Summary of Ph. D. Thesis titled:

Developing a Comprehensive Criterion for Measuring the Effectiveness of Comprehensive Regional Development
[Case study: El-Minia Governorate in Egypt]
by Mohamed Mahmoud Hassan Maatouk

This research aims to develop a comprehensive criterion for measuring the effectiveness of comprehensive regional development. Actually, it measures the quality of life and the actual level of development of different settlements in El-Minia Governorate (as a case study). This criterion tries to combine Accessibility as a spatial indicator, with other non-spatial indicators covering different domains: social, economic, and services. Also, this research tries to highlight the role of the Comprehensive Criterion as an effective diagnostic tool (development scale) within the hands of the decision-maker for directing the development processes such as defining priorities and targets, selecting, implementing, and evaluating a development strategy. Chapter 1 deals with the problem of research, objectives, hypotheses, delimitations of research, identification of the case study (El-Minia Governorate), research methodology, research organization, definition of terms and list of abbreviations.

Studies in the available literature are reviewed in two chapters: Chapter 2 deals with regional development theories and strategies. It highlights the fact that there is no general theory of regional development and that the only way to find out how decisions are made is to analyze each problem separately on the spot, define priorities and targets then select, implement and periodically evaluate the strategy or the path of development. Chapter 3 deals with principles of the science of developmental measurement. It helps in designing and building the Comprehensive Criterion of this work.

Chapter 4 deals with the procedures of developing the Comprehensive Criterion. It includes indicators that cover different domains: the economic, the social and the spatial. First, data on the non-spatial indicators was obtained from different sources i.e. census statistics and different administrations in El-Minia Governorate. The data was analyzed using suitable statistical techniques. Accessibility represents the spatial domain. It was measured using Discrete Choice Analysis and the Logit Model in particular. Based on this analysis, social behavior parameters were empirically calibrated through selecting and interviewing a sample using the Regional Travel Survey Schedule designed and built by the researcher. Hypotheses of this research were tested. They were all accepted. The Comprehensive Criterion was built and validated. Chapter 5 deals with the role of the Comprehensive Criterion and the way it could be used through all the development stages. It proved to have an effective role as a diagnostic tool and as a guide for the decision-maker throughout all the stages of development.

Chapter 6 deals with an example of implementing a strategy that focuses on using a development criterion in the implementation process. An experiment applied in the field of study is dealt with to make clear the real need of the decision-maker for using a comprehensive criterion in applying the development strategy. This experiment is named “Shorouk” Program for the Integrated Rural Development. Chapter 7 represents the conclusion of research. It presents research summary, findings, recommendations, and suggestions for further research.