



Documentos de Trabajo sobre Economía Regional y Urbana - Municipal categories in Colombia: Moving towards an asymmetric decentralization

Descargar Keep in mind

The series *Documentos de trabajo sobre economía regional y urbana* (only in Spanish, Working Papers on Regional and Urban Economics) is a publication of Banco de la República in Cartagena. The opinions contained in this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not commit Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR Acosta, Karina Reina-Aranza, Yuri

The series *Documentos de Trabajo Sobre Economía Regional y Urbana* is a publication of Banco de la República in Cartagena. The opinions contained in this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not commit Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

Publication Date: Thursday, 7 of December 2023 **Abstract**

Asymmetric decentralization has become relevant in developing countries like Colombia, where capabilities between subnational governments differ dramatically. Although these discussions have been present since the 1960s, the success of decentralization is still a relevant discussion in these contexts, where the classification of the territory is fundamental. This document discusses the possible obstacles of the territorial classes currently used in Colombia. Likewise, it proposes and discusses the usefulness of using recent algorithms from the unsupervised machine learning literature to classify subnational territories. Specifically, this document implements Clustering via Optimal Trees (ICOT), an algorithm that allows us to classify the territories and identify the rules underneath the defined classes. This study also proposes the existence of different territorial typologies according to their uses.