Preface

When I started working on this manuscript five years ago, the initial plan was to write a follow-up book covering certain topics that were not included in my previous book such as humanitarian and radical approaches to local and regional development. I was also planning to expand the conflict management concept and its place and role in the local and regional development process. It turned out that this would not be so simple. It soon became apparent that without discussing the individual and society and their interaction with each other it would not be possible to properly treat the development concept. It also became clear that the concept of sustainability and recent information and technological revolutions have an important relevance to the local and regional development process. Hence, I had to study these fields to become relatively familiar with them as well as going back and revisiting some old topics to make the connection meaningful.

These areas over the years have been studied by respective academic disciplines separately. My goal was to critically review them and make a connection with the local and regional development process. As far as I am aware, there is no work that has studied all these different fields and integrated them under the local and regional development umbrella. There are, of course, many pitfalls in such an effort. Obviously, I could not become equally competent in all these fields, but I was able to gain some knowledge by studying a wide range of material and talking to a number of experts in their respective fields. I hope that this attempt will provide the readers an overall review and integration in one place rather than the view of a single discipline. Experts in relevant fields may find that I offer nothing new in their fields, but they may appreciate seeing how their fields affect the local and regional development process.

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