

**POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**STRATEGIC
REGIONAL
POLICY**

**A. STRASZAK AND J.W. OWSIŃSKI
EDITORS**

PART II

WARSAW 1985



SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY

Paradigms, Methods, Issues and Case Studies

A. Straszak and J.W. Owsinski
editors

Documentation of the workshop on "Strategic Regional Policy", December 10 - 14, 1984, Warsaw, organized by the Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

PART II

WARSAW 1985



38574 / II

VIII. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chairman of the round table session: P. Joynt

Discussion participants: R. Bolton, S. Ikeda, A. Straszak,
L. Lacko, K. Moeller, L. Kairiukstis,
A. Kochetkov, D. Boekemann, R. Espejo,
M. Steiner, T. Vasko, I. Masser,
S. Dresch, P. Joynt.

At the beginning, a series of fundamental problems were indicated by the session Chairman, including definitional ones regarding the very place of the approaches presented in the classification of scientific endeavour stages, and regarding the notions used, such as region, strategy, policy. The speaker pointed out that a "pragmatic approach" is taken, with regard to both questions. An effective application of this approach was illustrated by the involvement of participants in the game* played just prior to the session.

In the general discussion first the question of integration of environmental issues into the overall economic frame was taken up. As an illustration of actual occurrences the case of Shinkansen, Japan, was quoted. Complete reduction of additional noise created by this railway line was evaluated to cost approximately the same amount as construction of the line itself. Although this was not considered, especially at the outset, groups of residents brought the cases in courts. An instance, from the locale of the Nagoya Shinkansen station shows that some, albeit not full, compensation may be granted. Thus, all possible negative effects have to be considered and actual settling is a matter of political compromise. Another case, from Poland, where growing public concern forced closing of a part of large aluminum plant, was also cited. It would have certainly costed all parties involved less if environmental concerns were integrated in the produce from the start. A similarity was pointed out that exists, to a certain degree, between the Shinkansen case and the Polish open-cast lignite case**.

* see paper by L. Kruś and J. Sosnowski (eds.).

** see paper by J.W. Owsiniński and K. Hołubowicz (eds.).

On the other hand, with growing environmental concerns special offices or even ministries had been created, but when they are not vested with appropriate power, e.g. financial capacities, and there is not enough integration on the lower levels, such actions help but a little.

Although environment-related discussions are typical for regional science and policy meetings, it is true that environmental questions usually transcend regional boundaries, and therefore appropriate broader organizational solutions are necessary.

Another point discussion concerned IIASA's role within the domain. Suggestions ranged from clarification of basic notions, as called for by the Chairman, through methodological research of inter-relations of actors' roles in regional development, to pragmatic aspects of planning tools, e.g. resolving the sectors-regions dilemma, having appeal to decision makers. With regard to the latter the gaming approaches and the models similar to the one presented by A. Umnov were cited as good examples. Strategic monitoring* was proposed as another theme proper for IIASA. All that, however, must in reality be contained in the modest framework of IIASA task resources.

Elaborating on the "missing links" subject participants indicated that not enough attention was paid to what R. Bolton and S. Dresch here called for, i.e. consideration of the roles of actual policy-making in the domain under study. Of course, such consideration may require an additional workshop to be held. This particular missing link is related to emphasis on models, while context, actors, people affected and processes occurring among these might be lost out of the sight, together with the communication problems.

Then, again it was stressed that certain types of developments - diffusion of an approach, like the "integrated regional development" notion, as well as actual regional changes, take very long periods of time, of the scale ranging from a couple of years to decades. Thus, these sorts of overlapping, long-wave

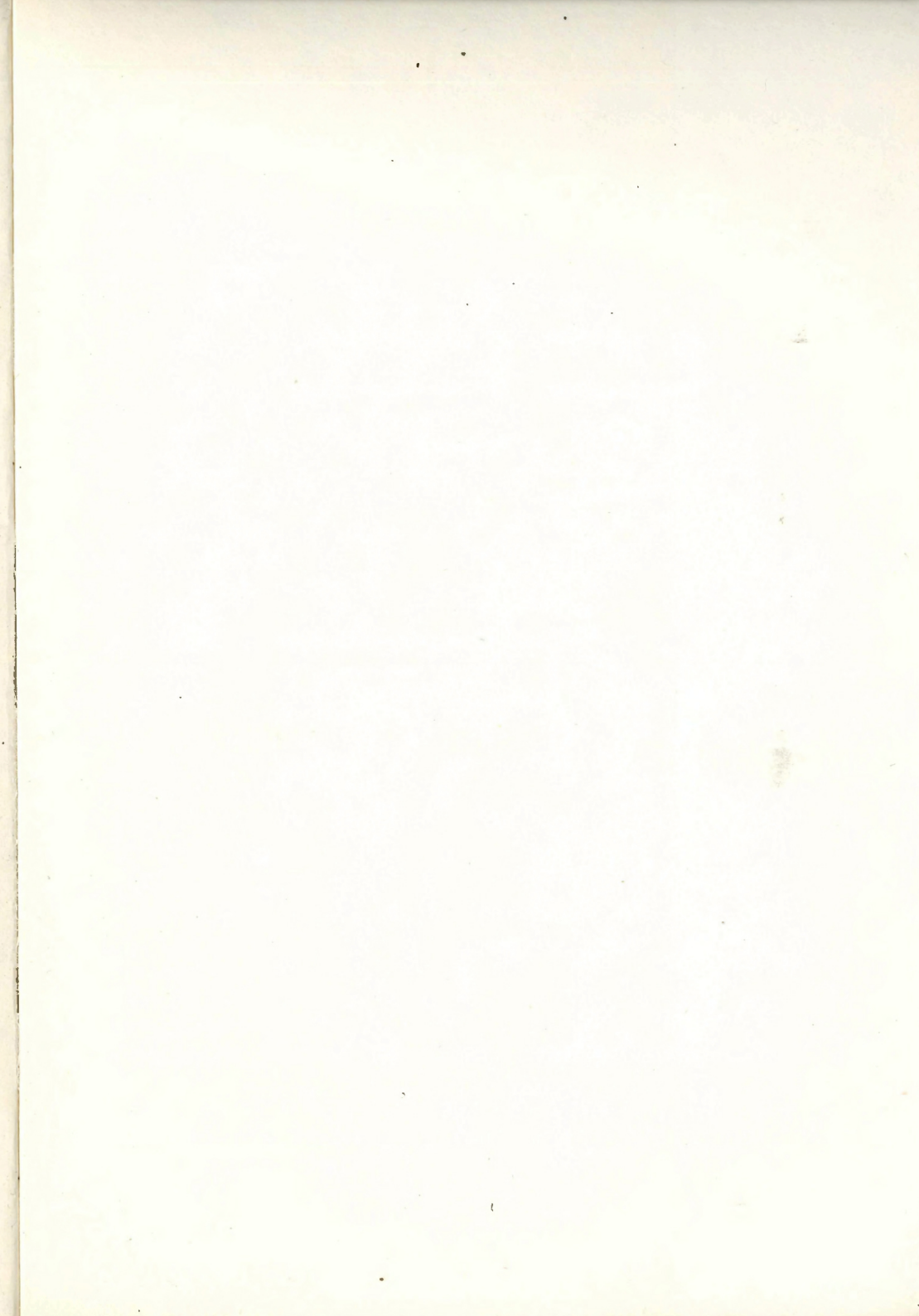
* see paper by I. Masser (eds.).

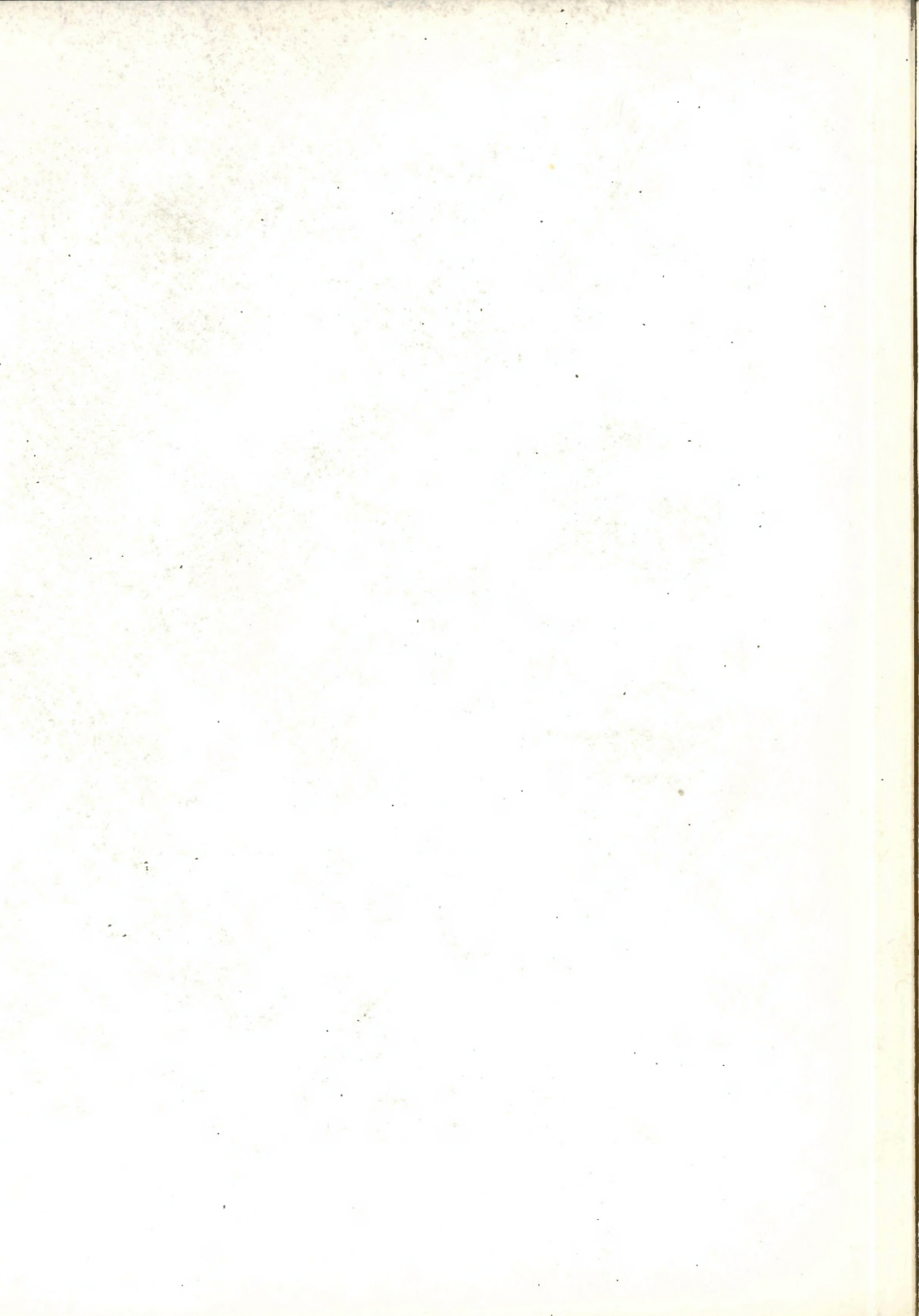
dynamics and their interactions should be taken into account when analysing political, social and economic aspects of development. In order to do that, in-depth study, together with modelling, is necessary, including other approaches, e.g. as indicated in papers by S. Dresch and A. Mouwen. Generally, before asking a politician for a view or a decision, there must be a structure ready to incorporate it.

One of the participants compared the development-environment situation to the anecdote quoted by G. de Maupassant, where husband had been defined as a man who helps his wife solve the problems she would not have, had she not married him. That, however, is not very grave until problems are solved. The same participant quoted, though, one of his colleagues economists as describing the recent economic history of his country in the following way: in the '50s the development occurred at the expense of living standards, in the '60s - at the expense of agriculture, in the '70s - at the expense of infrastructure, and nowadays the search is on for something at the expense of what the development could still go on. Hopefully, this might as yet not be the case with technology and environment, with technological and infrastructural reconstruction.

Tools were deemed necessary which enhance understanding and communication at the basic scientific level, at the level of model-builder - user dialogue, and in actual planning and decision making. They would vary not only in detailedness, but also in weight given to individual aspects of the problem area.









IBS Kont
38574/II
podręczna

ADDRESS

6, NEWELSKA ST.

01-447 WARSAW

Tel. 36-44-14 , 36-81-50

Telex: 812397 ibs pl