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The competitiveness of the regions – the theoretical and the European union approach

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Annotation. The aim f the article is to discuss at the theoretical level the notion of region, trans-border region and euro-region, and the concept of regional competitiveness as well as to examine the factors of regional competitiveness. The second, more practical purpose of the study is to present the European Union policy aiming to strengthen the competitiveness of the European economy and regions.

In the first part of the article the Author discuss the notion of the region and the competitiveness. In economic sense the region is a relatively homogeneous area which differentiates from other areas many socio-economic features. The next part of the article is devoted to explanations, on the basis the literature, the notion of regional competitiveness. The last part of the article is concentrated on the regional problems in the EU.

Key words: the European Union, the Lisbon strategy, the classification of regions (NUTS), region, regional policy, the economy, competition, resources, business.