
FROM THE EDITOR – IN – CHIEF

We would like to present our readers with the third volume of the periodical “Mazovia Regional Studies”. The materials contained in this issue relate to the subject of regional development planning. This publication is particularly relevant today for two reasons. First of all, it appears at a time when the causes and effects of the global crisis are being discussed and analyzed, including their regional dimension. Secondly, it appears at a time when the local government of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship (Mazovia Region) in collaboration with the scientific environment began studies intended to provide diagnostic basics for forecasting and modelling regional development.

Articles in the first part of the volume refer to the issue of a new European development strategy after 2010. Although the articles do not relate directly and entirely to the crisis, they discuss the problems of building effective programs of regional development: which questions are crucial to the future of regions, what are the most effective approaches and planning instruments, what challenges can be expected in the near future and what conclusions can be drawn from the experience of the last few years. The volume starts with the article of Krzysztof Opolski and Marcin Dwórzniak which describes the use of economic data in the strategic planning of regional development. It presents an analysis of the main economic indicators that are crucial in the creation of strategic plans and also describes mechanisms that affect the economic development of countries and regions. The second article, written by Małgorzata Sulmicka, presents the process and outcome of regional consultations of the new Lisbon Strategy. The article contains many valuable insights about the regions’ evaluation of the strategy for the future of regional development in the EU, as well as their demands and suggestions.

The second part of the volume contains selected materials from the conference “World – Europe – Poland. The future of the Mazovia Region” organized in Warsaw in May 2009. The conference inaugurated a research program “The development trends of the Mazovia Region” implemented by the Mazovian Office for Regional Planning in Warsaw. During the conference the following panels were held: Mazovia’s partner regions panel, an international experts panel conducted by professor Kukliński and workshops (“Society”, “Economy”, “Space”) aimed at informing about the details of the program and discussing with conference participants and experts the scope of planned research. This part of the volume includes an article outlining the assumptions and objectives of “The development trends of the Mazovia Region” project, articles based on the introductions to the workshops presented during the conference by the moderators of the partner regions panel and the international experts panel. Professor Zbigniew Strzelecki’s

article describes the background of the project, while the articles of Kazimierz Kuciński and Janusz Witkowski present issues related to the conceptualization of its research.

A wide introduction to the discussion concerning the problems of the future of Mazovia is presented in an article by professor Antoni Kukliński. It sets out the main questions and issues on which panel experts focused during the discussion. The following articles refer to many issues and hypotheses presented in professor Antoni Kukliński's text:

- Jean-Marie Rousseau – addresses the issues of regional development in the situation of the global economic crisis and the necessity of using innovative approaches to generate development incentives,
- Bruno Amoroso – the article is an attempt at evaluating The Development Strategy for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship from the perspective of international experience in creating development strategies and formulating policies aimed at their implementation,
- Jan Grzegorek and Andrzej P. Wierzbicki – describe relations between the level of economic development and the level of use of modern electronic media,
- Monika Łazowska, Jerzy Pietrasz, Wojciech Rzućek, Andrzej P. Wierzbicki and Beata Ziewiec – the article discusses selected aspects of the impact of the Internet and information technologies on the development of the Mazovia Region,
- Olli Pekka Hatanpää (Uusimaa Region) and Tuija Meisaari-Polsa (Stockholm Region) – describe selected problems and experiences in the field of their regions' development.

The material discussed briefly in the first and second part of the volume is completed in the Varia part by two interesting reviews of publications on regional development.

I hope that the following issue of the periodical "Mazovia Regional Studies" will provide some interesting reading and will be a useful source of information and knowledge for our readers.

Editor – in – Chief

Zbigniew Strzelecki, Ph. D.