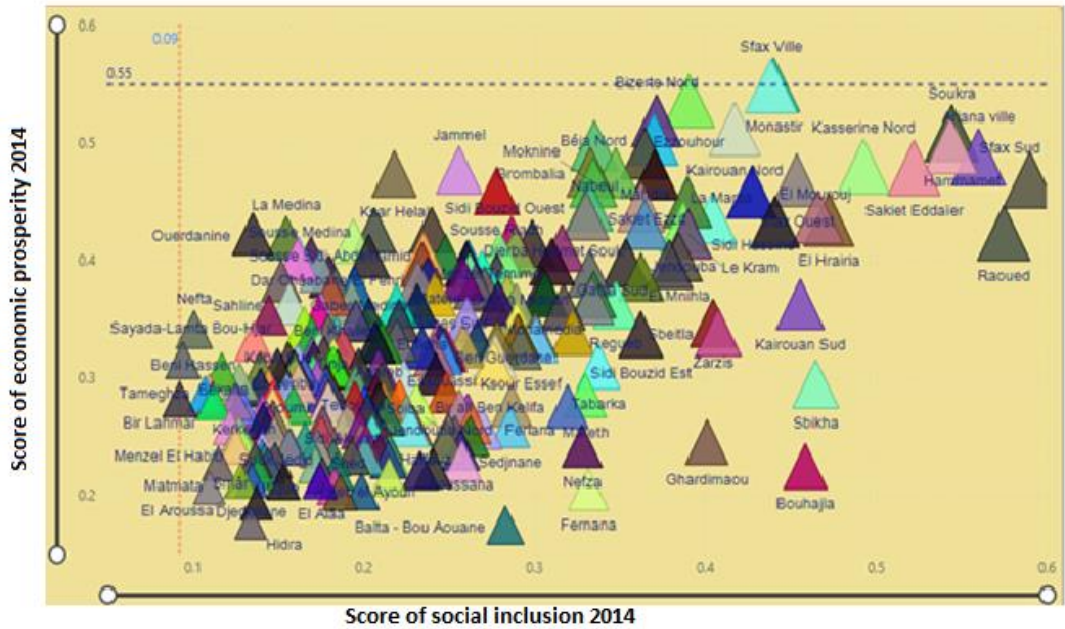


Fig.4.

The distribution of ITIG values from the Scatterplot of prosperity and inclusion scores in 2014. The spatial evolution of inclusion and prosperity shows a strong regional concentration. This can be explained by the presence of geographically proximate of ITIG values. There is a clear concentration on the figure (Fig.4) with a low inclusion score and at the same time a low economic prosperity score.

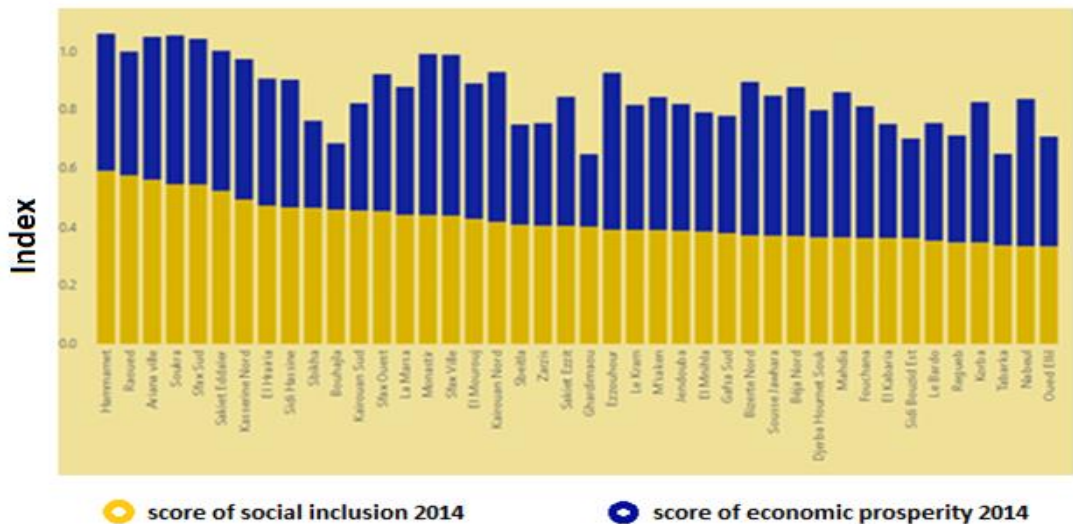


Fig. 5.

A regional distribution shows the classification of the first districts in terms of inclusion (this **Journal of Posthumanism**

figure shows a regional inclusion of the districts more included in economic life and with higher prosperity).

The figure (*Fig. 6*) above shows the results obtained by regionally ranking the inclusion and economic prosperity scores. In terms of inclusion, the district of Hammamet ranks first with a good economic prosperity score, which also enables it to have a higher ITIG of 0.53. As in all of the results, the coastal/interior problem is once again in evidence. The inland districts are the epicenter of regional disparities in terms of social inclusion and economic prosperity. Consequently, the new regional policy must boost these districts to alleviate discontent and sudden uprisings, creating economic opportunities by exploiting their regional potential as a lever for more inclusive territorial development. The implementation of priority actions in favor of Tunisia's inland areas must reinvent new ways of acting in order to strengthen regional resilience and build a more inclusive development model.

The objective of optimizing development conditions can be read from this figure, which reflects a strong regional sensitivity of inclusion values to ITIG values and a weak intervention of economic prosperity on inclusion and ITIG in general these results imply that ITIG must have an explanation nested between inclusion and economic prosperity. This reasoning highlights results that are similar to the theoretical work. Thus, economic prosperity is no longer the general rule for a country's development, but an essential condition. In this respect, we would support work that defines inclusive growth as two complementary components (Rabby et al., 2018) consisting of increasing social cohesion and decreasing exclusion.

In summary, this dose of indicators has enabled us to combine framework conditions (Maillat and Kebir, 2001) into a single composite indicator that allows us to measure regional inclusiveness in Tunisia and at the same time identify areas of regional disparity within the Tunisian territory. As such, this analysis allows us to deepen the discourse on inclusive growth in Tunisia in order to find smarter solutions. Finally, this groundbreaking essay is a contribution to resolving the conceptual ambiguity of inclusivity, which has so far lacked consensus on a single definition. For our part, we try to provide appropriate answers that respect the three questions posed in the literature by (Schoneveld, 2020):

- ◆ Inclusivity towards what
- ◆ Inclusivity to whom
- ◆ Inclusivity in what?

In this respect, a regional classification based on the inclusive territorial growth index enables us to target priority regions in terms of inclusion and the creation of more equal opportunities. In addition, the results presented in the table below demonstrate the importance of the place-based approach in the renewal of regional development. The approach adopted in this study has given rise to regions with "without future" or "without importance" in the traditional framework of inclusive growth research at national level in Tunisia.

Regions	Districts	Location Geographic	10 least values of ITIG
Elkef	Djerissa	North-west	0.184
Soussa	Sidi El Héni	Center-East	0.183
Béja	Goubellat	North-west	0.182
Siliana	Bargou	North-west	0.179
Kasserine	Djedeliane	Center-west	0.173
Gabès	Matmata	South- East	0.171
Siliana	El Aroussa	North-west	0.170
Gabès	Nouvelle Matmata	South -East	0.165
ElKef	Kalâat Khasbah	North-west	0.158
Kasserine	Hidra	Center -west	0.155

Table 5

The last 10 districts in terms of ITIG

This research illustrates in one way or another the dominance of the coast and the capital, Tunis, in terms of prosperity and inclusion. The delegation of Hammamet has seen its position in the North-East strengthened by the tourism sector absorbing a massive working population, consolidating its economic and social prosperity at 0.529, higher than the regional average of 0.284. In contrast, the districts of Hidra, Kalaat Khasbah, Nouvelle Matmata and ElAroussa record the lowest ICIT values in the Centre West, North West and South East. As expected, the spatial structure of the inclusive growth index certainly reflects regional disparities between delegations in terms of economic prosperity and inclusion, but other spatial mechanisms add to this explanation.

Similarly, this map classifies the sample of 264 districts into equal groups of 53 observations. However, the number of each quantile (53) is very high, so that it is not possible to visually detect the autocorrelation of the values distributed over the Tunisian territory. In general, Tunisia has an inclusive growth index of 0.284, with a minimum of 0.155 in the Hidra delegation and a maximum of 0.530 in the Hammamet delegation. This index is particularly high in the North-East and Center-East delegations and much lower in the North-West and Center-West regions, with a few exceptions and nuances.

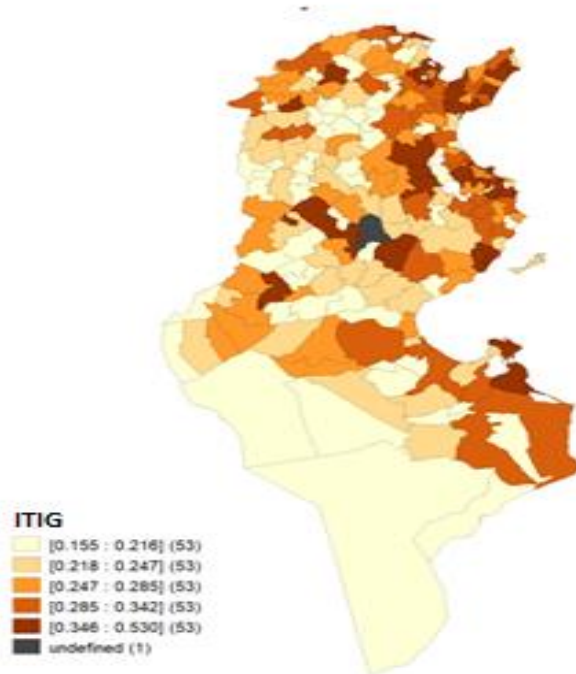


Fig. 7. Map of the Spatial Distribution of 5 ITIG Quantiles in 2014

Conclusion

In the light of these analyses, it is possible to identify a classification that constitutes an influence strategy. The latter aims to introduce this classification into the dialogue on inclusive growth. In this sense, a relevant classification can restore a certain importance to an districts or an area (Bourdin, 2020). Indeed, local particularities require a strong integration of the place-based approach in the interpretation of statistical results. In this sense, the idea of the importance of the spatial fact is strongly shared here, and spatially blind studies are rejected. What's more, a classification must convey a message in order to achieve inclusive growth objectives in terms of job creation and equality.

As far as maps are concerned, spatial representations have made it possible to delineate a certain marginalized local context and a more developed one. In this sense, these features enable a rapid classification of "places with no future and no importance" (Rodríguez-Pose, 2018).

Beyond the visual variables, the table above shows some very worrying realities for the last 20 delegations. The governorate of Kasserine is in last place in terms of inclusiveness and economic development. The strong presence of the Siliana gouvernante (El Aroussa; Bargou; El Ksour;

Bourouis; Kesra) shows low prosperity and social inclusion in most of its delegations, which in turn undermines their position of inclusiveness at national level.

Despite this, regional disparities are rooted in Tunisia's (Abbasi et al., 2021) lack of regional equity. The framework conditions are not conducive to inclusive development. Following a place-based approach, these analyses can be summarized by the "territorial Big Bang" effect. According to (Torre, 2015), the territorial Big Bang is the rise of metropolitan regions to the detriment of remote and less competitive peripheral areas. This is explained by their lifestyles and development capacities. This observation is in line with what is happening on the Tunisian territory. The territorial Big Bang has reinforced economic violence and, more specifically, structural violence: a notion first used in 1969 and generally attributed to Johan Galtung. This term refers to a form of violence caused by the structures or institutions of a given society, which prevents individuals from realizing their potential. It is defined as any form of constraint on an individual's potential caused by political and economic structures. These constraints take the form of unequal access to resources, political power, education, health or justice, and a lack of regional equity.

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