

SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SZCZECIN DEPARTMENT  
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF SZCZECIN  
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION OF FOOD ECONOMY

# MODELLING OF ECONOMY IN SPECIALLY PROTECTED REGIONS

*Proceedings of the international conference  
held on 9-11 june 1994 in Drawno, Poland*

SZCZECIN 1994

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**Editor: Bogdan Krawiec**

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## THE VILLAGE OF FUTURE - VILLAGE STRUCTURE, SPHERE OF LABOUR AND LIFE

*Rudi Schwarzbach and Martin Wolter*

*Association "Griese Gegend" e.V., Woosmerhof*

### **Preliminary remarks:**

In the East German countries of the Federal Republic of Germany many changes have taken place as the result of the reunification.

The introduction of the free market economy in the East German federal lands has led, on the one hand, to an enormous increase in productivity in the economy and to an oversupply of equipment for the production of consumer goods. On the other hand, this development is accompanied with high unemployment and enormous economic losses in the industry and in the agriculture. In the current phase the new federal lands aren't in the position to rise the ability of competition in the economy units to the western level, to perform the required structure changes, to perform as well as to provide the necessary investment means for the merger and of creation of new jobs.

The new federal lands have performed an enormous structural change in the agriculture, which has been made through reduction of the area under cultivation, changes in the cultivation structure, strong reduction of the animal supply and a huge job reduction. Once powerful agricultural companies (which were named LPG and VEG), have been committed in the development of municipal food supply, renewal of their infrastructure and increase of their social and cultural functions. In particular, small and peripheral rural environs, of low population density and without official jobs, have been endangered by the lack of jobs, poor economic development opportunities and tendencies of the population removal.

The solution of questions in the discriminated rural regions demands:

- the improvement of regional possibilities of capital acquisition,
- the enlargement and the improvement of regional infrastructure,
- the fuse of resources (environment potentials).

These goals are to be reached only by the acquisition of public financial aid and, particularly, by the development of manifold initiatives, in the rural regions, municipalities and village shares even.

### **The birth of the region "Griese Gegend" and the Association of Support**

The rural region "Griese Gegend" lies in the South- Western part of the land Mecklenburg - Vorpommern and comprises parts

of the present circuits Ludwigslust, Hagenow and Schwerin. The "Griese Gegend" once bordered to the former frontier district and central takes a central economic - geographical position in the Federal Republic of Germany. (see figure 1)

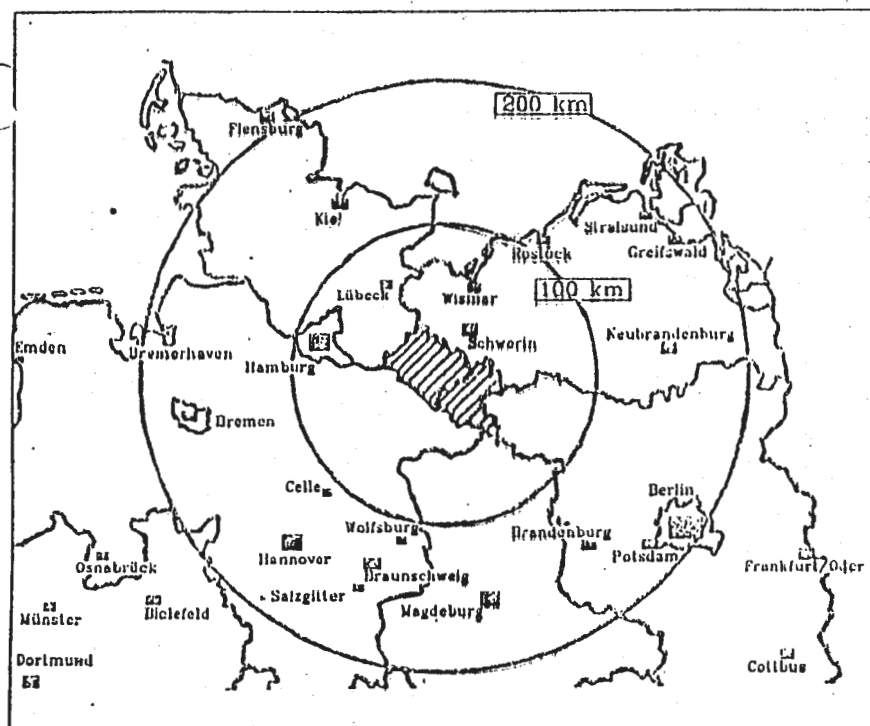


figure 1: The position of the area Ludwigslust/Hagenow in the north german territory

The whole area of the region is  $1173 \text{ km}^2$ , his population density amounts to 33,6 inhabitants per  $1 \text{ km}^2$ . In the "Griese Gegend" there are 3 cities and 58 municipalities with overall 65 villages.

About 40.000 people live in the towns and in the municipalities of the "Griese Gegend". Over 15.7% of the population

of the production age is unemployed. A great part of employees commute to companies working in Hamburg, Niedersachsen and Schleswig-Holstein.

The area is dominated by the agriculture and forestry. The agriculturally used land covers the area of 61,6% (64.345 ha), whole the forests take the area 26,5% (27.681 ha) of the whole area of the region.

Great industrial companies hardly work in the region. Several small and middle class companies have started since the reunification of Germany.

The region has a large natural potential, since on its territory one can find many landscape, flora and fauna attractions - such as: 30 m high dunes, numerous unique biotopes, rare species of plants and animals. In addition, some examples of old architecture (churches, characteristic street villages).

In order to solve the manifold problems, in June 1990 the Association of Support "Griese Gegand" was established. The Association has been awarded the status of a Works - Labour - Structure - Development Organization (German abbreviation - ABS). At present, the association has 93 individual members and works 27 municipalities of rural districts of Ludwigslust, Hagenow and Schwerin. It is run by the manager, chairment and the board of directors. Now 118 women, 65 men and 7 adolescences are involved in its activities. The Association is supported financially by the Schwerin employment office and the authorities of Ludwigslust and Hagenow circuits. From 1991 to the end of 1993 the members of the Association worked out 32 projects, which were mostly financed by the Schwerin employment office.



### **Selected results of the work of the Association of Support "Griese Gegend" and now being prepared projects**

It is obvious that, even in the future, the agriculture and forestry will be the economically dominating sectors. Thus, it is important to use all opportunities, concerning existing processing capacities and food sales potentials. On the other hand, a significant part of the arable land will be taken from the agricultural cultivation by the EC, which plans to take over about 20% of the arable land. So, one has to seek other alternatives of the use of the land. One of them consists in using the land for non-food production, e.g. raw materials.

In 1994 the Association launched its own experimental station for cultivation of chinareed (*Misconthus*), fibre flax, topinambur, kontgrass sunflower and other plants. It is expected that the results of the work will be applied soon in agriculture and industry producing consumer goods.

The future use of chinareed is provided for the manufacturing of cultivation pots for market gardens, damping materials in the construction industry, packing material and burning materials in heating plants.

For the components of topinambur there is a big demand for medical purposes. The processing of topinambur is planned in a farina factory to insulin.

Also buckwheat and other products can easily find a buyer. For purposes of the landscape cultivation and renaturalization of heaths a flock of sheep from Niedersachsen will be grown starting from 1994. The wool produced will be used for manufacturing damping materials.

A very interesting task is a project elaborated by the As-

sociation "Griese Gegend" in cooperation with other partners in order to re-naturalize the wild salmon fish in Westmecklenburg/Elbe. The project has been already widely advanced. In 1992 and 1993 a brook for fish was re-naturalized (banks were reconstructed, gravel was put onto the bottom, typical wood was planted). On 24. March of this year first young fish was released into this brook. (salmon)

2. The Association not only deals with matters of unemployed, but also is concerned with the support of active workers from different commercial and manufacturing jobs, such as locksmiths, electrician, bricklayers, carpenters, workers for drainage and forrest , etc.

An important fields of work of this specialists are sanitation of dumps for municipal waste, the construction of decentralizing sewage removal plants for municipalities of region, demolition of old buildings and systems, contaminated land sanitation for former GUS - objects, restoration of buildings, plant of woods at banks of rivers.

#### Several selected examples:

From 1991 to 1993 numerous poor-functioning dumps were closed up in the countryside and 18 waste dumps were again put into operation

The construction of new waste dumps needs a great amount of money, and often the costs grow unexpectedly; also high quality labour is required. The proof of this is a film about the dumps in Groß Laasch and Mezendorf, which was produced on order of the board of environment. Because the running of se-

wage refinement offices is very expensive, a great need for creating decentralized sewage plants offices arenes.

The association does not only build and sell biological compact plants but also hydraulics pumps are produced and sold. 42 km<sup>2</sup> woods were planted by rivers and back fastenings were produced.

The association, thanks to the orders which were placed at it, got income of 500.000 marks.

Turnover of the association:	1991	=	0,8 million marks
	1992	=	2,1 million marks
	1993	=	5,2 million marks

3. The association support the development and recovery in the region. It's estimated, that the region earns about 5 - 8% of its receipts due existing natural and cultural potentials, favourable polition in relation to Hamburg, Berlin and Schwerin, and creates good opportunities for short tourist stays.

The association supports f.e. development of the village Glaisin, which is to become on architectural monument due to its numerous historical buildings. The association also established a workshop called "Frauenwerkstatt". With the help of latter, 45 women are taught the skills of weaving, tying and glass painting.

4. The association elaborates projects to support the whole region.

These projects are supported by the EC, and include: - tourism

- agriculture

- forestry

- fishing

- renovation of village

- manufacturing and trade
- middle class industrial companies  
(only for the processing of agricultural products and goods)
- decentralized sewage removal  
(possibilities from one family house to municipalities of about 15.000 inhabitants)
- growing again raw materials
- innovation and education centre.

5. The association of Support "Griese Gegend" has set itself in agreement with country farmers organization, ministry for social politics and different education centres new tasks in foundation of an innovation and education centres for rural environment in Western Mecklenburg. Hereby is provided a seat of the association to make possible practical implementation of scientific results for concrete tasks such as cultivation and processing of growing again raw materials and retraining of skilled workers. Capacities of schoolrooms and overnight lodgings were already increased.

In this time interested people can complete a voluntary ecological year in the association.

6. The Association of Support "Griese Gegend" has the obtained following results with reference to the employment of workers.

year	number of employed	crossing in a firm reference [*]
1990	7	-
1991	62	12
1992	137	25
1993	167	52

\* including self - employed

It has become evident that it is necessary to improve the existing situation in the discriminated rural regions through manifold initiatives at local and regional levels, with the support of state- owned institutions, without waiting for decisions of central authorities.

### **Standpoints of development of discriminated rural regions**

On the basis of our experience, we have formulated several standpoints for development of discriminated rural regions and municipalities:

- Creating permanent jobs in the rural regions we must put a top priority on all aspects. It is better to pay money on new jobs than to spend it on unemployment benefits. A main effort should be focused on creation of permanent jobs for women, because they are stronger influenced by unemployment than men.

Since traditional jobs get lost in agriculture, an effort must be put on creation of alternative jobs, such as: processing of commercial agricultural products, landscape protection, tourism as well as other opportunities outside the agriculture.

- One should prevent any further removal of young people from the rural regions. It is important not to use our villages exclusively for overnight lodgings, or perhaps the weekends.
- It is necessary to improve our countryside. The steps to be taken should include: care of monuments, removal of hazards for the environment, prohibition of the use of materials which are not suitable for needs of natural environment. The rural regions must become more attractive for guests from other regions.

- Between the economy and ecology some kind of agreement must be reached. Some incentives should be applied to develop soft tourism in rural districts.
  
- The quality of life in discriminated rural regions is much lower in comparison with old federal lands. It is important to prevent old traditions, and create new opportunities for cultural and sports events.

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