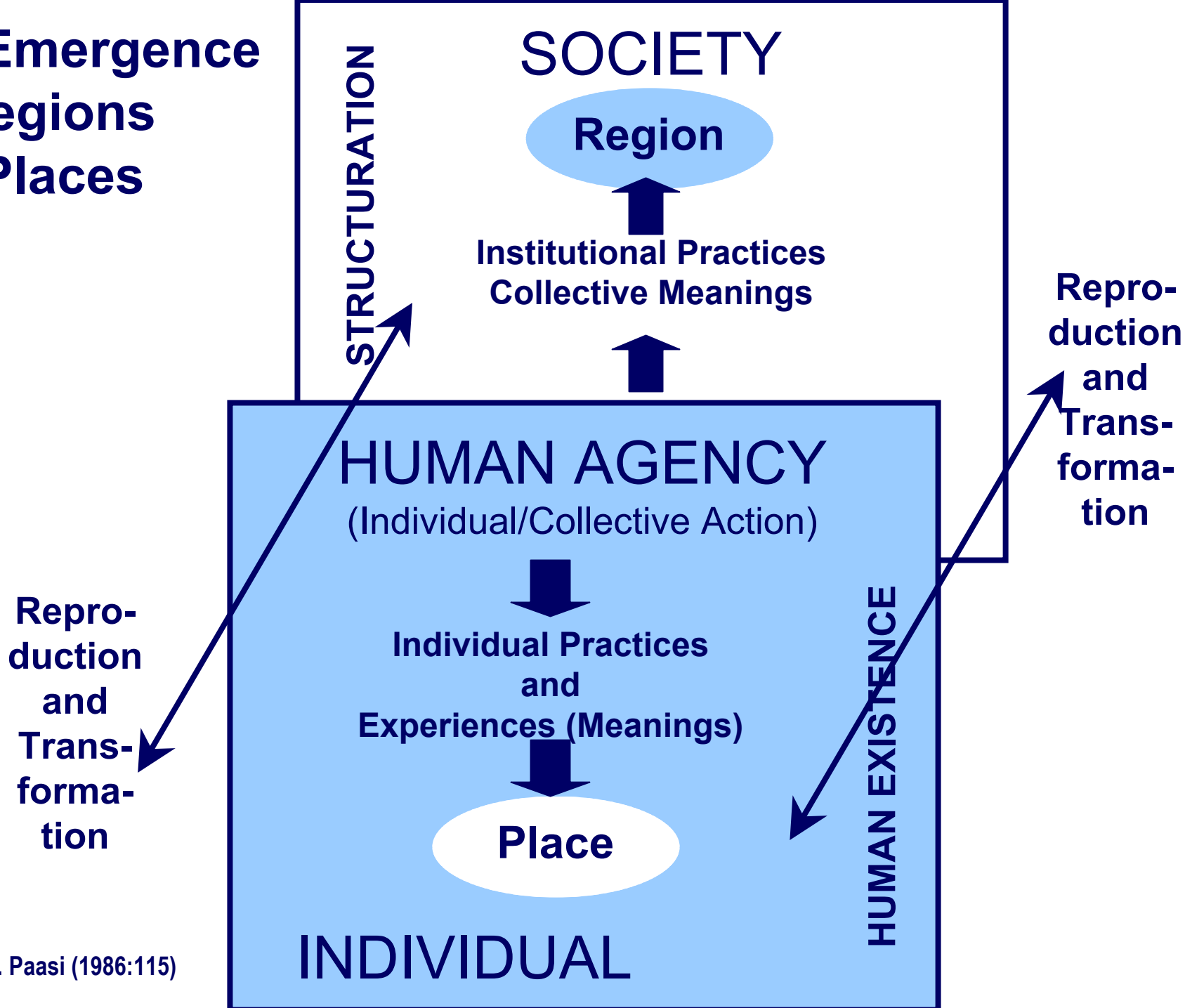


# How do Understand „Regions“?

- ▶ as a purely technical category which can be applied only to the classification of physical and cultural phenomena so as to create logical order on the terrestrial surface of the earth
- ▶ as a purely container for social processes, as pre-given „natural territories“
- ▶ as one expression of time-space specific relations and structures of society, being formed through the development of the society (also being a part of the global organization of socio-spatial reality)

**A „region“ is an institutional sphere of „longe durée“ realized in the relation between individual action and social structure through the structuration process of the society.**

# The Emergence of Regions and Places

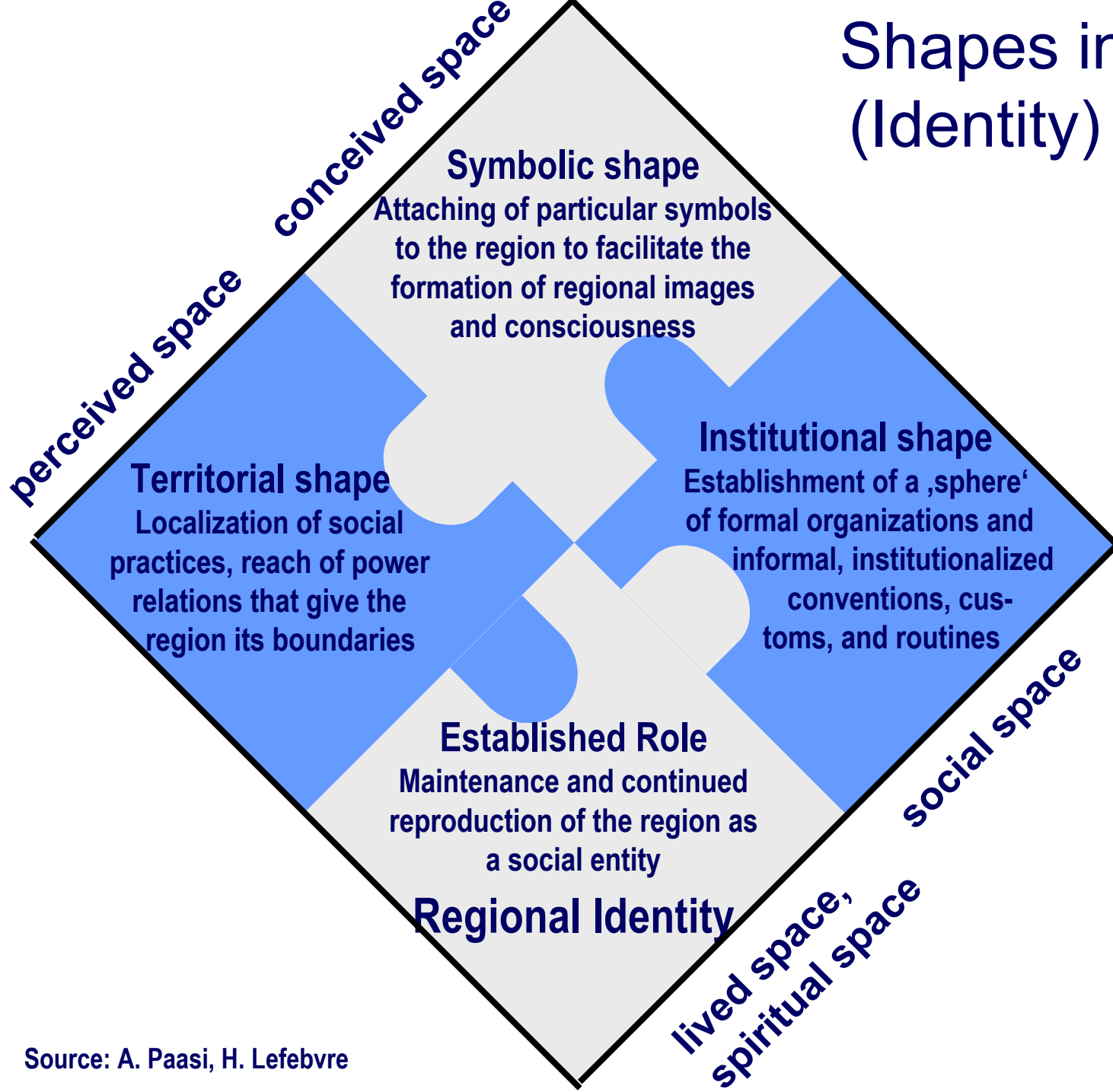


# The **Institutionalization of Regions** (and the **Emergence of Regional Identity**)

„... is a **process** during which some time-space specific level of spatial structure becomes an **established entity** which is **identified in different spheres of social action and consciousness** and which is **continually reproduced in individual and institutional practices** (cultural, legal, educational, economic, political, etc.).“

Anssi Paasi (1986)

# Shapes in Regional (Identity) Formation



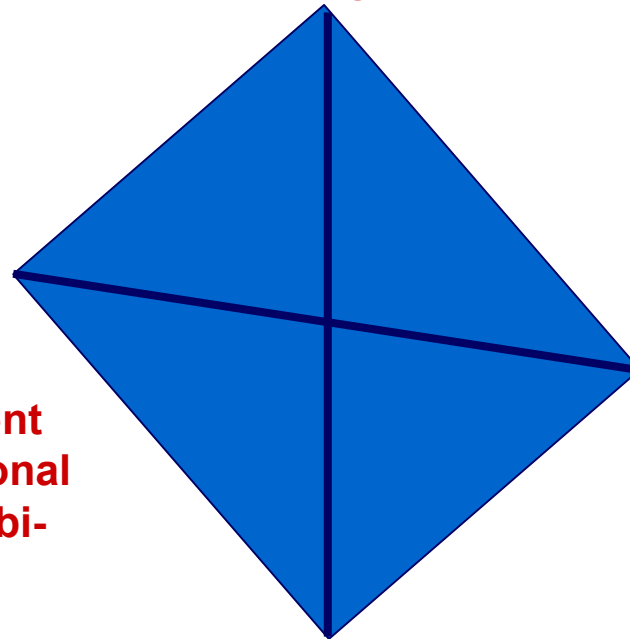
# The Interacting stages of the Emerging Regions and Regional Identity

**Development of conceptual  
(symbolic) shape**

**Constitutes the frame of reference  
in which the structures of expect-  
ations are grounded**

**Assumption of territorial  
awareness and shape**

**Identification as a distinct  
unit in the spatial structure  
of the society-  
as a fundamental requirement  
for the emergence of a regional  
consciousness among inhabi-  
tants**



**The region as an established  
part of a regional system and  
regional consciousness**

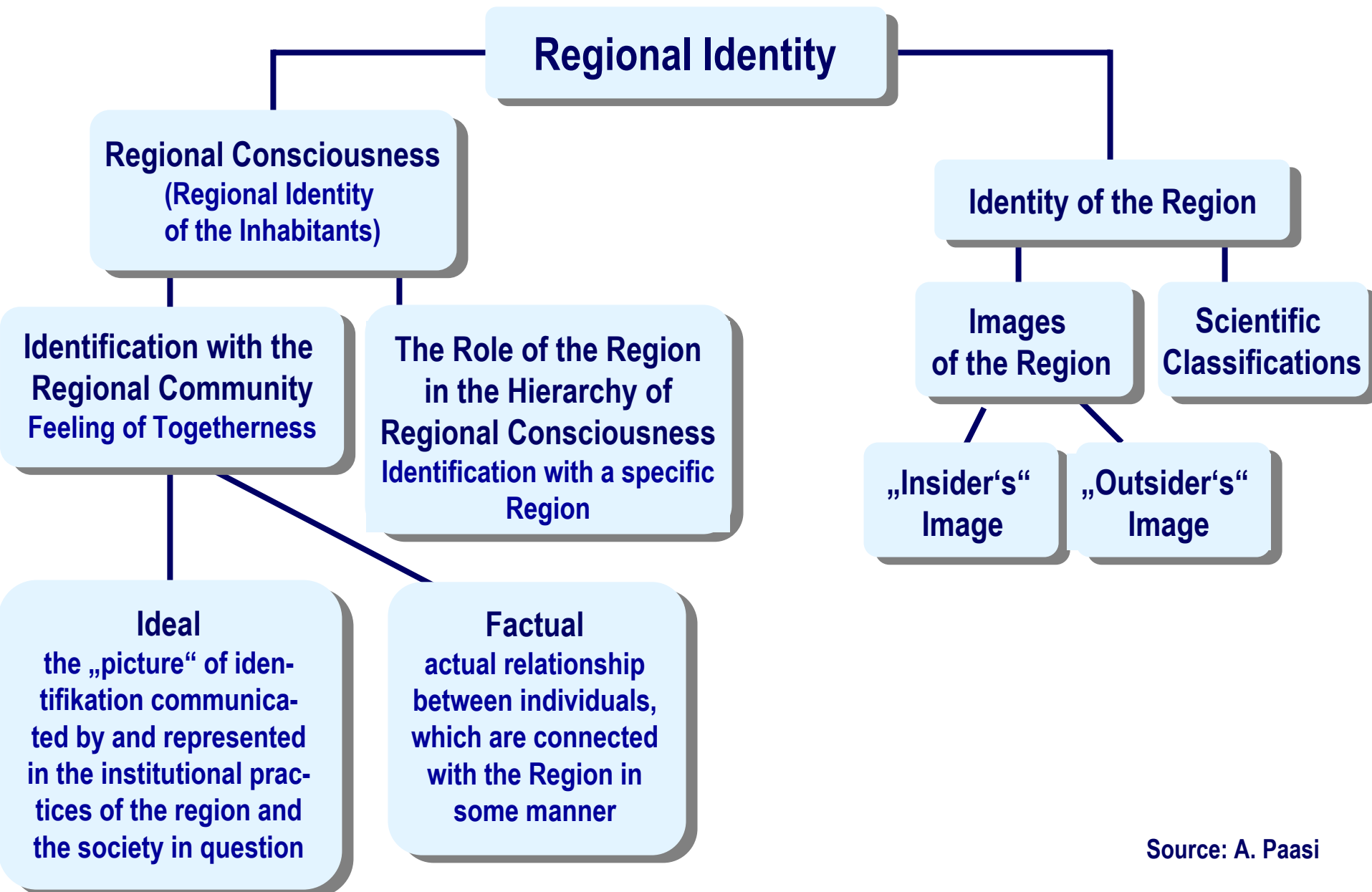
**Social institutions actively  
carry out the reproduction  
of regional consciousness  
and impinge upon every  
day practices by „bringing“  
the region to us“ (maintai-  
ning its structures of expect-  
ations)**

**Identity of the region (com-  
promising a material basis  
and a mental sphere)**

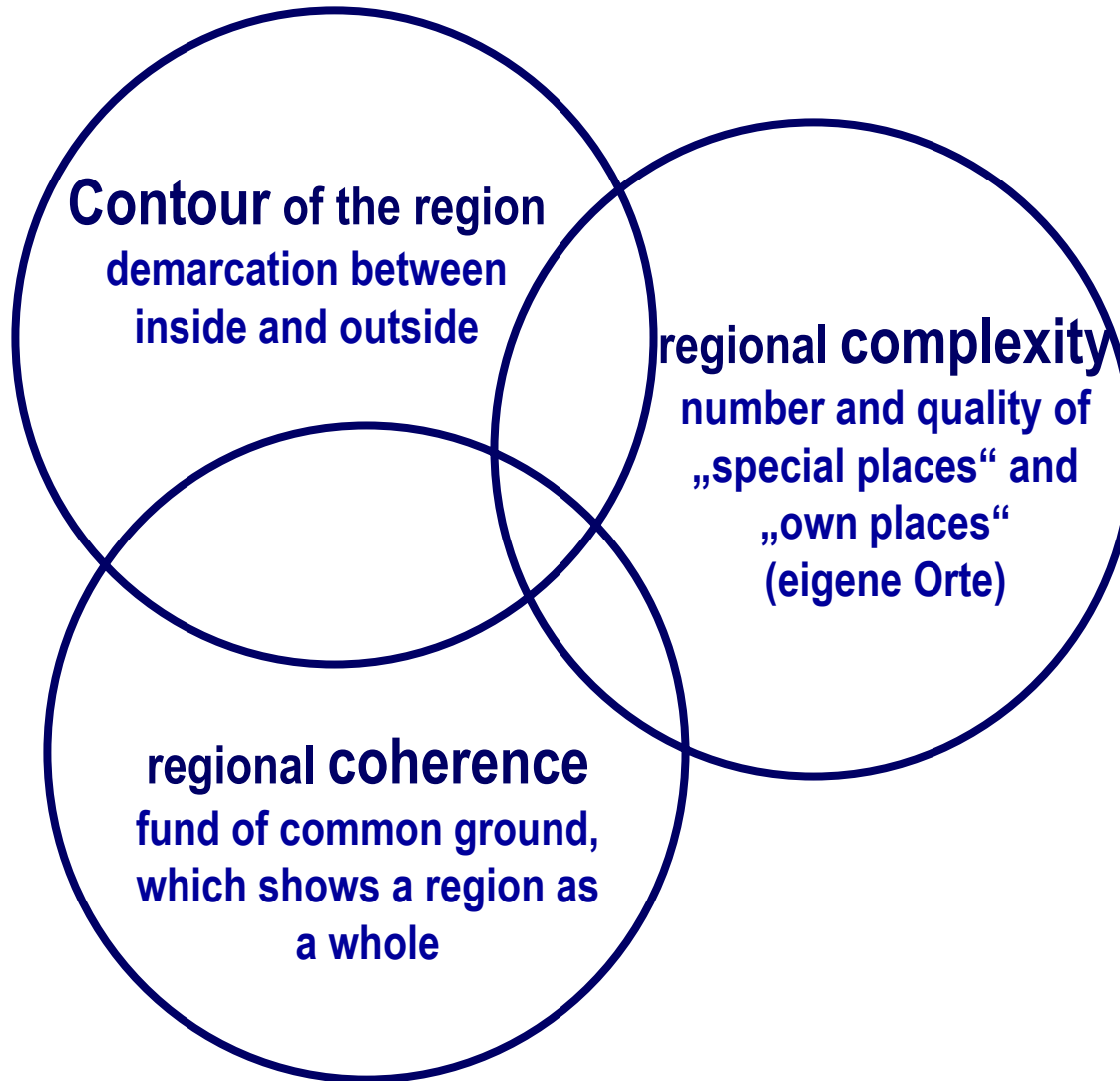
**Development of the sphere  
of institutions**

**Maintaining the image of the  
region and the criteria for the  
identity among the inhabitants**

# Some Dimensions of Regional Identity



# The role of a region (as both a natural and social produced phenomenon) in the process of forming a feeling of belonging and togetherness



= regional qualities or characteristics, but experienced in specific local environments and in social every-day life

# Spatial Image (Raumbild)

includes the interaction of contour, complexity and coherence and is the product of their perception at the same time

