

POLSKA AKADEMIA NAUK
INSTYTUT GEOGRAFII i PRZESTRZENNEGO ZAGOSPODAROWANIA
im. Stanisława Leszczyckiego

DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA nr 27

**TRANSFORMATIONS OF RURAL AREAS
IN POLAND AND BULGARIA
A CASE STUDY**

Editors:

**BOŻENA GAŁCZYŃSKA
MARGARITA ILIEVA**



WARSZAWA 2002

DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA

Komitet Redakcyjny:

Krzysztof Błażejczyk (redaktor)
Bronisław Górz
Andrzej Kowalczyk
Teresa Kozłowska-Szczęsna
Roman Soja
Alojzy Woś
Barbara Jaworska (sekretarz)

Wydawca:
IG i PZ PAN

Adres redakcji:
00-818 Warszawa, ul. Twarda 51/55
tel.(48-22) 69 78 851
fax (48-22) 620 62 21

PL - ISSN 0012-5032
ISBN 83-87954-36-5

POLSKA AKADEMIA NAUK
INSTYTUT GEOGRAFII i PRZESTRZENNEGO ZAGOSPODAROWANIA
im. Stanisława Leszczyckiego

DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA nr 27

**TRANSFORMATIONS OF RURAL AREAS
IN POLAND AND BULGARIA
A CASE STUDY**

Editors:

**BOŻENA GAŁCZYŃSKA
MARGARITA ILIEVA**



WARSZAWA 2002

Recenzent:

Prof. dr. hab. Andrzej Stasiak



Table of Contents

Introduction <i>Bożena Galczyńska, Margarita Ilieva</i>	5
Transformation of the rural areas in Poland. The spatial processes and the regional differentiation <i>Bożena Galczyńska</i>	7
Transformation of the rural areas in Bulgaria (processes, territorial disparities) <i>Margarita Ilieva</i>	21
Transformations in the functional structure of the rural areas in Poland. Selected problems <i>Władysława Stola</i>	35
Problems of rural population in Bulgaria <i>Chavdar Mladenov</i>	51
Changes of Polish agriculture in 1990s and the integration with European Union <i>Roman Kulikowski</i>	59
The underdeveloped rural regions – an object of the present day regional policy in Bulgaria <i>Iliya Iliev</i>	75
Directions in functional-spatial transformations of rural regions in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship in the years 1988-2000 <i>Mirosław Biczkowski, Jan Falkowski</i>	85
Rural areas transformation in West-Pomeranian Voivodship <i>Michał Jasiulewicz</i>	105
Preservation of the natural and cultural inheritance in rural areas in Bulgaria in the period of the transition <i>Petar Petrov, Alexandra Kiselkova, Emil Ivanov</i>	123
Resources for development of rural tourism in Bulgaria <i>Ivan Markov</i>	133
The tourism in the Bulgarian seaside villages <i>Nayden Apostolov</i>	141
Agro-tourism in rural areas on the basis of the Kielecczyzna <i>Ewa Pałka</i>	149

INTRODUCTION

This volume of *Dokumentacja Geograficzna* [Geographical Documentation] deals with the transformation processes, taking place within the rural areas of Poland and Bulgaria after 1989.

The currently important subject of research was taken up by the Polish and Bulgarian geographers in the form of the research project "Transformation of rural areas after the changes in the political system. Selected studies in Poland and Bulgaria", implemented under the framework of the scientific collaboration between the Polish and Bulgarian Academies of Science. The project leader's from Bulgaria was assoc. prof. Margarita Ilieva and from Poland dr Bożena Gałczyńska. During the work on the project (1999-2001) comparative studies were carried out for the selected rural areas in Poland and Bulgaria, two conferences were held, in Koszalin (Poland) and Veliki Preslav (Bulgaria), as well as papers were published in the publishing departments of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Europa XXI*, 2000), the Technical University of Koszalin (Socio-economical alterations in rural areas of Central Europe in the transition period, 2000), and the Institute of Geography of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia (*Problemi na Geografiyata*, 2001). The present collective report makes also use of the results from the research conducted in Poland and Bulgaria within the framework of the research project carried out in the years 1996-1998: "Transformation of the Polish and Bulgarian farming after 1989 and its spatial consequences" (published in *Problemi na Geografiyata*, Sofia, 1998).

The publication contains the articles of Polish and Bulgarian geographers, collaborating on the project. These articles show the changes taking currently place within the Polish and Bulgarian countryside, the changes oriented both towards the multifunctional development of these areas (agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and crafts, services), and in the direction of preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of these areas. Individual papers analyse the demographic, social, and economic problems, attention being paid to the positive and negative aspects of the changes taking place. The analyses carried out were performed both on the scale of the entire respective countries, and for the selected regions in Poland (Western Pomeranian, Cuiavian-Pomeranian, Świętokrzyskie, Lublin, Greater Poland, and Masovian) and in Bulgaria (the central and eastern parts of Northern Bulgaria, and South-Western Bulgaria), these regions constituting the areas of joint study.

Some papers, side by side with the analysis of the changes taking place within the Polish and Bulgarian countryside, contain the methodological suggestions of studying the new forms of activity on the areas considered, namely of agro-tourism, rural tourism, new economic activities, as well as the synthetic approaches to the poorly developed areas and the functional structure of rural areas.

Both countries involved have in perspective the access to the European Union, and so the direction of changes taking place on the rural areas is conform to the recent stipulations formulated in Maastricht, Amsterdam, and Berlin. The existing diversity of the historical and socio-economic aspects of the development paths, as well as the variety and the richness of the natural environments in these countries, however, are to a large extent responsible for the specific character of these changes, which the respective authors tried to present in this publication.

Editors of the volume:
Bożena Gałczyńska and Margarita Ilieva

TRANSFORMATION OF THE RURAL AREAS IN POLAND THE SPATIAL PROCESSES AND THE REGIONAL DIFFERENTIATION

Bożena Gałczyńska

Abstract: The changes in the political-economic system which have taken place since 1989 in Poland released the processes of economic transformation, which encompassed also rural areas. The paper presents the characterisation of the selected processes taking place on these areas in Poland in the period of transformation. The characteristics given are illustrated by the results of studies conducted in the framework of the Polish-Bulgarian research project concerning the transformations in agriculture and rural areas.

Keywords: transformation, rural areas, entrepreneurship, unemployment.

It is twelve years since now when the reform processes started in the Polish economy, brought about by the changes in the political and economic system. These processes are still going on, but their course and tempo of resulting changes are spatially differentiated and depend upon the natural and socio-economic conditions proper for the particular areas of the country, as well as upon the level of their development to date.

The changes taking place are the effect of both the changes in the very economy, resulting from the necessity of the continuous modernisation of its organisation and management, and of the changes entailed by the goal set ahead of Poland – the accession to the European Union. The attractiveness of these changes, and at the same time their very significant and measurable economic and social effects, including the negative ones, brought numerous reports of both geographers and economists, concerning the course and the spatial differentiation of a number of processes, which intensified or appeared during the period in question in rural areas. Among the synthetic elaborates, which appeared within this framework, one should mention those related to the influence of the structural transformations in farming on the development of rural space (Stasiak, Zgliński, eds., 1997, Głębocki, ed., 1998), to the changes in agriculture and countryside in the suburban zone of Warsaw (Gałczyńska, Kulikowski, 2000), to the transformations in agriculture (Kulikowski, 1997, 2000; Szczęsny, 1999; Zgliński, 2000), to the transformations in agriculture and in rural areas in the period of pre-accession to the European Union (Bański, ed., 2001; Wilkin, 2001), to the problem areas in farming (Bański, 1999), to the rural problem areas (Rosner, ed., 1999, 2000), as well as to the multi-functional development of the rural areas (Kłodziński, 1996, 1999; Kołodziejczyk, 2000a; Stasiak, 2000; Stola, 2002). There were also numerous publications concerning demographic issues, including those by Stola (1998), Frenkel (1999), and Gałczyńska (2000), and the ones emphasising in a particular manner the problems of poverty and unemployment (Warzywoda-Kruszyńska et al., eds., 2001), as

well as the publications analysing the level of economic and social infrastructure on rural areas (Kołodziejczyk, 2000b).

The purpose of the present report is to attempt a characterisation of the transformation processes taking place on the rural areas in Poland, along with their socio-economic consequences. The basis for the report is constituted by the results of studies conducted in Poland in the framework of the joint Polish-Bulgarian research project entitled “Transformation of the rural areas after the changes of the political system. Selected studies in Poland and in Bulgaria” in the years 1999-2001, as well as the results of an earlier study (1996-1998) entitled “Transformation in the Polish and Bulgarian agriculture”, as well as the published statistical data and reports (Gałczyńska, Ilieva, 2000).



Fig. 1. Areas of investigation

The study was carried out on selected rural areas in the regions differing among themselves with respect to both natural and socio-economic aspects. The communes (gminy) selected for the study¹ (Fig. 1) constituted the model areas for the territories characterised by the highest intensity of the ownership transformations in the country in view of the high share

¹ In the Western-Pomeranian region: the communes of Barwice, Będzino, Białogard, Bobolice, Gościno, Karlino, Polanów, Połczyn-Zdrój; in the Warmian-Masurian region: Ostróda, Stawiguda; in the Świętokrzyskie region: Busko-Zdrój, Końskie, Masłów, Pińczów, Smyków; in the Greater Poland region: Krobia; in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region: Chełmża, Ciechocin, Zbiczno; in the Lublin region: Wojciechów; in the Masovian region: Jabłonna, Zakroczym.

of the state-owned agriculture in the past (the Western Pomeranian and the Warmian-Masurian regions), and for the agricultural-industrial territories with domination of the small acreage and bi-occupational farming (the Świętokrzyskie region). Besides, the representative communes were selected in the Greater Poland region, known for the high level of agricultural development, in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region, with well collaborating farming and food industry, in the Lublin region, an agricultural area featuring high production reserves, and finally in Masovia, in the suburban zone of Warsaw. Unfortunately this researches didn't include south parts of Poland: Małopolska and Subcarpathian region. The studies conducted for comparative purposes, despite the small representation of communes, allow for the identification of some processes, their specific features, and the regional differentiation, that are observed within the rural areas in Poland in the period of transformation.

1. Transformations in rural areas

The changes, which took place in the economic system in Poland after 1989, entailed significant transformations in the structure and functioning of the economy. Introduction of principles of market economy in countryside brought changes in land economy, on the labour market, in the availability of production means, and in the distribution of the products turned out. The necessity arose of restructuring the former state farms, the co-operative farms, and the enterprises associated with agriculture and functioning in its economic environment. The process of privatisation, entailing changes in the ownership structure of land and enterprises, is continuing. The processes of transformation in agriculture and in the entire economy caused, side by side with the positive changes, such as the new investments, inflow of western capital, and the development of entrepreneurship, also numerous problems and disadvantageous phenomena, both in the productive sphere of agriculture, and in the social sphere, bringing especially unemployment and impoverishment of the rural population.

1.1. Changes in the ownership and acreage structure of farms

The largest changes in the rural areas took place in northern Poland, where transformations affected the former state farms. In 1989 these farms accounted for 18.5% of the agricultural land in Poland, but there were areas in northern Poland (like the former – until 1998 – provinces of Koszalin or Słupsk), where this share exceeded 50%. In 1991 Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury (further on: the Agency) was established meant to take over the assets of the former state farms and to ensure their development.

The restructuring and the privatisation of the state farming on these areas did not result, though, in any radical change in the overall structure of Polish agriculture. The majority of land having belonged to the former state farms was rented out, and so

in terms of land ownership the state ownership remained at a similar level, although its share in terms of use decreased to 6.7%.

On the basis of the land having belonged to the former state farms, 6,200 large acreage farms were established, with areas above 100 hectares each (average area in this group of farms exceeding 470 hectares). There were among them 1,419 farms with 500-1,000 hectares, and 524 farms with more than 1,000 hectares of the area, mainly in the Western Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian provinces (Zgliński, 2000). In recent years, especially in the Western Pomeranian province, there is a recognisable tendency towards the decrease of area of the rented land, and the increase of the share of the land sold and transferred at no cost (Jasiulewicz, 2002). Owing to the purchases of land by the farmers from the reserves of the Agency, the average acreage of private farms increased there up to 16.8 hectares (the national average being at 8.0 hectares). This area features the share of farms exceeding 20 hectares (15.5%) similar to that existing in the European Union (18.2%). Similarly, in the Warmian-Masurian province the average acreage of a private farm was recently at 15.7 hectares. The structure of the farm population was dominated by the farms of 20-50 hectares of area (31.3%), followed by those exceeding 100 hectares (20.1%), see Suchta and Żebrowski (2001). There was also an increase of the share of larger farms (above 15 hectares) in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian province (Rudnicki, Kluba, 1998), and, consequently, the increase of the average area of a farm in this province to 10.4 hectares. Land renting is usually undertaken by young, educated farmers, who see their future in agriculture. This fact is confirmed by field observations. An illustrative example is provided by a farmer from the commune of Białogard, who manages a family farm of 450 hectares, specialising in pig and cattle raising, and who decides to yet take into tenure 700 hectares. Another farmer, from the municipality of Stawiguda, running an own farm of 50 hectares, leased land from the Agency and now manages the farm of 240 hectares of area, oriented mainly at crop production. After the lease term expires he intends to purchase the land. Yet another farmer, from the commune of Bobolice, who had an own farm of 9 hectares, leased a pasture of 100 hectares and increased his cattle number to 35. The income from the farm is, however, still too small and the farmer undertakes, in addition, cultivation of herbs. An essential barrier to the purchase of land by the farmers is constituted by the lack of capital and by an expensive credit, not allowing for the modernisation nor new investments in the farm. An effective system of support for the farmers from the side of the state is also missing.

The changes in the magnitude structure of the farms are possible in these areas, where there exists a reserve of land having belonged to the former state farms. In other areas, like, for instance, in the suburban zone of Warsaw, especially, where there are good soils, and where the farms are well equipped, there are more people willing to buy than to sell the farms. The situation is similar in the region of Greater Poland and in the areas of good soils in the southern part of the Świętokrzyskie province (Stola, 1997).

A new element of the agricultural land use structure, especially in northern Poland, is brought by the large acreage farms, turned into commercial companies, established on the basis of leased treasury's land. A part of them are the companies with foreign capital, mainly German (in Pomerania and Lubuskie Land, and, to a lesser extent, in Masuria and in the Żuławy (Vistulian Marshlands), but also Danish and Dutch, as well as Scottish and American. Northern Poland is the main area of activity of foreign capital in Polish agriculture. Some 75% of all land used by foreign businesses in Poland is located there (Rudnicki, 2001).

An example is provided by the Scottish company LIND, which leases a farm of 1,000 hectares in the commune of Gościno, producing seed-potatoes there, or a German company, managing a farm in the commune of Białogard, oriented at rape and feedstuffs for the poultry producers. Companies appeared also running farms specialising in animal husbandry. An example is provided by an enterprise in the municipality of Barwice, which was established on the basis of land and assets rented from the Agency (approximately 3,000 hectares), with mixed Polish-American capital, and operates a modern pig farm (45,000 pigs).

There are, as well, companies with uniquely Polish capital, which manage quite well, often involving plants processing the produce from an own farm. Here, an instance is provided by a farm of 2,000 hectares, with pig raising (15,000 pigs) and a modern processing plant (butchery), located in the commune of Bobolice, or by a farm of roughly 1,300 hectares in the commune of Ostróda, established on the leased land having belonged to a state farm, producing cereals and rapeseed, as well as raising dairy cattle.

Foreign capital is also present in food processing. Initially in the form of mixed capital companies, Polish with a share of western capital, after the respective plants are taken over, adapted and modernised, the companies are usually soon bought out and start to function as fully foreign ones. Here, an example is provided by the dairy "Lindals", a Swedish-Danish company located in the commune of Gościno. It ought to be emphasised that the firms emerging are not only oriented at the Polish or Western European market, but increasingly frequently have the intention of exporting to the East, especially to Russia.

1.2. Demographic changes

The rural areas, occupying 93.4% of the total area of the country, are inhabited by 14.7 million people – 38.1% of the total population of Poland. According to the National Census of 1996 almost 9.8 million people were associated with farming, although only 3.5 million worked on their farms. Further, for only 13% of private farmers agriculture was the primary source of income – for the vast majority of them it was merely an additional one. The progressing process of ageing of the countryside causes that there are more and more inhabitants of rural areas, which live on pensions and retirement payments (Głębocki, 1998).

Rural areas, similarly as towns, are subject to the general process of decrease in the numbers of births and the ageing of the society. Still, however, the natural increase within the rural areas on the scale of the entire country is positive. The overall natural increase declined between 1990 and 2000 from 4.1‰ to 0.3‰. Within the rural areas there was a parallel decrease from 6.0‰ down to 1.3‰. The highest natural increase persists on the overpopulated areas of the south-eastern Poland, as well as in the Western Lands, where the age structure of the population is the youngest. It is the lowest on the areas of the Świętokrzyskie, Lublin, Łódź, and Podlasie provinces, as well as in the Masovian, Silesian and Opole provinces.

The sex structure of the population in Poland displays a slight surplus of women (51.4% of the total, i.e. 108 women per 100 men), though this structure is on the average equilibrated in the countryside. The indicator of the number of women per 100 men was quite differentiated in the communes considered in the study, ranging from well below the national average for the rural areas, as observed in the Western Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian provinces (96.7-99.6), to around the average (100) and more – in the communes of the Cuiavian-Pomeranian, Greater Poland, Świętokrzyskie, and Lublin provinces, and in the suburban areas of the Masovian province.

In the years 1990-2000 there has been in the rural areas – similarly as in the entire country – a decrease of the share of population in pre-productive age, from 30.8% to 27.1%, an increase of the share of population in the productive age – from 54.2% to 57.4%, and the increase of the share of the population in the post-productive age – from 15.0% to 15.5%. Rural population is still characterised in comparison with the urban population by a higher share of population in pre-productive and post-productive age. The highest share of the population in the post-productive age was observed within the areas subject to the present study in the communes of the Świętokrzyskie province (16.4%-19.0%) and in Lublin voivodship (19.2%). It was somewhat lower in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian province (15.2%) and in the Greater Poland province (14.1%), while in the Western Pomeranian and Masovian provinces it was at mere 10.8%-13.9%. In the year 2000 the national average of the number of persons in non-productive age per 100 persons in productive age was equal on the rural areas 74, while in towns – 57. This indicator ranged from 68 in the Western Pomeranian region to 70-77 in the Greater Poland, Cuiavian-Pomeranian, Masovian, and Warmian-Masurian provinces, and to 82 in the Lublin region.

Rural population is characterised by a lower level of education than the urban population. Only 48.8% of the rural population have more than primary education (and merely 19.5% - secondary and university education), while in towns this share attains 68%. The share of rural population with university education is at 1.9%, while in towns – at 9.8%. Within the areas of study the highest share of rural population with education exceeding primary school (more than 50%) was observed in Greater Poland and in the suburban zone of Warsaw (the Masovian region), it was average in the Cuiavian-

Pomeranian, Lublin, and Świętokrzyskie provinces (40-50%), while in the Warmian-Masurian region it was even below 40% (Gałczyńska, 2000).

The progressing decline of incomes of the rural population, especially that of the farmers, becomes an essential barrier of access to education for the rural youth. The disadvantageous tendency in this domain is confirmed by the share of students of rural origin at the agricultural universities, amounting to less than 20%, and of those of peasant origin – to less than 10% of the total number of students of these universities (Kowalska, 2000). According to T. Pilch, 50% of the young people in the age of 19-24 years live in the countryside, but only 2% of them learn at the universities.

1.3. Employment in agriculture and outside of it

The specific feature of the rural areas in Poland is the persisting high employment in agriculture (resulting from the small acreage and spatial distribution of farms), estimated by the Central Statistical Office at the level of 24.7% of total employment, although according to other estimates it was much lower – e.g. according to W. Orłowski it was at 16%. The agricultural function remains the dominant one over the majority of rural areas.

The rate of transformations in agriculture depends upon the increase of the number of non-agricultural jobs on the rural areas, and the possibility of getting a job in town. The transformation processes in the entire economy, and especially the ownership transformations and the liquidation of the unprofitable enterprises entailed loss of jobs by many people. A part of them, those who simultaneously managed a farm, had to limit themselves to the farming occupation, some started their own businesses, there was, however, a large part of those who contributed to the share of joblessness. The number of unemployed started to increase again in the recent years, and exceeded already in 2002 the threshold of 3 million. The hidden unemployment in the countryside is, furthermore, estimated at 1.5 million. There are areas, where unemployment took on a permanent character, threatening the economic basis of existence for numerous families. This concerns, in particular, the areas where the “socialised” farming (mainly state farms) had dominated in the past. The highest unemployment shares were observed in the year 2001 in the Warmian-Masurian region (28.7%), in Lubuskie region (24.1%), and in Western Pomeranian (24.0%) one, while the national average was at 17.4%. The new farms, which were established on these areas, employed only a small part of the persons previously employed on the state farms. Consequently, a large group of people occurred, the former inhabitants of the state farm housing estates, living on welfare or from odd jobs, with no perspective for themselves nor for their families. The Agency organises together with the authorities of such communes various courses and trainings, especially for the young, preparing them to work outside of agriculture. These initiatives, though, are not always welcome, and it is certainly not so that a job is always found after a course is finished. An example of a commune, included in the study, where these problems take on a large scale,

is the municipality of Bobolice in Western Pomeranian province, where unemployment rises to 24%. On the other hand, in the commune of Stawiguda (Warmian-Masurian province), where the unemployment rate was lower, and amounted to 12.7%, the training activity brought definite effects and the participants of the courses found in majority employment. The first rural business support centre was established in this commune. It is obvious that not all the commune authorities are equally capable of solving the problems of unemployment. This results both from the activity of the local authorities in undertaking respective initiatives or in finding funds and attracting investors, and from the attitude of the inhabitants themselves. Another important aspect is the location of the commune, i.e. whether it is situated in an attractive area from the point of view of tourism, or close to an urban centre, and – whether it is a typically agricultural commune, or an urban-rural commune.

Other types of problems are faced by the inhabitants of these communes, in which small private farms dominate. The decline of profitability of farming and the difficulties with sales cause that the more farmers seek additional sources of income or introduce changes in their own farms. These changes consist either the change of directions of production, or in introduction of new crops, like cultivation of herbs, or in undertaking of an additional activity, associated with agricultural production, like agricultural processing. The running of the processing activity by the farmets on the basis of their own raw materials is not very frequent and it is observed especially within the suburban areas, like in the suburban zone of Warsaw (legume farms running cucumber processing – in the commune of Zakroczym). The best economic situation in the population of the private farms is observed among the farms specialising in animal husbandry, located in the Warmian-Masurian province (commune of Ostróda), in Greater Poland province (commune of Krobia), in Cuiavian-Pomeranian province (commune of Chełmża), in Świętokrzyskie province (communes of Smyków and Końskie), or in crop production, like the vegetable, orchard and seed farms (suburban zone of Warsaw), frequently linked with the processing plants, or directly with the domestic market (supermarkets, product exchanges), or even the foreign market.

The contemporary changes in farming are expressed through, in particular, appearance of the ecological farms. Farmers undertake production of the so-called “healthy food”, with the help and under supervision of the advisors from the Agricultural Advisory Centres, and obtain the quality certificates. Although such an activity requires a high discipline from the farmer, but revenues resulting from it are encouraging. Alas, the number of such farms is still too small in comparison with other European countries (Gałczyńska, 2001). The ecological farms were encountered during the study in the Świętokrzyskie province (Pińczów commune), as well as in Lublin (Wojciechów commune) and Cuiavian-Pomeranian (Ciechocin commune) provinces. An essential role played by the Agricultural Advisory centres should be emphasised here. These centres have in Poland a good tradition in conduct of consulting and training support activities for the farmers, and enjoy good reputation

and popularity. Their scope of activity broadened under the conditions of economic transformations, growing unemployment and additional help of business consulting.

Some farmers, who own farms in areas attractive in terms of nature and landscape, especially at the seaside, in the lake districts, or in the mountains, undertake, side by side with agriculture, also the activity oriented at tourism, usually conducting the so-called agro-tourist farms. Preparation of the farm to accommodation of tourists requires investments, which is not always possible in view of insufficient own financial resources. Despite a number of difficulties the agro-tourist activity becomes increasingly popular among farmers, since it constitutes the source of additional income and provides jobs for the members of the farmer's family. Such farms become the members of Agro-Tourist Associations, which promote their activity over the entire country. The agro-tourist farms, which were encountered during the study, were located, in particular, in the sea coast region (communes of Będzino and Gościno), in the Pomeranian Lake District (commune of Polanów), in the Świętokrzyskie region (communes of Masłów and Busko-Zdrój), and in Lublin province (commune of Wojciechów). Frequently, side by side with the standard bed-and-breakfast or full board services the farms offered additional attractions in the form of additional recreation service. Other kinds of farms having appeared in this period include the ones oriented at cultivation and sale of ornamental plants, like in the suburban zone of Warsaw, or the hobbyist farms, or the ones providing service in garden development, like in the commune of Pińczów.

On the rural areas attractive in terms of their natural values a significant development of tourism takes place, private rest houses, catering, horse courses, swimming pools, hotels, and recreation centres emerge, offering high standard service. Construction of second homes for the urban dwellers develops. This observation is confirmed by the results of studies conducted within the areas of Pomeranian and Masurian Lake Districts (in the communes of Karlino, Będzino, Połczyn-Zdrój, or Stawiguda) or Cuiavian-Pomeranian region (commune of Zbiczno). It occurs in some cases that the incomes from tourism exceed the incomes from agriculture. According to the Institute of Tourism, the possibilities for the development of rural tourism exist on approximately 30% of the rural areas in Poland (Wiatrak, 1997).

On the other hand, rural areas of the suburban zones become the object of expansion of the settlement function, which turns out to constitute a strong competition for the agricultural function on these areas (the commune of Jabłonna by Warsaw).

2. The future of rural areas

The transformations, which take place on rural areas point out towards an essential change in relations between farming and countryside. The share of incomes from agricultural production in total incomes of rural population decreases. This is caused by the decline in profitability of agricultural production. The relative level of agricultural incomes attained the minimum for the entire post-war period (the parity indicator of the agricultural incomes –

as compared to the non-agricultural ones – was at 40%), see Wilkin (2001). The income differentiation of the rural population is on the increase. More and more often the areas of poverty are becoming the subject of consideration, with the scale of poverty being bigger in countryside than in towns. More than 60% of the poor live in Poland in the countryside (Wilkin, 2001).

On the other hand, the positive changes that are also taking place, are expressed through the multifunctional development of the rural areas. According to M. Kłodziński (1996) “the multi-functional development consists in the skilful insertion into the rural space of the increasing number of non-agricultural functions”. A good example of the multifunctional development on rural areas is provided by the suburban zones and the areas attractive in terms of nature and landscape. Another positive aspect is related to the increased economic activity of the population. Yet, in spite of high intensity of entrepreneurship development in Poland (more than 3 million businesses were registered in 1999), only 35.2% of the formally existing businesses were located in the rural and urban-rural communes. The rate of economic activity of the population has decreased in the recent years in comparison with the first half of the 1990s, mainly due to the worsening economic situation and the impoverishment of the society. The maintenance of the dynamics of economic activity of the population requires an increased institutional support, involving both the consulting and financial aspects.

There has been a development of activity of the local self-governments, equivalent to the broader participation of the local societies in the functioning of the community and to the undertaking by these self-governments the initiatives aiming at the improvement of the living standard of the population (construction of the water supply systems and of sewage treatment plants, improvement of the road quality, telephone system development, computerisation, etc.). The well developed infrastructure in the commune enhances its attractiveness for the investors. It is very important that a local community have a leader either being an individual or a group, capable of implementing the envisaged projects, and of making use of the financial aid originating from various funds, as well as of making use of foreign experiences (like in the communes of Stawiguda and Ciechocin).

Yet another positive aspect of the observed processes is constituted by the attempts of establishment of the agricultural producer groups, defending their interests, like those of poultry producers (Smyków commune), or of dairy cattle producers (Białogard commune). There is still a void in the domain of such organisations, for instance co-operatives, which would take care of supplies, sales (including sales to the foreign markets) and storage of own produce, similarly as the large co-operatives do in the western countries (e.g. in Italy). Not much of a positive changes has been observed, neither, in the attitude of the banks towards the agricultural producers, both with respect to credit and the security of the transactions contracted.

The further development of the rural areas is linked primarily with the multi-functional development, which was inscribed into the development strategies of the majority

of communes and provinces, and of the entire country, and is also in accord with the prerequisites for the agricultural and rural policy of the European Union. In the efforts made by Poland in connection with the process of accession to the Union high hopes are associated with the possibility of making use of the pre-accession funds (the SAPARD programme), and, after accession, of the structural funds meant for the support of the development of rural areas, that is – for the improvement of the quality and standard of living of their inhabitants.

References

- Bański J., 1999, *Obszary problemowe w rolnictwie Polski. (Problem Areas in Polish Agriculture)*, Prace Geograficzne, 172.
- Frenkel I., 1999, *Wiejskie obszary problemowe pod kątem widzenia sytuacji demograficznej (Rural problem areas from the viewpoint of the demographic situation)* [in:] *Typologia wiejskich obszarów problemowych* (ed.) A. Rosner, IRWiR PAN.
- Gałczyńska B., 2000, *Selected social and demographic problems of rural areas in Poland in the time of transition*, [in:] *Socio-Economical Alterations in Rural Areas of Central Europe in the Transition Period*, M. Jasiulewicz (ed.), Technical University of Koszalin, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Koszalin, 111-127.
- Gałczyńska B., 2001, *Rural Areas in Poland in the time of Transition. Problems for Research* [in:] *Problemi na Geografijata 1-2*, Sofia, 3-11.
- Gałczyńska B., Kulikowski R., 2000, *Wież i rolnictwo strefy podmiejskiej Warszawy. Zróżnicowania przestrzenne i procesy transformacji (Farms and agriculture in the Warsaw suburban areas. Spatial differentiation and processes of transformation)*, Dokumentacja Geograficzna 20, IGiPZ PAN, Warszawa.
- Gałczyńska, Ilieva M., 2001, *Rolnictwo Polski i Bułgarii w okresie transformacji - wybrane problemy, (Agriculture of Poland and Bulgaria in the period of transformation – selected problems)* [in:] *Integracja europejska-dylematy spójności i konwergencji regionalnej*, Europa XXI, 6, 49-66.
- Głębocki B., (ed.), 1998, *Przestrzenna transformacja struktury agrarnej a wielofunkcyjny rozwój wsi w Polsce (Spatial transformation of the agrarian structure and multifunctional development of rural areas in Poland)*, Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Instytut Geografii Społeczno-ekonomicznej i Gospodarki Przestrzennej, Poznań, 511.
- Jasiulewicz M., 2002, *Rural areas transformation in West-Pomeranian voivodship* [in:] *Transformation of rural areas in Poland and Bulgaria, Case Studies*, Dok. Geogr., 27.
- Kłodziński M., 1996, *Wielofunkcyjny rozwój terenów wiejskich w Polsce i w krajach Unii Europejskiej (Multi-functional development of the rural areas in Poland and in the countries of European Union)*, IRWiR PAN, Warszawa, 89.
- Kłodziński M., 1999, *Aktywizacja gospodarcza obszarów wiejskich (Economic activation of the rural areas)*, IRWiR PAN, Warszawa.
- Kołodziejczyk D., 2000b, *Infrastructure and the Rural Areas Development*, [in:] *Socio-Economical Alterations in Rural Areas of Central Europe in the Transition Period*, (ed.) M. Jasiulewicz, Technical University of Koszalin, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Koszalin, 128-147.
- Kołodziejczyk, D., 2000a, *Pozarolnicza działalność gospodarcza na obszarach wiejskich (summary: Non-Agricultural Businesses in Rural Areas)*, [in:] *Szanse rozwoju rolnictwa i obszarów wiejskich ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem pogranicza polsko-ukraińskiego*, (ed.) B. Górz, XVI Ogólnopolskie Seminarium geograficzno-rolnicze, Lublin, 168-172.

- Kowalska I., 2001, *Bieda oświatowa na wsi w kontekście prawno-finansowym*, (*Educational poverty in the countryside in the legal-financial aspect*), [in:] *Bieda na wsi na tle globalnych przemian społeczno-gospodarczych w Polsce*, (ed.) W. Warzywoda-Kruszyńska et al., Akademia Rolnicza w Poznaniu, Akademia Ekonomiczna w Poznaniu, Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne w Warszawie, Poznań, 249-262.
- Kulikowski R., 1997, *Transformations of Polish Agriculture after 1989*, [in:] *Rural geography and environment*, 2nd Moravian Geographical Conference CONGEO'97, Valtice 1997, 73-79.
- Kulikowski R., 2000, *Spatial Differentiation and Changes in Commercial Production of Agriculture in Poland*, [in:] *Socio-Economical Alterations in Rural Areas of Central Europe in the Transition Period*, (ed.) M. Jasiulewicz, Technical University of Koszalin, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Koszalin, 76-96.
- Orłowski W., 2001, *Makroekonomiczne uwarunkowania rozwoju rolnictwa polskiego w długim okresie*, (*Macroeconomic Conditions of the Long-Term Development of Polish Agriculture*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo*, 2, 19-40.
- Rosner A., (ed.), 1999, *Typologia wiejskich obszarów problemowych* (*Typology of the rural problem areas*), IRWIR PAN, Warszawa.
- Rosner A., (ed.), 2000, *Wiejskie obszary kumulacji barier rozwojowych* (*Rural areas of accumulation of the barriers to growth*) PAN, IRWIR, Warszawa.
- Rudnicki R., 2001, *Gospodarstwa rolne spółek z udziałem kapitału zagranicznego w Polsce północnej* (*Northern Polish Farming Companies with a Share of Foreign Capital*), [in:] *Wieś i rolnictwo u progu Unii Europejskiej*, (ed.) J. Bański, *Studia Obszarów Wiejskich*, vol.1, 145-152, Komisja Geografii Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej PTG, Zespół Badań Transformacji Obszarów Wiejskich IGiPZ PAN Warszawa.
- Rudnicki R., Kluba, 1998, *Agrarno-społeczne przemiany strukturalne rolnictwa województwa toruńskiego* (*Agrarian and social structural transformations in agriculture of Toruń voivodship*), [in:] *Gospodarka przestrzenna obszarów wiejskich*, (eds.) H. Sasinowski, R. Rudnicki, Białystok-Toruń 1998, 225-238.
- Stasiak A., 2000, *Możliwości wielofunkcyjnego rozwoju wsi polskiej na początku XXI w. – zróżnicowania regionalne* (*Possibilities of the multi-functional development of Polish countryside at the beginning of the 21st century*), [in:] *Możliwości wielofunkcyjnego rozwoju wsi polskiej w kontekście integracji z Unią Europejską*, (ed.) A. Stasiak, SGGW, *Studia* vol.110, 9-21
- Stasiak A., Zgliński W., (ed.), 1997, *Wpływ przekształceń strukturalnych rolnictwa na zagospodarowanie przestrzeni wiejskiej* (*The influence of the structural transformations in agriculture on the development of rural space*), Instytut Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania PAN, Warszawa 1997, 231.
- Stola W., 1997, *Społeczne problemy wsi w regionie świętokrzyskim* (*Social problems in the countryside of the Świętokrzyskie region*), *Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich* issue 43, 89-92.
- Stola W., 2002, *Niektóre problemy rozwoju obszarów wiejskich* (*Certain problems for development of rural areas*), *Przegląd Geograficzny* 3, 357-365.
- Szczęsny R., 1999, *Przemiany struktury przestrzennej rolnictwa Polski w latach 1988-1996* (*summary: Transformations of spatial structure of Poland's agriculture in 1988-1996*), *Zeszyty IGiPZ PAN*, 59.
- Warzywoda-Kruszyńska W., Kośmicki E., Januszek H., (ed.), 2001, *Bieda na wsi na tle globalnych przemian społeczno-gospodarczych w Polsce*, (*Poverty in the countryside against the background of the socio-economic transformations in Poland*), Akademia Rolnicza w Poznaniu, Akademia Ekonomiczna w Poznaniu, Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne w Warszawie, Poznań, 554.

- Wiatrak A.P., 1997, *Gospodarstwa turystyczne jako dodatkowa forma gospodarowania w rolnictwie (Tourist farms as an additional form of practice business in agriculture)* [in:] *Gospodarstwa rolnicze wobec wymogów współczesnego rynku i Unii Europejskiej*, SGGW, Warszawa, 385-395.
- Wilkin J., 2001, *Wieś-społeczeństwo-państwo: nowe podstawy dyskursu społecznego w sprawach wsi w Polsce (Countryside-Community-State: A New Basis for a Social Discourse)*, *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 2, 28-40.
- Zgliński W., 2000, *Szanse rozwoju wielofunkcyjnego na obszarach postpegeerowskich (The chances of the multi-functional development on the areas of former state farms)*, [in:] *Możliwości wielofunkcyjnego rozwoju wsi polskiej w kontekście integracji z Unią Europejską*, (ed.) A. Stasiak, PAN, Komitet Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju, Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego, Studia KPZK PAN 110, 181-204.
- Żebrowski W., 2001, *Cele i zadania rolnictwa regionu w strategii rozwoju obszarów wiejskich województwa warmińsko-mazurskiego (summary: The Objectives and Tasks for the Region's Agriculture within the Strategy for the Development of Rural Areas in the Varmia-Mazury Voivodship)*, [in:] *Wieś i rolnictwo u progu Unii Europejskiej*, (ed.) J. Bański, Studia Obszarów Wiejskich, vol.1, IGIPZ PAN, 153-161.

TRANSFORMACJA OBSZARÓW WIEJSKICH W POLSCE PROCESY I ZRÓŻNICOWANIA REGIONALNE

Streszczenie

W wyniku zmian systemu politycznego i gospodarczego w Polsce po 1989 roku nastąpiły znaczne przekształcenia w strukturze i funkcjonowaniu gospodarki. Nałożyły się na nie także zmiany wynikające z postawionego przed Polską celu – akcesji do Unii Europejskiej.

Celem opracowania była charakterystyka przemian i ich społeczno-ekonomicznych konsekwencji na obszarach wiejskich w okresie transformacji. Podstawą opracowania były wyniki badań polsko-bułgarskich dotyczących transformacji na obszarach wiejskich na wybranych obszarach Polski (gminach) w latach 1999-2001 a także w latach wcześniejszych 1996-1998 przemian w rolnictwie. Badaniami objęto wybrane gminy w regionie Zachodnio-Pomorskim, Warmińsko-Mazurskim, Świętokrzyskim, Wielkopolskim, Kujawsko-Pomorskim, Lubelskim i Mazowieckim.

Na wsi wprowadzenie gospodarki rynkowej spowodowało zmiany w gospodarce ziemią, na rynku pracy, w dostępności środków produkcji oraz w dystrybucji wytworzonych produktów. Nastąpiła restrukturyzacja byłych państwowych gospodarstw rolnych, gospodarstw spółdzielczych a także przedsiębiorstw działających w ich otoczeniu. Trwa nadal proces prywatyzacji powodujący zmiany w strukturze własnościowej ziemi i przedsiębiorstw. Procesy transformacji w rolnictwie i w całej gospodarce spowodowały obok pozytywnych zmian w postaci nowych inwestycji, napływu kapitału zachodniego i rozwoju przedsiębiorczości także wiele problemów i niekorzystnych zjawisk, zarówno w sferze produkcyjnej rolnictwa jak i sferze społecznej, powodując bezrobocie i zubożenie ludności wiejskiej.

Duże zróżnicowanie badanych obszarów wiejskich pod względem warunków przyrodniczych i ekonomiczno-społecznych znalazło odbicie w możliwościach i wyborze kierunków ich dalszego rozwoju. Gminy opracowujące swoje strategie rozwoju przyjęły za podstawę wielofunkcyjny rozwój, widząc w nim szansę dla najlepszego wykorzystania potencjału demograficznego jak i zasobów i walorów środowiska przyrodniczego. Mimo dokonujących się zmian, funkcja rolnicza na znacznych obszarach pozostała wiodącą, jednakże coraz częściej obok niej pojawia się funkcja rekreacyjna, zwłaszcza na terenach o korzystnych walorach przyrodniczych (tereny nadmorskie, pojezierne, górskie). Spadek dochodów z produkcji rolnej spowodował iż rolnicy zmuszeni są do pozyskiwania dodatkowych źródeł dochodu, bądź poprzez zmianę kierunków produkcji w gospodarstwie lub wprowadzanie produkcji ekologicznej, bądź poprzez podejmowanie działalności gospodarczej (przetwórstwo, agroturystyka). Aktywność gospodarcza na wsi jest znacznie niższa niż w miastach, wyższa w gminach miejsko-wiejskich aniżeli w gminach wiejskich, wyższa też w gminach podmiejskich.

Dalszy wielofunkcyjny rozwój obszarów wiejskich, który został wpisany w strategie rozwoju gmin, województw oraz całego kraju zgodny jest też z założeniami polityki rolnej i wiejskiej Unii Europejskiej. Polska w swoich staraniach do wstąpienia do Unii Europejskiej wiąże duże nadzieje na możliwość skorzystania z funduszy przedakcesyjnych (program SAPARD) jak i po wstąpieniu z funduszy strukturalnych wspomagających rozwój obszarów wiejskich a więc podnoszących jakość i poziom życia ich mieszkańców.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE RURAL AREAS IN BULGARIA (PROCESSES, TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES)

Margarita Ilieva

Abstract: The transformation of the rural areas in Bulgaria during the transition to market economy is considered to be a research problem of present interest. This paper emphasizes the characteristic features of some current development processes in the rural regions. The spatial differences are illustrated on the basis of study areas where investigations have been carried out for two joint Bulgarian-Polish projects - the first deals with the spatial consequences, resulting from the changes in agriculture, and the second one centers on the rural areas' transformation in the 1990s. The selected study areas belong to different in size municipalities, which are located in various agricultural zones.

Key words: rural areas, transformation, changes of the land property, territorial disparities.

In the last decade of the 20th century fundamental changes took place throughout the country and in the rural regions in particular, aiming to develop market relations and democratic prosperous society. The transformation of the rural regions is a complicated phenomenon because the processes of system and structural transformation are concurrent. The deeper economic crisis in the first half of the 1990s, the necessity of more profound economic changes (associated with the prevailing state ownership and the fairly low percent of private ownership, have been observed for several decades) and many other specific features of the „Bulgarian” model of transition have caused transformations in Bulgaria far more distinct than those in the remaining Central and Eastern European states. As a result, alongside with the expected favourable changes, a number of unpredicted adverse consequences have emerged in many spheres of the socio-economic life.

The rural areas' transformation in Bulgaria has its political, economic and social aspects, which according to Stadelbauer (2000) are common for the processes of transformation in Eastern Europe. Very important are the economic changes, predetermined by the political ones after 1989. In the rural regions it is the plant-growing (the major agricultural sector) that has the strongest impact. Therefore, the transformation of the rural regions generally bears the traces of the transformation in agriculture. It started with changes in the ownership, conformable to the characteristics of the market economy as an economic system, dominated by private ownership over the means of production.

The transformation in the Bulgarian agriculture is notable for some specific features. In practice it was necessary to restore the private property rights on almost all farmland because most of it (over 95%) was for long (from the 1950s to the 1980s) included into cooperatives. That is why the changes in the ownership have affected the whole agricultural

sector and have proceeded on a large scale. The current agrarian reform is the third one in the last 130 years and is implemented on the basis of a special restitution and re-privatization law (1991). In the course of its implementation considerable impediments and spatial differences have been observed (Ilieva, Iliev, 1995, 1997, Ilieva, 1998, Todorova, 2000). The reform took roughly one decade and towards the end of 2000 was almost completed - the ownership was restored on 5.7 million hectares, i.e. on 98% of the restitutable land. Owing to the adopted procedure of land restoration and to the predominant in the past petty farms, in many regions of the country the land now is highly fragmented. Land fragmentation in Bulgaria is much higher than that in the other countries in transition - Hungary (Kovacs, 1999) the Czech Republic and Poland (Jasiulewicz, 1998, Zgliński, 1999). At the end of 1999 Bulgaria had about 25 million plots of land whereas in 1944 they were 12 million. This negative consequence, on the one hand, will impede the formation and development of larger individual farms and on the other, will require land consolidation.

In compliance with the changes in the ownership, the organization of farm production was subjected to restructuring which was accompanied with many difficulties and mistakes. Unlike the remaining countries in transition, by the collective forms were preserved, reorganized and transformed into associations of landowners (Doichinova, 1996, Veznik, 1995) and where the technological level and the production volume remained unchanged, „Bulgaria was the only one from all nations in transition where the restructuring of the organization forms in the agrarian sector consisted in the abolishment of the existing structures rather than in the simultaneous establishment of new, alternative ones which in turn led to the destruction of the production factors too (Stoyanova, 1999). The destruction and plunder of farm property, the land fragmentation, the alienation from the traditions, the loss of habits and skills for private agriculture management, etc., adversely affected the creation of new organization forms of agricultural production and resulted in more drastic negative consequences as compared with the other Central European states in transition. At the same time it has to be noted that none of the countries in transition, where private farms were set up, assumed that these farms took a long period to be shaped, following the natural course of evolution in the conditions of market economy and of persistent state protectionism (Zgliński, 1999). Owing to the reform in farming, prevalent now are the private farms and the private farming constitutes a fairly high percentage share in the whole private economic sector (Fig. 1). A specific feature of the Bulgarian modern farming is the presence of two important organization forms - the private individual farms and the private farm cooperatives (Table 1).

As private land property has been restored over small plots, most of the individual farms today are also small. A survey, carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 1999-2000 shows that 94% of the farms cultivate only 15% of the usable land and produce mainly to meet their own needs. They, however, keep most of the farm animals (over 75% of the cattle and sheep and over 50% of the pigs) (*Struktura na zemedelskite...*, 2001). Certainly, the formation of a large number of petty farms is not

the most efficient way towards transition from centralized planned to market economy in agriculture. But nowadays these petty farms have a social significance as a source of incomes. Their gradual transformation into larger farms will favour the development of the Bulgarian farming in the coming years.

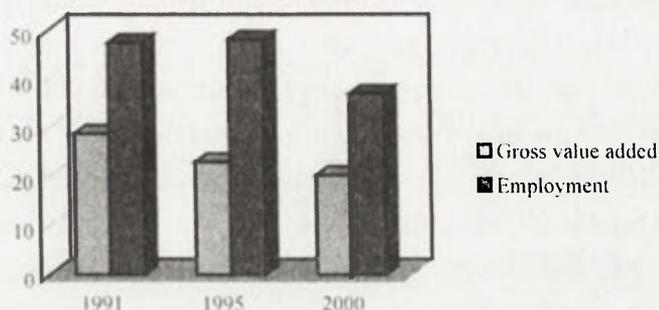


Fig. 1. Share of the private farming from total private sector in Bulgaria (%)

Table 1. Used agricultural land by category of farms in 1999

Category of farms	Agricultural land		Arable land permanent and crops	
	1000 ha	Structure (%)	1000 ha	Structure (%)
Total	6203	100,0	4805	100,0
Public	1141	18,4	172	3,6
State	160	2,6	75	1,6
Municipal	981	15,8	97	2,0
Private	5062	81,6	4633	96,4
Agrarian co- operatives	1895	30,5	1769	36,8
Agrarian farms	2984	48,1	2691	56,0
Other	183	3,0	173	3,6

Source: Statisticheski Godishnik 2000

More than 85% of the usable land is concentrated in the rest 6% of farms in the country which provide marketable produce (*Structura na zemedelskite...*, 2001). These are farms either with land of their own or with land taken on lease as well as farm cooperatives, which are relatively numerous. The farm cooperatives have been founded by the landowners but in many regions their functions are impeded because of insufficient financial resources, lack of appropriate farm machines, etc. Their appearance is to be associated with the small area of private farms, with the inability of the state to give preference to the farmers, with the lack of experience and motivation on behalf of the farm producers to engage themselves in agriculture, with the underdeveloped land leasing, with the necessity to use efficiently the production capacities, inherited from the former farms, etc. (*Stopanski subekti...*, 1999).

It becomes obvious from the above-mentioned structure of the farms that the latter are highly fragmented which exerts a strong influence on land use (Bański, Ilieva, Iliev, 1998), on people's employment and incomes in the rural regions.

Depending on the natural conditions, on the traditions, the size of landholdings, the work force, etc., private farms of different size and production specialization have been formed in the country. Dobroudzha, which was one of the few regions in Bulgaria with prevailing large-scale farming in the first half of the 20th century, is now also the region with the largest farms. The types of farms (both traditional and modern), functioning at the moment, prove that an attempt is being made to find the most appropriate model of farming during the period of transition. Considerable is the number of the farm cooperatives. The surveys in the Dobrich rural municipality, carried out for the purpose of the Bulgarian-Polish project (2000), show that 63 farm cooperatives have been set up in its 67 villages. They highly vary with respect to their size - from 2 000 to 20 000 ha or 7000-8000 ha on the average. At the same time there have been established 3 associations, 340 private farms and 95 farms that take land on lease. Similar is the situation in the General Toshevo municipality where there are 33 cooperatives, 46 farms and associations, taking land on lease, and 65 private farms. Besides, the farms, taking land on-lease, are fairly large - e.g. in the village of Spasovo they cover 13 000 ha, in the village of Karapelit - 1800 ha, etc. Conducive for this structure of farming is the leasing, which is a widely applied form of land management in Dobroudzha, as well as the Danube Plain's agricultural specialization in cereals, in some industrial crops and in live stock breeding.



Fig. 2. Regions of investigations (representative communes)
 1 – border of agricultural zone (Yordanov, 1981), 2 – border of planning region;
 3 – border of municipality

Quite different is the size of the farms in the remaining regions of the country. In other case study areas and municipalities, have been investigated for the purposes of two Bulgarian-Polish projects (1996-2001, Fig. 2) there have emerged smaller private farms and cooperatives such as those in the Central Danube Plain (the municipality of Pavlikeni), in the Pre-Balkan zone (the municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo and Suhindol), in the Tundzha river valley (the south part of Sliven municipality), etc. The large private farms are rare - e.g. in the municipality of Sliven where there is only one farm (4 300 ha). Field research in the municipalities along the Strouma and Mesta river valleys (Sandanski, Petrich, Gotze Delchev, 1998) indicates that many landowners prefer to set up independent farms of their own. This can be explained with the traditional development of intensive farming, with its specialization in early and mid-early vegetables, fruit, tobacco, etc., and with the prospects of gaining a high profit from the sale of the agricultural production. Nevertheless, land is cultivated in the farm cooperatives, too. Such co-existence of individual and cooperative farms is common for the municipality of Sadovo in the Upper Thracian Lowland. The Upper Thracian Lowland as a region of intensive farming shows a more clear-cut tendency towards changes in specialization, towards replacement of more labour-intensive with less labour-intensive crops, towards extension of the areas under cereals (mainly corn and wheat) and sunflower at the expense of more intensive crops, which is in fact a trend observed throughout the country during the period of transition.

The significant percentage growth of private farms' production in the total farm produce (Table 2, Table 3) during the transition period points to the scope of changes in the land ownership and in the organization of farm production as well as to the achieved level of restructuring in agriculture.

Table 2. Share of the private farms from the main crops in Bulgarian agriculture

Crops	From areas under crops and permanent crops (%)		From production (%)	
	1991	2000	1991	2000
Wheat	11,8	98,8	11,6	98,5
Maize (corn)	58,0	99,4	62,2	99,1
Sunflower	0,9	99,0	1,2	98,8
Tobacco leaves oriental	7,9	99,5	8,8	100,0
Sugar beet*	4,2	95,5	5,1	95,7
Tomatoes	50,6**	100,0***	55,9**	99,3***
Potatoes	74,4	98,9	81,9	99,0
Melons ans watermelons	69,2	100,0	81,9	100,0
Apples	1,2	100,0	46,5	100,0
Grapes	41,1	99,8	51,7****	99,8****
Strawberries	56,4	100,0	65,3	100,0

* Excl. sugar beet for feed;

** Incl. tomatoes under glass production;

*** Excl. tomatoes under glass production;

**** Incl. trellis vine production;

Sources: Statisticheski Godishnik 1996 and 1997; Statisticheski spravochnik 2001; and authors' calculations.

Table 3. Livestock products in private farms in Bulgaria

Livestock products	Share of private farms (%)	
	1991	2000
Milk	38,7	99,4
Incl. cow milk	34,1	99,3
sheep milk	54,8	99,6
Wool, greasy	40,9	99,1
Eggs	53,5	99,6
Honey	85,2	100,0

Sources: Statisticheski Godishnik 1996 and 1997; Statisticheski spravochnik 2001, and authors' calculations.

On the other hand, the agricultural reform has resulted in some negative consequences such as the inefficient use of arable land (about 20% of it is not cultivated now), the decreasing number of farm animals, the drop in the agricultural output which in 1997 and 1998 was roughly by 40% lower than that in 1989-1991 (*Onchev*, 2000). The aforesaid negative consequences are also due to the lower intensification of agricultural production (*Agraren doklad*, 1999, 2000; *Okonchatelni rezultati...*, 2000; *Dobivi i...*, 2001; *Ilieva, Iliev*, 2001; *Gałczyńska, Ilieva*, 2001) and in turn adversely affect the population employment and incomes in the rural areas. Some of these negative effects, although not so marked, are common for the other nations in transition as well (*Bański*, 1998). What is unfavourable for the current and future land use, is that about 70 % of the present-day landowners left long ago the settlements where their land was.

The structural changes in agriculture are only part of the social and economic transformation in the rural regions. In addition, very important seem to be the changes in the functional structure of the villages, consisting in the acceleration of their non-agricultural functions at the expense of the traditional farming activities (*Kaczmarek*, 1998).

Most of the rural regions are predominantly agricultural. During the period of transition they have experienced contrasting tendencies towards increasing and decreasing the role of industry in the economic and employment structure. The early years of transition (when the economic crisis started) witnessed the closure of numerous workshops in villages and small towns which were affiliated to industrial enterprises or plants located in the big cities (the districts of Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, etc.). This alongside with the production decline and with the financial difficulties observed in many of the city enterprises, considerably reduced the rural-urban commuting flows. The changes that occurred at the beginning of the 1990s adversely affected the employment, brought forth unemployment, accelerated the unemployment rate, reflected on the incomes of the population in the rural regions and cut off the links between the village and the town. In some regions factories and workshops, processing mainly farm produce, continued to operate even after they were privatized - e.g. the wine producing plants in Souhindol, Lyaskovets, in the villages of Slavyantsi and Lozarevo, in Soungurlare (the municipality of Soungurlare), the wine cellar in the village of Karaisen (the municipality of Pavlikeni), etc. Much more difficult was the situation in other sub-branches of the food industry (sugar and canned food industry, etc.) where, owing

to the process of deconcentration, certain enterprises marked a significant production drop while others entirely stopped functioning.

At the same time, mainly during the second half of the 1990s, there has started a construction of small and moderately large enterprises in all regions of the country, including the rural areas. In many regions, especially in the agriculturally well-developed ones, there is now a specific combination between the agricultural activities and manufacturing industry, primarily food-processing. The latter is referred to as one of the stabilizing factors in the development of the rural regions. In certain cases these are newly-built private firms which buy and process farm products (e.g. the dairying company in Byala Cherkva, the municipality of Pavlikeni), in others they are firms, having started as processing enterprises but gradually developing their own resource base (the meat and milk processing firm in the village of Sokolovo, Dryanovo municipality); not seldom, production capacities are built to complete the production cycle from raw material to the end product or trading organizations are established (e.g. the development of agrobusiness in the village of Mlekarovo, Sliven municipality). Emphasis is also to be laid on the development of modern forms of production organization and of integration links between farming and industry (the landholding in the village of Spasovo, Dobrich rural municipality, etc.).

Very important, chiefly in the rural areas, seem to be the small and mid-sized enterprises, set up with national and foreign capitals. This practice is most common for the municipalities in the region, bordering on Greece (those of Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Kurdzhali, etc.) where the skilled labour force is used in clothing (Begg, Pickles, Roukova, 1999), knitwear, footwear industry, etc. As for the individual municipalities, this is definitely helpful but as a whole, the rural regions in Bulgaria are still inadequately attractive for direct foreign investments.

Forestry and forest-related activities (picking of mushrooms and herbs, wood-working industry, etc.) have a considerable share in the economic structure of some rural regions or of individual settlements in them (Kotel municipality, etc.).

During the period of transition essential have proved to be the changes in the social and technical infrastructure of the rural regions. The service sector does not provide high-quality services and it is necessary to find solutions to problems concerning the improvement of the technical infrastructure (mainly roads under category 4 which most often are in bad shape, water- supply network, etc.). In recent years much has been reconstructed by means of governmental subsidies and funds within the PHARE Programme. The improvement of the transport access to the rural regions and the availability of a relatively well-developed telephone network will favour their social and economic progress. The rural regions have a social infrastructure of their own - health (ambulatory-polyclinic establishments), educational (creches, kindergartens and schools in almost every settlement), cultural (community clubs, libraries, club-houses), etc. At present its usage and management

are assumed to be the main problems because of the deteriorated age structure of the population, the insufficient capitals, etc. (*Natzionalen Plan ...*, 1999).

A characteristic move in trade during the transition, not only in rural regions but everywhere, is privatization, deconcentration and growing importance of an effort to encourage the employment. Tourism and recreation play a significant role today in the economy of the rural areas, incorporated into Bulgaria's traditional tourist regions (the Black Sea coast, the mountain regions, etc.). The elaborated strategies on communities' development throughout the country, and particularly in the rural regions, focus on tourism in all its forms - rural, ecological, recreational, balneological, cognitive, etc.).

The increasing relative share of the private sector and the growing importance, although still negligible, of the processing industry, trade, tourism and other economic branches and activities is another characteristic feature of the transforming rural regions. The increasing number of workplaces in the non-agricultural branches and its rising percentage share in the whole economic sector of the rural regions is considered to be crucial for their multifunctional development in the future.

The establishment of institutions, inherent in market economies (chambers of commerce and manufacture, assistance funds, stimulating certain branches, market places, etc.) as well as the development of the corresponding legislative basis will directly affect the transformation of the rural regions. Very useful in this respect can be the experience, accumulated by the EU countries and by the Central European countries (Poland, Hungary, etc.), for efficient use of the EU structural and pre-accession funds with a view to accelerating the development of the rural regions and of the agricultural-related infrastructure.

The economic restructuring of Bulgaria's rural regions is closely connected with the changes in the demographic conditions and reflects on the social life. The current demographic situation in the rural areas is more complicated than the demographic situation at a national level. The population decline and the adverse demographic processes during the second half of the 20th c., common for the whole country, are most drastic in the rural regions where they are likely to become even more acute and hence, to have a far reaching negative effect on the rural areas' transformation and future economic and social prosperity. In addition, the marked population aging in the rural regions also has a negative impact on the employment and the quality of workforce.

The economic restructuring and the production drop (especially in the early stage of transition) affected the employment level and brought about unemployment. In the first half of the 1990s the number of those, employed in agriculture, decreased, but afterwards it remained almost unchanged. Big changes occurred in the employment structure - most of the employees were engaged in the private sector (Fig. 3). The changes in the organization of agricultural production led to ineffective use of the specialists with agricultural education (agronomists, livestock experts, vets, etc.). Gradually, some of them resumed their professional activities, working as specialists or managers at agricultural cooperatives, private farms, etc., while others attended training courses to obtain new qualifications.

At present, the unemployment in the rural regions is higher than that in the towns which is due to the lack of vacancies, to the inability of the unemployed persons to re-qualify themselves, to their age structure, lower educational and qualification level, low mobility, and others (Fig. 4).

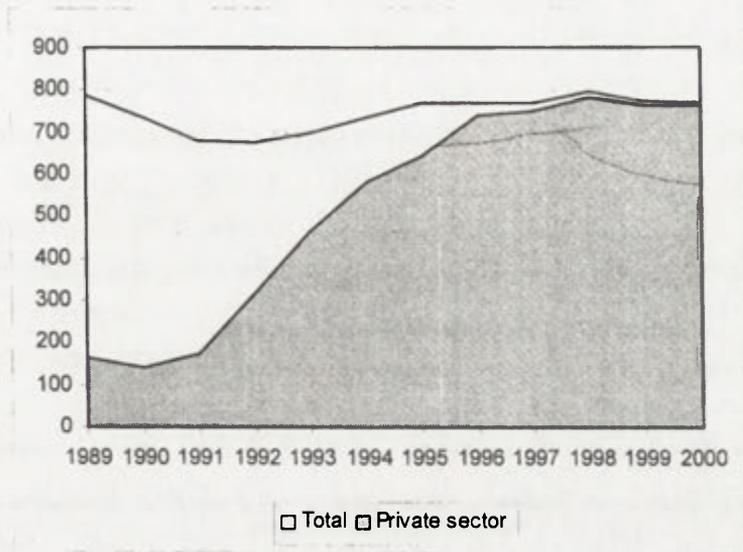


Fig. 3. Employed in the Agriculture in Bulgaria (th.)

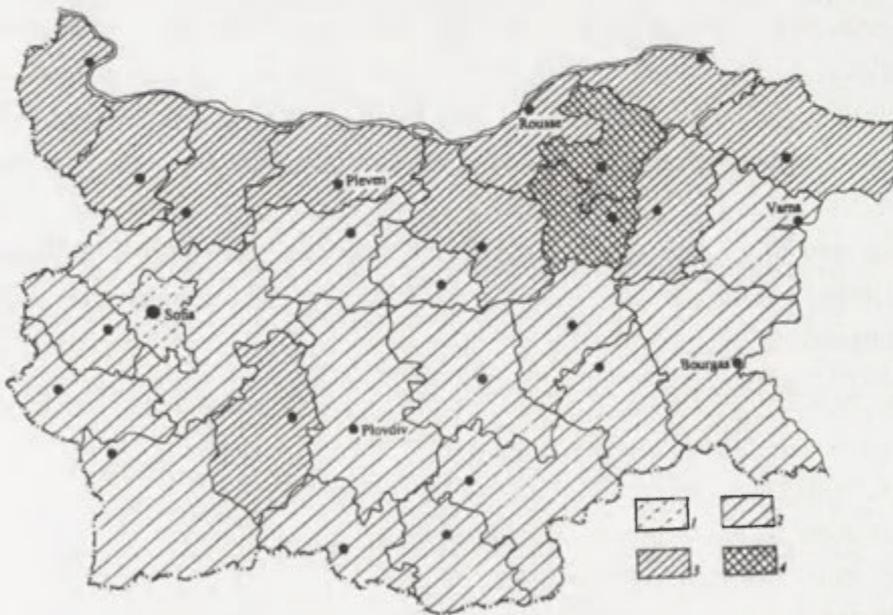


Fig. 4. Level of Unemployment by Districts (December, 2000)
1 – less 10%; 2 – 10,1-20%; 3 – 20,1-30%; 4 – more 30,1%

The lower employment level, the increasing unemployment, the greater reliance on earnings from agriculture, the limited social benefits, the higher number of pensioners and the low pensions as well as the poor abilities of the state to stimulate the development

of agriculture and of the rural regions are the main factors which have reduced the incomes of the majority of the population. This has unfavourably affected the demand for goods and services and has impeded the further development of production and services. The surveys show that as a whole the social conditions in the rural areas have aggravated although the living standard of the different groups of population varies from region to region. Similar processes can be observed in some other countries in transition (Stasiak, Zgliński, 1997, Csatari, 2000).

In recent years the local governments have begun to play a greater role in the process of democratization as a component part of the social system's transformation and in the solution of regional problems. It is well known from the experience of other countries that the development of horizontal links between municipalities and their joined efforts enable them to pose and solve common problems, to participate in more programs and projects, including the ones, financed by the EU structural funds, etc. The first regional association of municipalities was set up in 1992. Later on it was followed by the establishment of other regional associations and of the National Association as well. The activities of some of them (e.g. the Association of the Rhodope Municipalities, the Association of the Danubian Municipalities, etc.) significantly enlarge the scope of the trans-border cooperation with the neighbouring countries.

Towards the end of the 1990s the fundamental principles of the policy, concerning the rural regions' development in Bulgaria were formulated, which were in conformity with the principles of the European regional policy. The development of the rural regions is one of the priorities of Bulgaria's national regional policy as can be seen from the National Plan for Regional Development (2000-2006). „The sustainable development of the rural areas, corresponding to the best practice in the sphere of environment protection by creating alternative jobs, by diversification of the economic activities and by building up the necessary infrastructure” is among the major priorities in the National Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Regions during 2000-2006. The sustainable development will improve the living conditions and will afford better job opportunities and higher salaries for the rural population.

References

- Agraren доклад*, 1999, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite.
Agraren доклад, 2000, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite.
 Bański J., 1998, *Gospodarka ziemią w Polsce w okresie restrukturyzacji*, Warszawa.
 Bański J., Ilieva M., Iliev I., 1998, *Agriculture land use in Bulgaria and Poland - an attempt at comparasion*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2 .
 Begg R., Pickles J., Roukova P., 1999, *A new participant in the global apparel industry: the case of Southern Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 3-4.
 Csatari B. 2000, *New Elements of the Rural Transformation in Hungary, 1990-2000*, Paper to the 12 Polish-Hungarian Geographical seminar, Karpacz, Poland.

- Dobivi i proizvodstvo ot osnovnite selskostopanski kulturi za stopanskata 1999-2000 godina. Rezultati i analizi*, 2001. Agrostatistika, №11, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite.
- Doichinova J., 1996, *Organizatzionno prestrukturirane na bulgarskoto zemedelie – predpostavki i rezultati*. Ikonomika I upravljenje na selskoto stopanstvo, 2.
- Gałczyńska B., 2001, *Rural Areas in Poland in the time of Transition. Problems for research*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2.
- Gałczyńska B., Ilieva M., 2001, *Rolnictwo Polski i Bulgarii w okresie transformacji – wybrane problemy*, Europa XXI, No 6, IGiPZ, Warszawa.
- Guran L., 2001, *Changes of the Romanian Rural Landscape after 1989, A Case Study*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2.
- Ilieva M., 1998, *Changing spatial patterns of Bulgarian agriculture in the period of transformations*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2.
- Ilieva M., Schmidt C., 2001, *Die Zukunft bauerlicher Familienbetriebe in Bulgarien*, [in:] *Landwirtschaft und laendische Raeume - Aussenseiter des Transformationsprocesses in den Laendern Suedosteuropas?*, Sudosteuropa-Studie 69, Munchen.
- Ilieva M., Iliev I., 1995, *Changes in the ownership and farmland use in Bulgaria during the transition to market economy*, Problemi na geografiata, 4.
- Ilieva M., Iliev I., 1997, *Restoration of property rights over farmland in Bulgaria as an important prerequisite for transition to market economy*, „Rural Geography and Environment”, Valtice, Czech Republic.
- Ilieva M., Iliev I., 2001, *The Water and the Transforming Agriculture in Bulgaria*, - paper at the international conference „The Role of Water in History and Development”, Bergen (in print).
- Jasiulewicz M., 1998, *Przekształcenia strukturalne i przestrzenne obszarów wiejskich Pomorza Środkowego w okresie transformacji systemowej*, Koszalin.
- Kaczmarek T., 1998, *Funkcje gospodarcze obszarów wiejskich w Polsce*, [in:] *Przestrzenna transformacja struktury agrarnej a wielofunkcyjny rozwój wsi w Polsce*, Poznań.
- Kovacs T., (1999, *Regional disparities in the privatization of land*, [in:] *Regional proceses and spatial structures in Hungary in the 1990's*, Pecs.
- Natzionalen plan za regionalno razvitie za perioda 2000-2006 z.*, 1999.
- Natzionalen plan za razvitie na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (2000-2006)*, 1999.
- Natzionalen plan za razvitie na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (2000-2006) po spetzialnata programa na ES za prisaedinjavane v oblastta na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (SAPARD)*, 1999.
- Okonchatelni rezultati za dobivite ot osnovni selskostopanski kulturi za stopanskata 1998-1999 godina. Rezultati i analizi*, 2000, Agrostatistika, № 6, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite.
- Onchev N., 2000, *Izsledvania varhu krizata na bulgarskoto zemedelie*, Ikonomika i upravljenje na selskoto stopanstvo, 4.
- Stadelbauer J., 2000, *Raumliche Transformationprozesse und Aufgaben geographischer Transformationsforschung*, Europa Regional, 3-4.
- Stasiak, A., Zgliński, W., 1997, *Wpływ przekształceń strukturalnych rolnictwa na zagospodarowanie przestrzeni wiejskiej*, Polska Akademia Nauk, IGiPZ, Warszawa.
- Statisticheski godishnik na Republika Bulgaria*, 1991, 1992, 2000.
- Statisticheski spravochnik*, 2001.
- Stoyanova M., 1999, *Likvidatziata v selskoto stopanstvo – sotzialni i ikonomicheski efekti*, Ikonomika i organizatzia na selskoto stopanstvo, 5.
- Stopanski subekti i integratzionni vrazki na produktov, regionalen i funkczionalen printzip*, 1999, Institut po ikonomika na selskoto stopanstvo pri Selskostopanska Akademia, S., (manuscript).
- Struktura na zemedelskite stopanstva v Bulgaria prez stopanskata 1999-2000 godina*, 2001, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite, Agrostatistika, 14.

- Todorova S., 2000, *Regionalni razlichija na reformata v zemedeliето*, Ikonomika i organizatzia na selskoto stopanstvo, 4.
- Veznik A., 1995, *Geographical Aspects of the Transformation of Agriculture of the Czech Republic*, Scripta Fac. Sci. Nat.Univ. Masaryk. Brun., Vol. 25, Geography.
- Yordanov T., 1981, *Integralni formi na teritorialna organizatzia na selskoto stopanstvo*, [in:] Geografia na Bulgaria, Sofia, BAN, t. 2.
- Zakon za arendata*, Darzhawen vestnik, 1996, No 8.
- Zakon za opazvane na zemedelskite zemi*, Darzhawen vestnik, 1996, No 35.
- Zakon za sobstvenostta i polzvaneto na zemedelskite zemi*, Darzhawen vestnik, 1991, No 17.
- Zakon za kooperatziite*, Darzhawen vestnik, 1999, No 113.
- Zgliński W., 1999, *Procesy dekoloktywizacji rolnictwa i ich skutki w postkomunistycznych krajach Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej*, [in:] Problematyka Geopolityczna Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej, (eds.) J. Kitowski, Rzeszów.

TRANSFORMACJA OBSZARÓW WIEJSKICH W BUŁGARII **Procesy i zróżnicowania regionalne**

Streszczenie

Transformacja obszarów wiejskich w Bułgarii w porównaniu z innymi krajami Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej wyróżniała się zarówno specyfiką narodową jak i bardziej dogłębnymi przemianami.

Istotne znaczenie w tym procesie miały przemiany gospodarcze w wyniku zmian politycznych po 1989 roku, a zwłaszcza zmiany własnościowe i organizacyjne w rolnictwie, mającym największe znaczenie w całej gospodarce mimo rosnącej roli innych działów jak przemysł, handel, turystyka.

Przemiany gospodarcze są ściśle związane ze zmianami demograficznymi i mają istotny wpływ na poziom życia społeczności wiejskiej. Restrukturyzacja gospodarki oraz spadek produkcji spowodowały zmniejszenie liczby pracujących oraz pojawienie się bezrobocia. Badania wykazały spadek dochodów znacznej części ludności oraz pogorszenie się sytuacji socjalnej na obszarach wiejskich. Zróżnicowanie regionalne niektórych aspektów procesów transformacji na różnych obszarach wiejskich w Bułgarii pokazano na podstawie obszarów modelowych określonych w ramach wspólnych bułgarsko-polskich projektów badawczych.

W końcu lat 90-tych zostały sformułowane i przyjęte podstawowe zasady polityki rozwoju obszarów wiejskich odpowiadające europejskiej polityce regionalnej.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF
THE USE OF A...

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of the use of a... The study was conducted in a laboratory setting... The results of the study showed that the use of a... The study was conducted in a laboratory setting... The results of the study showed that the use of a... The study was conducted in a laboratory setting... The results of the study showed that the use of a...

TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE RURAL AREAS IN POLAND SELECTED PROBLEMS

Władysława Stola

Abstract: The paper characterises the most essential methodological issues pertaining to the comparative study of the changes in the spatial structure and the functional classification of the rural areas of Poland. Some of the cognitive results are also presented, including those concerning the non-agricultural economic activities.

Key words: Spatial structure, functional classification, rural areas of Poland, comparative studies.

The purpose of the present report is to characterise the methodological problems in and provide some of the results from the studies on the transformations that took place in the spatial and functional structure of Poland's rural areas over the years 1988-2000. These studies are now being carried out at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Currently, in conditions of the socio-economic transformations taking place in our country, the problems related to the future of countryside and to its development, perceived not only through the development of farming, are being increasingly clearly seen and felt. The nature and the scale of these problems, concerning more than 90% of the country's area and 40% of its population, are both highly differentiated across space. They largely depend upon the development of the rural areas to date and upon the structure of their basic productive functions (farming, forestry, manufacturing), including service (like the tourism- and recreation-related services). In terms of the nature and scale of the agricultural functions, depending also upon the farming type, the areas in question differ from the ones with the industrial-agricultural functions, or the ones with the tourism-and-recreation functions, as well as from the areas featuring composite functions, developing within the zones of influence of urban agglomerations.

The basis for establishment of the "initial state", i.e. the one from the end of the 1980s, marking the beginning of the here reported transformations in the spatial and functional structure of rural areas on the scale of communes ("gminas"), was constituted by the published results of respective studies (Stola, 1993, 1995). In order to ensure comparability with the results for the year 2000, the latter were obtained using the same criteria and possibly analogous methods.

In view, however, of the socio-economic transformations having taken place (privatisation of the economy, appearance of the officially registered unemployment, etc.),

and, before all, the changes in the data acquisition process of the Central Statistical Office (GUS), it was necessary to bring a modification into the previously applied methods.

Thus, side by side with the straightforward cognitive and practical purposes, the studies carried out have also an objective of improvement of the methods meant for the conduct of comparative research.

And so, in particular, the set of features and their measures, representing the individual functions, was modified, taking into account the feasibility of insight (methodological and statistical accessibility) with the help of the measures applied. The units corresponding to these measures differ (% , persons per 100 hectares, etc.), and so they cannot be directly compared nor summed, requiring appropriate normalisation or categorisation. Table 1 contains the set of nine measures of the features, along with their categorisation, five of them being identical as in the study from a decade ago, and four indicators (nos. 2, 4, 7, 9) having been slightly changed, in accordance with the conditions of representativeness and possibility of processing (statistical availability).

Table 1. Feature measurement and categorisation.

No.	Feature measures (indicators)	Categories				
		1 very low	2 low	3 medium	4 high	5 very high
1.	% share of agricultural land in total area	10 - 30	30 - 50	50 - 70	70 - 90	> 90
2.	% share of agricultural land in farms of more than 50 ha	0 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 30	30 - 60	> 60
3.	Employment per 100 ha of agricultural land	1 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	> 35
4.	% share of farms producing to the market	0 - 10	10 - 20	20 - 40	40 - 60	> 60
5.	% share of forests in total area	0 - 10	10 - 20	20 - 40	40 - 60	> 60
6.	Beds in tourist and recreational facilities per 1 sq. km	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 6	6 - 10	> 10
7.	% share of persons employed outside of agriculture	0 - 20	20 - 40	40 - 60	60 - 80	> 80
8.	Number of non-agricultural businesses per 10,000 persons in productive age	0 - 500	500-700	700-800	800-1000	> 1000
9.	% share of persons employed in manufacturing and construction in total employment	0 - 4	4 - 8	8 - 12	12 - 20	> 20

The first four indicators concern mainly agriculture – the primary function over the major area of the country. These indicators are: 1. the share of agricultural land in total surface area, 2. the share of agricultural land belonging to the large-scale farms¹,

¹ previously – the share of the agricultural land belonging to the “socialised sector”

3. employment in agriculture, and 4. the share of farms producing for the market². These indicators show directly or indirectly the significance of farming in the spatial organisation of countryside, the broadly understood character of farming, its intensity, as well as association with the market. Besides, the first of these indicators informs indirectly of the share of land used by the non-agricultural land use forms. The fifth indicator shows the significance of forestry in the spatial organisation of the areas in question, and also the non-productive significance of forests (like, e.g., for the development of the recreation function). In addition, when treated together with the first indicator, it provides information on the share (complement to 100%) of the other land use forms (for instance – industrial land, water bodies, etc.). The recreational functions (tourism and leisure) are represented, in an approximation, by the sixth indicator. The remaining indicators, nos. 7, 8 and 9, show in quite an objective manner the significance of the other non-agricultural functions. Thus, indicator 7 informs of the percentage share of persons employed outside of agriculture (and indirectly – on the share of persons employed in farming), while indicator 9 – of the percentage share of persons employed in manufacturing (and construction). On the other hand, indicator no. 8 shows the number of non-agricultural businesses per 10,000 inhabitants in professionally active age.

The functions characterising each of the communes considered are represented by the nine indicators, expressed through categories being integers from 1 to 5. The thus obtained description of the communes constitutes the basis for their classification and for the assessment of the functional differentiation of rural areas.

This differentiation was very high already at the end of the 1980s (Stola, 1993), and as the result of a decade of restructuring and transformation of the country it is by no means smaller, and certainly more complex. We mean here first of all the changes resulting from restructuring, concerning directly the countryside. These areas were affected the most by the process of privatisation, first of all of the state farms, of the industrial enterprises – not only catering to agriculture, as well as of the tourism and recreation facilities. In a large share of cases this led to cessation of their activity, and consequently to a decrease of employment and appearance of registered joblessness, or, in case of population living together with the owner/user of a farm, of the hidden unemployment in agriculture. Depending, therefore, upon the previous spatial image of the functional differentiation of the rural areas, the transformations taking place had a variety of courses. They were most complex on these areas, where spatial and temporal accumulation took place of the restructuring of individual socio-economic activity forms (Stasiak, 2000).

An instance is provided here by the lake districts of Masuria and Pomerania, where, side by side with the communes featuring high shares of the state-owned land, there were also communes with domination of tourism and recreation functions, and/or a significant share of forestry. An example of complex transformations, although of a somewhat different character due to a different initial functional structure, is provided by the south-eastern areas

² previously – % of commercial production in gross production value

of the country. These areas, with significant share of communes featuring a dominant share of the small acreage private farming and the housing (residential) function, as measured with the share of job commuters, felt the restructuring processes in a special manner, through the privatisation and reduction of employment in the companies located in towns. The resident population, largely bi-occupational, linked with the farm through their work, or merely through place of residence, after having lost their jobs outside of the farm, contribute to the increase of registered rural unemployment or of the hidden unemployment within farming. A similar situation appeared in the multi-functional Świętokrzyskie region in central Poland, where, owing, in particular, to the less advantageous natural conditions for farming, it was even more regressive in its effects (Koziej 1990; Koziej, Pałka 1995).

It ought to be emphasised that as the privatisation processes, which exerted oftentimes a destructive influence on the previous socio-economic structure of the rural areas, come to an end, the non-agricultural business activity starts to develop on these areas. While the place of the liquidated state farms was taken – through purchase or lease – by the large private farms only regionally or locally, due to definite objective reasons, the development of the non-agricultural activity, even if spatially differentiated, appeared across the country as a whole. There were in 1999 altogether some 1,070,000 non-agricultural businesses within the rural areas of Poland (35% of the respective category of businesses in the country), of which 52% in the urban-rural communes and 48% in the rural communes. This situation was mainly due to the rapid growth of the number of businesses in the years 1996-1999, when this number increased by 56.4%, the respective increase in the urban-rural communes amounting to 85.5%, and in the rural communes – to 33.4% (Kołodziejczyk, 1999, 2001). The difference in the growth rate resulted first of all from the fact that the development of the non-agricultural economic activity is largely determined by the location of the given area with respect to the towns, and, in connection with this, with the level of infrastructural development. Besides, high importance should be attached to the population potential, with special emphasis on the demographic (age and gender) structure and the educational level of the population.

The degree of development of the non-agricultural sector, as measured with the number of businesses per 10,000 inhabitants in professionally active age (Fig. 1), was in 1999 on the rural areas of the country at about 960 on the average. The indicator value ranged from below 600 in numerous communes of the eastern part of the country (the minimum of 244 having been observed in the commune of Górowo Iłowieckie, in the Warmian-Masurian province) up to more than 1,000 in the western part of the country (the maximum of 5,596 in the commune of Rewal, the Western-Pomeranian province) and in the surroundings of the urban agglomerations, especially of Warsaw, Poznań, Cracow, and Lodz. The rural areas of the western provinces (Lower Silesian, Lubuskie, Western-Pomeranian, and Greater Poland) and of the Masovian province (with the capital in Warsaw) accounted for almost half of all the 700 communes in the country, in which there were more than 1,000 non-agricultural businesses per 10,000 persons in professionally active age (see Table 2). These businesses belong overwhelmingly (95% of them) to the private sector.

In terms of the branch structure the highest number of these businesses (61%) belong to the so called market service, first of all trade, less than half of that number (27%) belong to the productive activity, mainly manufacturing, slightly more than 6% are classified in the so called non-market service.

Table 2. Numbers of non-agricultural businesses per 10,000 persons in professionally active age, according to categories, in the communes in 1999

No.	Provinces	Categories					Total communes
		very low 0-500	low 500-700	medium 700-800	high 800-1000	very high >1000	
1.	dolnośląskie	30	16	10	17	60	133
2.	kujawsko-pomorskie	63	15	6	9	34	127
3.	lubelskie	144	10	4	10	25	133
4.	lubuskie	18	5	4	4	43	74
5.	łódzkie	80	17	12	15	38	162
6.	małopolskie	109	12	7	9	29	166
7.	mazowieckie	170	32	15	10	52	279
8.	opolskie	27	8	2	3	28	68
9.	podkarpackie	82	20	6	18	24	150
10.	podlaskie	81	3	4	4	13	105
11.	pomorskie	40	19	8	6	25	98
12.	śląskie	46	12	10	10	40	118
13.	świętokrzyskie	55	10	6	6	20	97
14.	warmińsko-mazurskie	46	15	4	13	22	100
15.	wielkopolskie	73	18	9	21	86	207
16.	zachodniopomorskie	37	17	4	15	30	103
	Total	11,01	229	111	170	569	2 180

Source: D. Kołodziejczyk, 2001.

There are on the average 576 businesses functioning in the market service per 10,000 persons in professionally active age in the rural communes, while 708 of such businesses (roughly by 1/3 more) per 10,000 persons in productive age function in the urban-rural communes. A similar difference of proportions is observed for the non-market service – 52 businesses in the rural communes and 73 in the urban-rural communes. The differences with this respect are, on the other hand, much smaller in the manufacturing and construction sectors. Thus, the numbers of businesses per 10,000 persons in professionally active age are: in the rural communes – 236 in manufacturing and 234 in construction, and in the urban-rural communes – respectively 285 and 283. This is yet another confirmation of the fact that location of the non-agricultural businesses on the rural areas is influenced not only by the position with respect to the large urban centres, but also by the existence among the rural communes of the small and medium towns, which constitute, together with the respective surrounding rural areas, the urban-rural communes.

The scale of development of the non-agricultural activities within the rural areas is represented not only by the number of the respective businesses, but also by the share of the population employed in these businesses. It can even be stated that in the situation of high unemployment rates in the country this latter indicator is especially significant.

Taking as given the respective number (2,602,000 persons) and the structure of the working population according to the sections of the ECA (European Classification of Activities), we can see that only a small proportion (6%) are employed in agriculture, while the largest share (45% on the average) work in the so called production sections, mainly in manufacturing and construction, then in the so called non-market service (27%), and slightly less (22%) in the market service. If we look at these proportions for various provinces, then we see quite significant differences. Thus, the share of persons employed in manufacturing, construction, and the remaining non-agricultural production sections ranges between roughly 33% in Podlasie and Lublin provinces and more than 50% in the Lower Silesian, Lodz, and Silesian provinces. The situation is quite opposite with respect to the share of persons employed in the non-market service, i.e. it is the lowest (20-26%) within the provinces featuring high employment in the non-agricultural productive branches, while it is the highest (approximately 38%) on the areas with low employment in these branches. Now, concerning the shares of persons employed in the market service, mainly in trade, they are the lowest (around 20%) on the rural areas of the Lower Silesian, Opole, Pomeranian, Subcarpathian, and Świętokrzyskie provinces, while the highest (25-27%) in the Lubuskie and Masovian provinces (Table 3).

Table 3. Employment according to the sections of the ECA in 1999

Provinces (rural areas)	Employment according to the sections of the ECA								
	total	agriculture	%	manufacturing	%	market service	%	non-market service	%
dolnośląskie	217 008	11 925	5,5	110 062	50,7	43 191	19,9	51 830	23,9
kujawsko-pomorskie	138 974	11 236	8,1	59 927	43,1	29 856	21,5	37 955	27,3
lubelskie	118 504	6 175	5,2	40 067	33,8	26 402	22,3	45 860	38,7
lubuskie	105 627	6 612	6,3	44 876	42,5	26 619	25,2	27 520	26,1
łódzkie	148 959	4 900	3,3	77 476	52,0	28 018	18,8	38 565	25,9
małopolskie	250 647	4 774	1,9	113 150	45,1	57 288	22,9	75 435	30,1
mazowieckie	270 634	9 492	3,5	110 296	40,8	73 654	27,2	77 192	28,5
opolskie	148 968	10 912	7,3	68 468	46,0	31 183	20,9	38 405	25,8
podkarpackie	143 996	5 753	4,0	59 544	41,4	29 593	20,6	49 106	34,1
podlaskie	56 744	3 287	5,8	18 801	33,1	13 111	23,1	21 545	38,0
pomorskie	107 237	9 610	9,0	45 593	42,5	21 453	20,0	30 581	28,5
śląskie	176 483	5 826	3,3	92 302	52,3	37 886	21,5	40 469	22,9
świętokrzyskie	110 806	2 896	2,6	47 891	43,2	22 626	20,4	37 393	33,7
warmińsko-mazurskie	104 660	10 043	9,6	40 793	39,0	23 437	22,4	30 387	29,0
wielkopolskie	362 401	28 762	7,9	178 852	49,4	80 810	22,3	73 977	20,4
zachodniopomorskie	139 875	13 085	9,4	57 254	40,9	31 870	22,8	37 666	26,9
Totals	2 601 523	145 288	5,6	1 165 352	44,8	576 997	22,2	713 886	27,4

Source: D. Kołodziejczyk, 2001.

The spatial distribution of employment according to the sections of the ECA, not accounting for the actual employment in private farming, presents, especially in the case of the rural areas of Poland, a very simplified, and even to an extent deformed, image. That is why Table 4 was elaborated, in which the magnitude and the structure of employment on the rural areas is presented according to the data for the sections of the ECA and the estimates of employment in private farming. In the thus calculated total number of persons working (6,288,000) the share of those employed in agriculture on the rural areas amounts on the average to 60.9% (3,831,000 persons), with the dominating share (96.2%) of those working in private farming. The overall share of employment in agriculture ranges from approximately 33-35% in Lubuskie and Western Pomeranian provinces to roughly 80% in Lublin and Podlasie provinces, and more than 70% in the Świętokrzyskie and Subcarpathian provinces (Table 4).

Hence, the shares of employment in the non-agricultural activities tend to be correlated in an opposite manner. Among those employed in these activities (39.1%) almost half (18.5% of the total) work in the productive activities, mainly in the manufacturing and construction spheres. The shares of employment in these spheres are the lowest (approximately 7%) in the Lublin and Podlasie provinces, and the highest (more than 30%) in the Lower Silesian and Lubuskie provinces. There are also numerous communes featuring similarly high values of this indicator in other western and northern provinces, such communes concentrating, as well, around the urban agglomerations in the remaining parts of the country (Fig. 2). The spatial differentiation across the communes of the shares of persons working in both the non-agricultural productive sectors and in the service sectors is very similar (see Figs. 2 and 3). The shares of persons employed in service are very low, usually below 16%, and in many cases even below 8%, in the majority of communes of the central and eastern parts of the country, where the shares of persons working in agriculture are very high. On the other hand, starting with the Upper Silesian agglomeration, through Greater Poland, Lubuskie Land, up to Pomerania and Masuria, the shares of employment in service exceed in the majority of communes 20%, and often even 30%.

We can assume that the shares of the agricultural and non-agricultural (the latter including manufacturing and construction) functions in the functional structure of rural areas take a similar course as the respective employment shares.

The tourism and recreation functions, as measured with the number of lodging places per 1 sq. km, are mainly developed in the traditional tourist and leisure regions – the seacoast, the lake districts of Masuria and eastern Pomerania, as well as in the Carpathian and Sudety Mts. Besides, there are clusters of communes of various size in the remaining areas of the country, where the number of beds in the tourism and recreation facilities amounts to 6-10 per 1 sq. km and more. This is an indication of the possibly significant role played by the tourism and recreational function in the economic structure of these communes, undoubtedly largely due to the development of agro-tourism in the 1990s. Forestry, as measured with the share of forests in total area of the rural territories (according

Table 4. Total employment (according to the sections of the ECA and in private farming)

Prowinces (rural areas)	Total employment	Employment in farming				Agricultural land in private farms 1996	Empoloyment per 100 ha of agricultural land in private farms	Employment according to the sections of the ECA					
		totals	%	private farming	% of employment in farming			manufacturing	%	market service	%	non-market service	%
dolnośląskie	339 025	133 942	39,5	122 017	91,1	747 089	16,3	110 062	32,5	43191	12,7	51830	15,3
kujawsko-pomorskie	308 763	181 025	58,6	169 789	93,8	928 930	18,3	59 927	19,4	29856	9,7	37955	12,3
lubelskie	580 467	468 138	80,6	461 963	98,7	1 504 211	30,7	40 067	6,9	26 402	4,5	45 860	7,9
lubuskie	148 136	49 121	33,2	42 509	86,5	297 169	14,3	44 876	30,3	26 619	18,0	27 520	18,6
łódzkie	462 444	318 385	68,8	313 485	98,5	1 128 597	27,8	77 476	16,8	28 018	6,1	38 565	8,3
małopolskie	669 113	423 240	63,3	418 466	98,9	766126	54,6	113 150	16,9	57 288	8,6	75 435	11,3
mazowieckie	817 004	555 862	68,0	546 370	98,3	2 192 642	24,9	110 296	13,5	73 654	9,0	77 192	9,4
opolskie	231 464	93 408	40,4	82 496	88,3	373 546	22,1	68 468	29,6	31 183	13,5	38 405	16,6
podkarpackie	528 960	390 717	73,9	384 964	98,5	759 304	50,7	59 544	11,3	29 593	5,6	49 106	9,3
podlaskie	262 801	209 344	79,7	206 057	98,4	1 066 837	19,3	18 801	7,2	13 111	5,0	21 545	8,2
pomorskie	193 997	96 370	49,7	86 760	90,0	622 192	13,9	45 593	23,5	21 453	11,1	30 581	15,8
śląskie	320 351	149 694	46,7	143 868	96,1	399 874	36,0	92 302	28,8	37 886	11,8	40 469	12,6
świętokrzyskie	381 553	273 643	71,7	270 747	98,9	659 836	41,0	47 891	12,6	22 626	5,9	37 393	9,8
warmińsko-mazurskie	196 110	101 493	51,8	91 450	90,1	843 955	10,8	40 793	20,8	23 437	12,0	30 387	15,5
wielkopolskie	651 286	317 647	48,8	288 885	90,9	1 436 931	20,1	178 852	27,5	80 810	12,4	73 977	11,4
zachodniopomorskie	196 104	69 314	35,3	56 229	81,1	605 937	9,3	57 254	29,2	31 870	16,3	37 666	19,2
Totals	6 287 578	3 831 343	60,9	3 686 055	96,2	1 433 3176	25,7	1 165 352	18,5	576 997	9,2	713 886	11,4

to communes and provinces), has not undergone bigger changes during the 1990s in general terms, although in many communes, especially of the northern and western provinces, a part of the fallow agricultural land was forested. The forestation-oriented policy of the state, making it possible to forest the poorest soils on agricultural lands is slowly bringing fruits also in other parts of the country. Another contributing factor is the decrease of profitability of agricultural production. The period of ten years is, of course, too short for the forest economy to make the changes gradually taking place in it to appear through the functional structure of a definite rural area.

After ten years of the restructuring transformations in agriculture and in the remaining branches of economy the biggest changes in the spatial and functional structures have been observed in the communes featuring previously (in 1988) the domination of the agricultural functions. This applies, in particular, the north-western areas of the country, due to privatisation of the state farms and the restructuring of the farming co-operatives, the latter most frequent in Greater Poland and in the Opole region. Consequently, the domination of the private land ownership in agriculture has decisively increased, with the individually owned farms at the lead, followed at a distance by the co-operative ownership. The functional structure of the communes, in which previously the so-called socialised farming dominated, or had a significant share, is now characterised by the corresponding or similar share of the large-scale private farming. Owing to the decrease of employment in these farms and the increase of labour productivity in agriculture the share of the non-agricultural functions in these communes (forestry, tourism and recreation, service – mainly trade, manufacturing, etc.) relatively increased, with the actual direction of change depending largely upon the location of a given commune, e.g. at the seacoast, close to the state border, and the like.

On the other hand, in these communes, where various types of farming had been dominating for years already, ranging from the traditional subsistence farming to the semi-commercial private farming, represented mainly in the north-eastern and central communes of the country, the changes concerned primarily the condition of agriculture. In some communes their agricultural character got even strengthened, this having happened mainly in western Podlasie and eastern Masovia, while in the other ones, especially along the so-called eastern wall (the belt adjacent to the eastern boundary of Poland), the productive significance of agriculture decreased, and there are some communes, in which the significance of other functions relatively increased.

Important changes took place within the rural areas where the functional structure had taken shape largely under the influence of the industrialisation and urbanisation processes, but which are located outside of the sphere of influence of the large urban agglomerations. Thus, for instance, in the multi-functional communes of the Świętokrzyskie region, or in the south-eastern part of the country, where high shares of the small-scale semi-subsistence farming existed, this farming got transformed into the one oriented at subsistence, or only locally linked with the market. At the same time, owing to the decrease of the non-agricultural employment and reduction of job commuting, local societies got poorer

and the residential function either decreased or altogether disappeared. Analogous changes took place, although on a smaller scale, in the communes located within the reach of the industrial districts of the country, which are being restructured and do rationalise their employment.

On the other hand, in the communes located within the reach of the zones of influence of the large urban agglomerations, especially of Warsaw, where highly commercial, specialised farming used to dominate, there was a collapse of this agricultural function, due to the decrease of its profitability, as well as the increase of prices of land meant for non-agricultural purposes. This resulted in the increase of the number of businesses from the non-agricultural areas of activity, either service or production, as well as the development of the recreation and residential functions.

It can generally be stated that there has been a decrease of significance of agriculture both in terms of production and market on the rural areas where the agricultural functions dominated or had an important share. There has been, at the same time, an increase of significance of agriculture in the field of food self-supply of the inhabitants of the countryside. With this respect there is an important difference between the rural areas of western Poland, and especially Greater Poland and Lower Silesia, and the rural areas of eastern Poland. This fact is linked not only with the respective levels of development of agriculture, but also with the different levels of the general socio-economic development. The higher this latter level, the more dynamic deployment of the various non-agricultural activities on the rural areas, and thereby also the increase of complexity of their functional structure.

The functional classification of the rural areas on the scale of communes will certainly confirm this regularity, and will make it possible to obtain a more detailed image of the spatial differentiation of the functional structure of rural areas. This, in turn, will constitute not only the basis for the assessment of the transformations having taken place, but also of the forecasting of the possible changes in the spatial structure of the rural areas.

Bibliography

- Kołodziejczyk D., 1999, *Pozarolnicza działalność gospodarcza w środowisku lokalnym i regionalnym (Non-agricultural business activity in local and regional environments; in Polish)*, *Więś i Rolnictwo*, 2, 109-117.
- Kołodziejczyk D., 2001, *Pozarolnicza działalność gospodarcza na obszarach wiejskich (Non-agricultural business activity in rural areas; in Polish)*, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, typescript.
- Koziej M., 1990, *Kierunki przeobrażeń rolnictwa w warunkach wielofunkcyjnego regionu Gór Świętokrzyskich (Directions of transformation of agriculture in conditions of a multifunctional region of the Świętokrzyskie Mts.; in Polish)*, *Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich*, Polish Academy of Sciences, issue 32, 109-115.

- Koziej M., Pałka E., 1995, *Restrukturyzacja funkcjonalno-przestrzenna obszarów wiejskich w regionie świętokrzyskim (Functional and spatial restructuring of rural areas in the Świętokrzyskie region; in Polish)*, In: *Restrukturyzacja funkcjonalno-przestrzenna obszarów wiejskich Polski*, Nicolas Copernicus University in Toruń, Toruń, 126-132.
- Stola W., 1993, *Struktura przestrzenna i klasyfikacja funkcjonalna obszarów wiejskich Polski (Spatial structure and functional classification of the rural areas of Poland; in Polish)*, *Dok. Geogr.* 3. Stasiak A., (red.), 2000, *Możliwości wielofunkcyjnego rozwoju wsi polskiej w kontekście integracji z Unią Europejską*, Studia KPZK PAN, SGGW, t. CX, Warszawa.
- Stola W., 1987, *Klasyfikacja funkcjonalna obszarów wiejskich Polski (próba metodyczna)*, IGiPZ PAN, Ossolineum.
- Stola W., 1995, *Funkcje obszarów wiejskich. Mapa nr 67.2 (Functions of the rural areas. Map 67.2)*, Atlas of the Republic of Poland, Główny Geodeta Kraju, Warszawa.

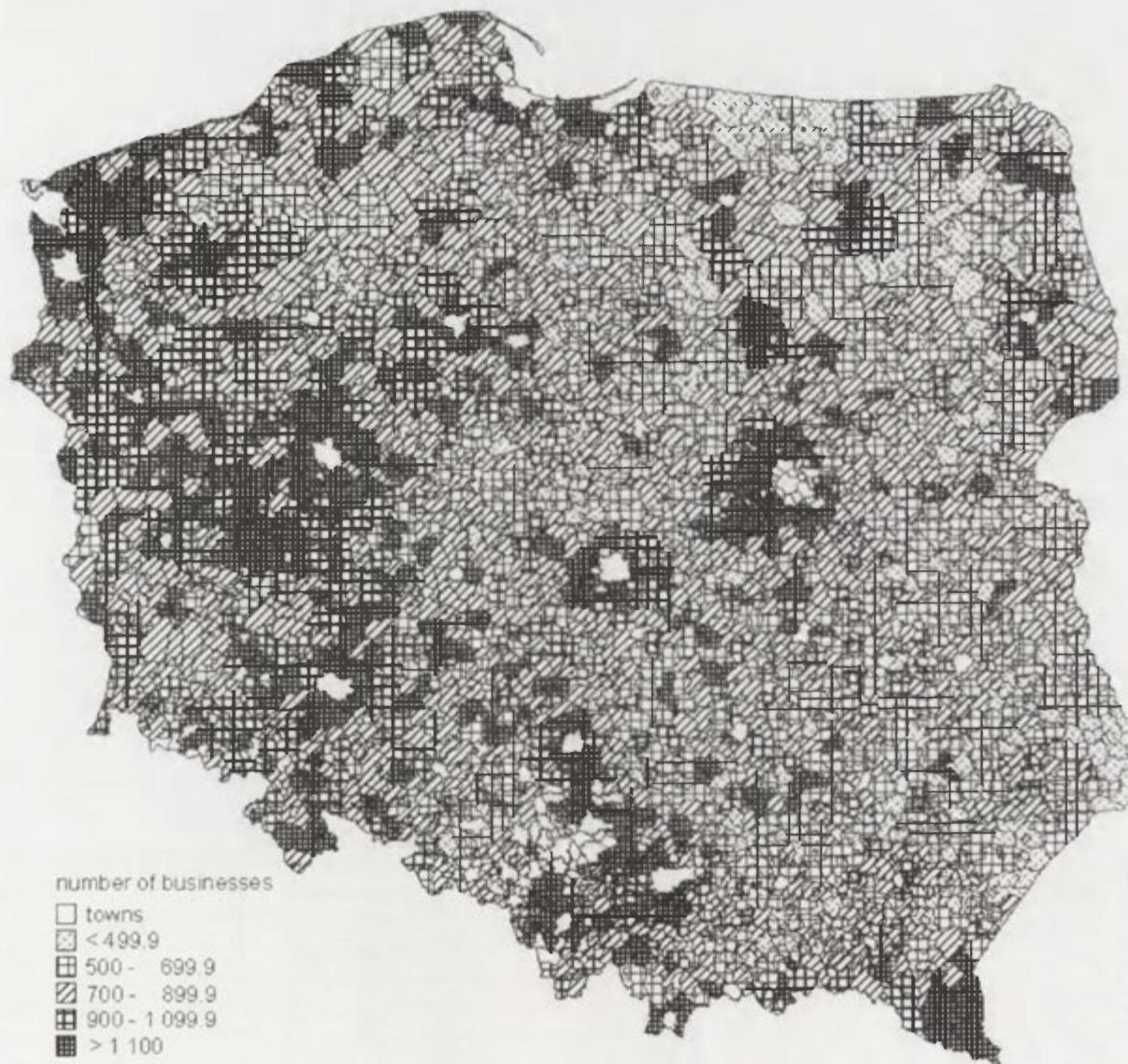


Fig. 1. Number of businesses per 10 000 inhabitants of professionally active age in the rural areas in 1999

(D. Kołodziejczyk)

<http://cib.org.pl>

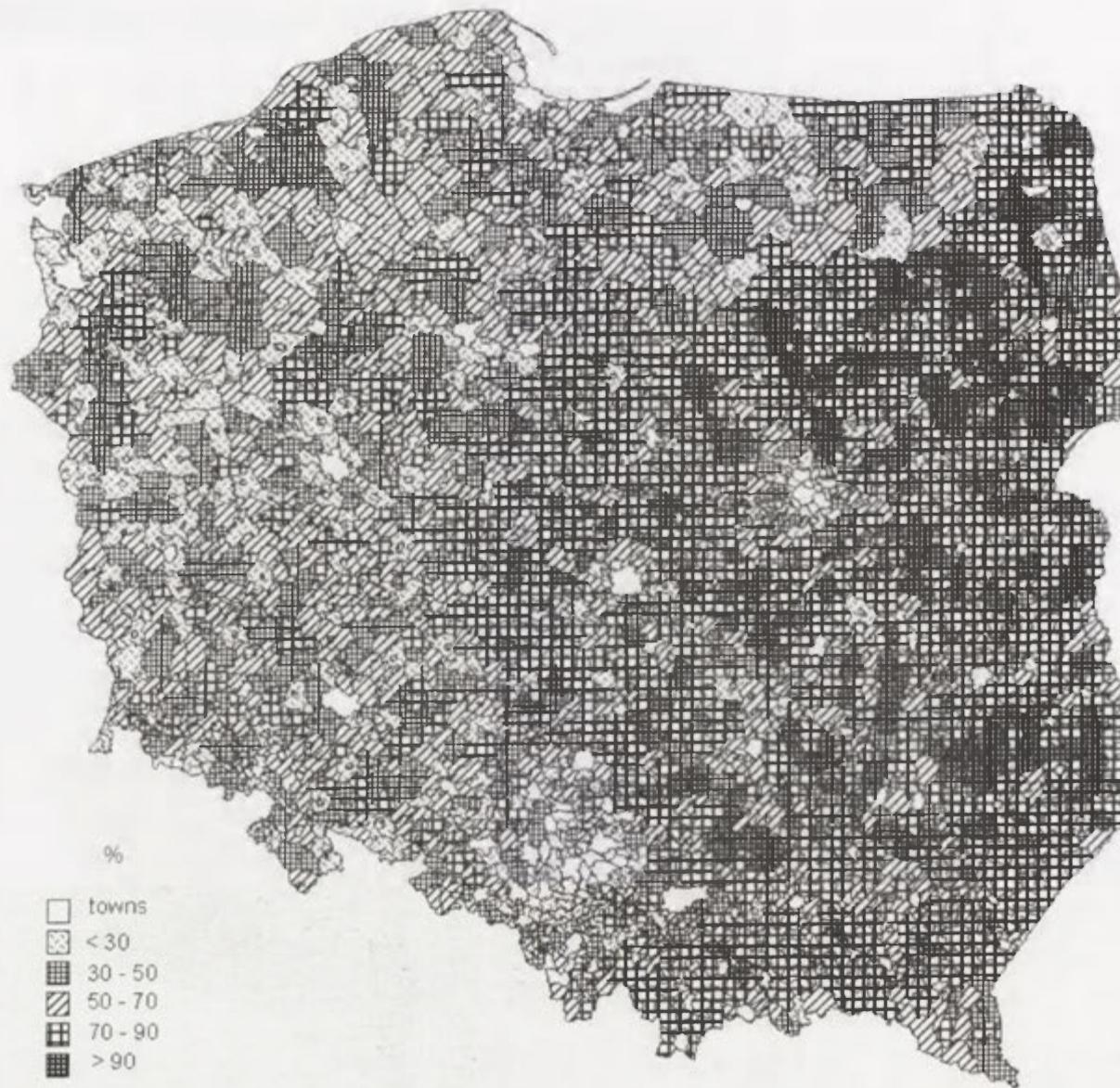


Fig. 2. The share of industrial employment in the total number of persons working in the rural areas in 1999

(D. Kołodziejczyk)
<http://rcin.org.pl>

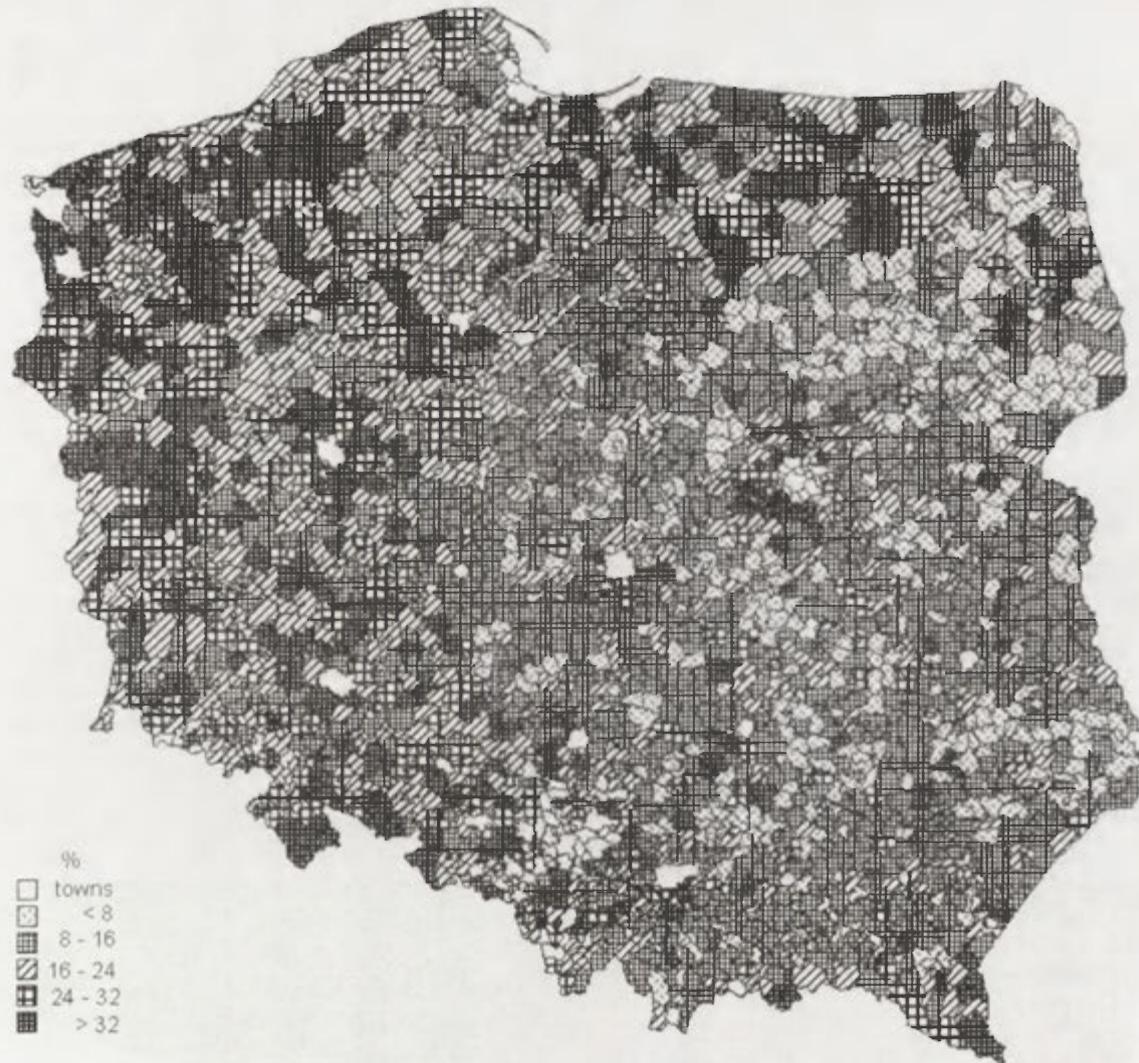


Fig. 3. The share of services employment in the total number of persons working in the rural areas in 1999
(D. Kołodziejczyk)

PRZEMIANY STRUKTURY FUNKCJONALNEJ OBSZARÓW WIEJSKICH POLSKI WYBRANE ZAGADNIENIA

Streszczenie

Opracowanie zawiera wstępne wyniki badań nad przemianami struktury przestrzennej i funkcjonalnej obszarów wiejskich, w skali gmin, w latach 1988-2000.

Aby wyniki badań stanu z 1988 r. (Stoła 1993, 1995) i z roku 2000 były porównywalne, badania są realizowane według tych samych kryteriów i metod. Konieczna była jednak modyfikacja mierników cech charakteryzujących podstawowe funkcje obszarów wiejskich (tab. 1), na skutek zaistnienia nowych procesów (np. prywatyzacja gospodarki) i problemów (np. rejestrowanego bezrobocia) społeczno-gospodarczych.

Zróźnicowanie funkcjonalne obszarów wiejskich było duże w końcu lat osiemdziesiątych i w wyniku dziesięcioletnich przemian restrukturyzacyjnych kraju znacznie wzrosło. Szczególnie wpłynęły na to procesy prywatyzacyjne państwowych gospodarstw rolnych, zakładów przemysłowych, turystyczno-wypoczynkowych itd. Na ogół powodowało to zaniechanie lub ograniczenie ich działalności, a w konsekwencji spadek zatrudnienia i powstania bezrobocia rejestrowanego. Zwolnienia zaś z pracy ludności dojeżdżającej do pracy, dwuzawodowej, zamieszkującej w gospodarstwach rolnych spowodowało wzrost bezrobocia ukrytego w rolnictwie. Największe zmiany w strukturze funkcjonalnej wystąpiły na obszarach, gdzie wystąpiło przestrzenne i czasowe kumulowanie się procesów restrukturyzacyjnych. Likwidowanie państwowych gospodarstw rolnych i powstawanie w ich miejsce na ogół wielkoobszarowych gospodarstw prywatnych, miało ze względów obiektywnych charakter regionalny lub lokalny. Natomiast równocześnie odbywający się rozwój gospodarczej działalności pozarolniczej wystąpił w całym kraju. Na obszarach wiejskich w 1999 r. było 1070 tys. pozarolniczych podmiotów gospodarczych, tzn. ponad 1/3 (35%) liczby takich podmiotów w kraju. Rozwój sektora pozarolniczego, mierzony liczbą podmiotów na 10 tys. mieszkańców w wieku produkcyjnym (ryc. 1) wynosił około 960. Rozwój działalności pozarolniczej jest znacznie większy w zachodniej części kraju oraz w otoczeniu aglomeracji miejskich niż we wschodniej. Wiąże się to z poziomem zagospodarowania infrastrukturalnego oraz strukturą demograficzną i poziomem wykształcenia ludności. Strukturę pracującej ludności wg sekcji Europejskiej Klasyfikacji Działalności (EKD) ilustruje tab. 3., zaś strukturę pracujących ogółem (łącznie z zatrudnionymi w gospodarstwach indywidualnych) tab. 4 oraz ryc. 2 i 3.

PROBLEMS OF RURAL POPULATION IN BULGARIA

Chavdar Mladenov

Abstract: This study deals with the problems of the rural population in Bulgaria. It is not based on the rural regions, delineated in conformity with the Regulation on Regions for Purposeful Development, because on the one hand, these regions are too limited in size, and on the other, they include towns with population up to 30 000, some of which do not perform typical agricultural functions. Most of the villages in the country are entirely involved in agricultural activities. The transition to market economy and the structural reform in the economic sphere have slowed down the processes of industrialization and urbanization in them. Only the tourist services have received an impetus, owing to the development of the alternative rural tourism.

Key words: depopulation, ageing, natural increase, migration, rural regions.

The process of socio-economic restructuring has been underway for more than 10 years. The changes, affecting the villages, have different intensity in the respective regions. This is due to the inherited differences in their socio-economic and demographic development and to the natural resources quality and management. The on-going transformations are the major cause for preserving the physiognomy of the villages, which means that the urban processes in them are too weak.

The development and transformation of villages are influenced by the historically altering political, economic, social and psychological factors. As a result, the demographic situation in Bulgaria's villages has deformed which is the main cause for a marked demographic crisis.

Problems of the rural population can be generally assigned to two supplementary and interrelated groups - demographic and socio-economic.

Among the demographic problems of the rural population an important one is its decreasing number in spite of the favourable natural and economic conditions. The rural population drop in Bulgaria in absolute figures and in percentage share. This is due to the designation of villages as towns, to the annexation of villages to towns and to the negative natural increase and negative migration bilans. This is an objective process, which started in Bulgaria in the 1930s. After the Second World War the industrialization, urbanization and the state policy, referring to the rural population, accelerated the out-migrations from the villages. Thus, the share of the rural population diminished from 80.1% in 1920 to 31.0% in 2001 (Fig. 1). Whereas in the past the rural population decline was associated primarily with the negative migration, during the transition period it results from the high negative natural growth related to the marked aging of the rural population. Rural population drop is observed in all categories of villages. In absolute figures the decrease is most substantial

in the large and mid-sized villages while in percentage share - in the small villages. As a whole, the rural population drop is a long-lasting, adverse process, which affects the demographic situation and the socio-economic development both at a national and regional level. The essentially decreased population impedes the reasonable usage of the natural resources and the infrastructure in the rural regions (Geshev, Mladenov, 1989).

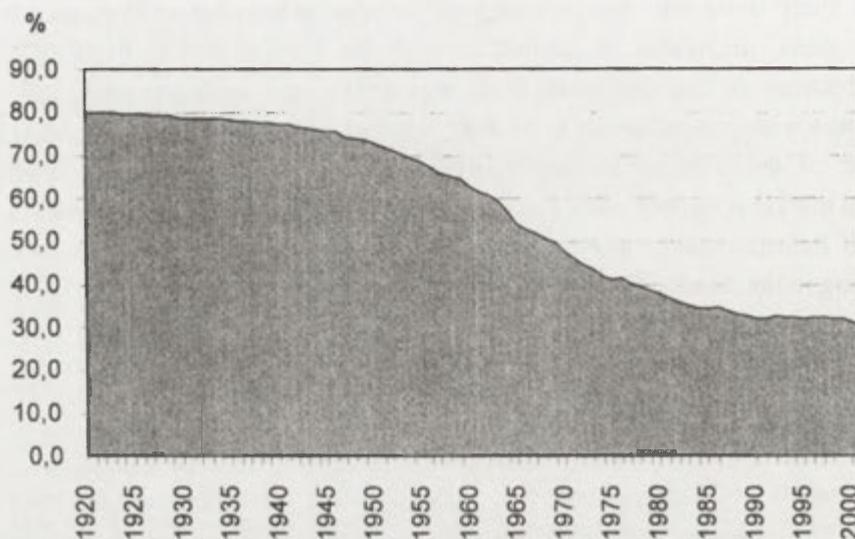


Fig.1. Population Dynamics in the Rural Areas of Bulgaria (1920-2001)

Spatially, the rural population drop is expressed by depopulation of vast rural areas throughout Bulgaria (Fig. 2).

Depopulation is a lengthy process with a gradual adverse effect not only on the socio-economic development of these areas but also on the whole national economy. The number of the population in the rural settlements no longer depends on land size and quality because the agrarian relations have been disturbed by social, economic, political and historical conditions (Geshev, 1990). These disturbances have been brought about by the command-and-administer approach of management and by the deformed mechanisms of centralized planning, which ignored the territorial conditions and factors. Besides, it is the urbanization, hopes for improvement of the educational and cultural level, the intense commuting and the poor chances for finding a job, for making a professional career and for meeting the cultural demand within the rural regions that have enormously contributed to the depopulation processes. The depopulation in villages is a consequence of specific circumstances, a determinant of stagnating social milieu.

Previously, the rural population drop resulted due to the attempts to overcome the hidden unemployment in agriculture, from the seasonal migrations and from the release of farmers (because of the mechanization in agriculture) and their reorientation to craft and service sector. Nowadays the urbanization, the old practice of village-to-town migration, which is assigned to people's psychology, the economic crisis, the delayed reform in

agricultural, etc., still play an important role. The restructuring and mechanization of agriculture cannot compensate the decrease in rural population and the consequent labour force deficit. In many rural regions the working and living conditions continue to be crucial factor for the population decline. The very population drop generates out-migration motivation, which further deteriorates the demographic situation in all regions, subjected to depopulation. As compared to earlier periods, today the rural areas with declining population expand and accelerate the rate of population decrease. The technologies, applied to agricultural activities, and the labour productivity are factors, which can neither reduce the depopulation nor enable the villages to resume their normal functions. This holds especially for the typical mountain and semi-mountain areas and for areas with extensive agrarian structure. To a certain extent the depopulation might be limited by restoring the functions of the family as an independent production unit with a permanent residence in the villages, by the degraded environment in the towns, by the improvement of the transport access to the villages, by the re-established rural-urban commuting, by the attracting of the former villagers, who settled down in the cities, as well as of the native-born citizens (Ch. Mladenov, 2001).

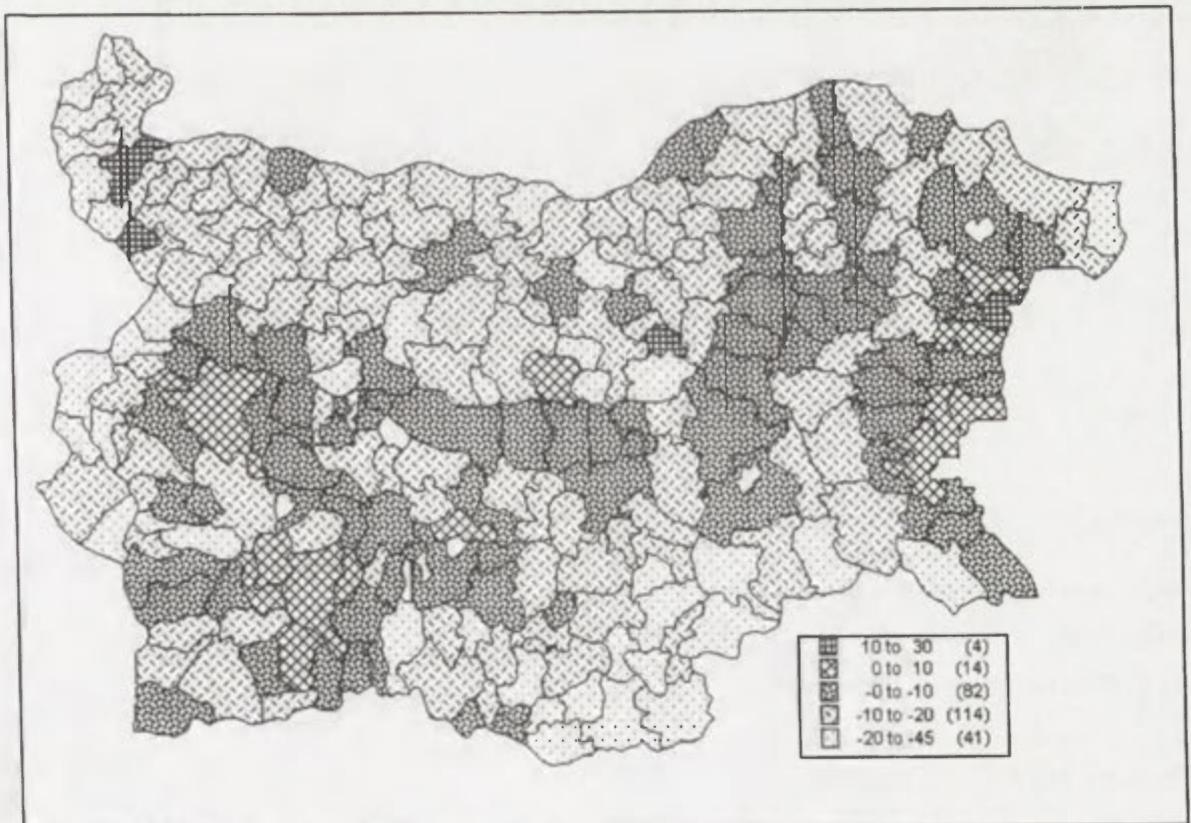


Fig.2. Depopulation in the Rural Regions of Bulgaria in % (1992-2001)

As a result of the decreasing rural population and the changes in its reproductive pattern, the demographic structures have also been transformed. Most marked is their impact

on the age structure. There is a clear-cut tendency towards rapid aging which affects the population reproduction and the socio-economic progress of the rural areas. All schemes of population age structure define the rural population in Bulgaria as regressive with a very high relative share of people aged over 54/59. According to 2001-census, this share is 32.5 % and has grown by 1.4 points as compared with that in 1999 (31.1 %). On a spatial scale the areas, characterized by the highest rates of population aging, coincide with the most heavily depopulated areas (Northwestern Bulgaria, the western border areas, the Central Stara Planina Mountains and the Pre-Balkan, Strandzha, Sakar and many parts of the plains) (Fig. 3).

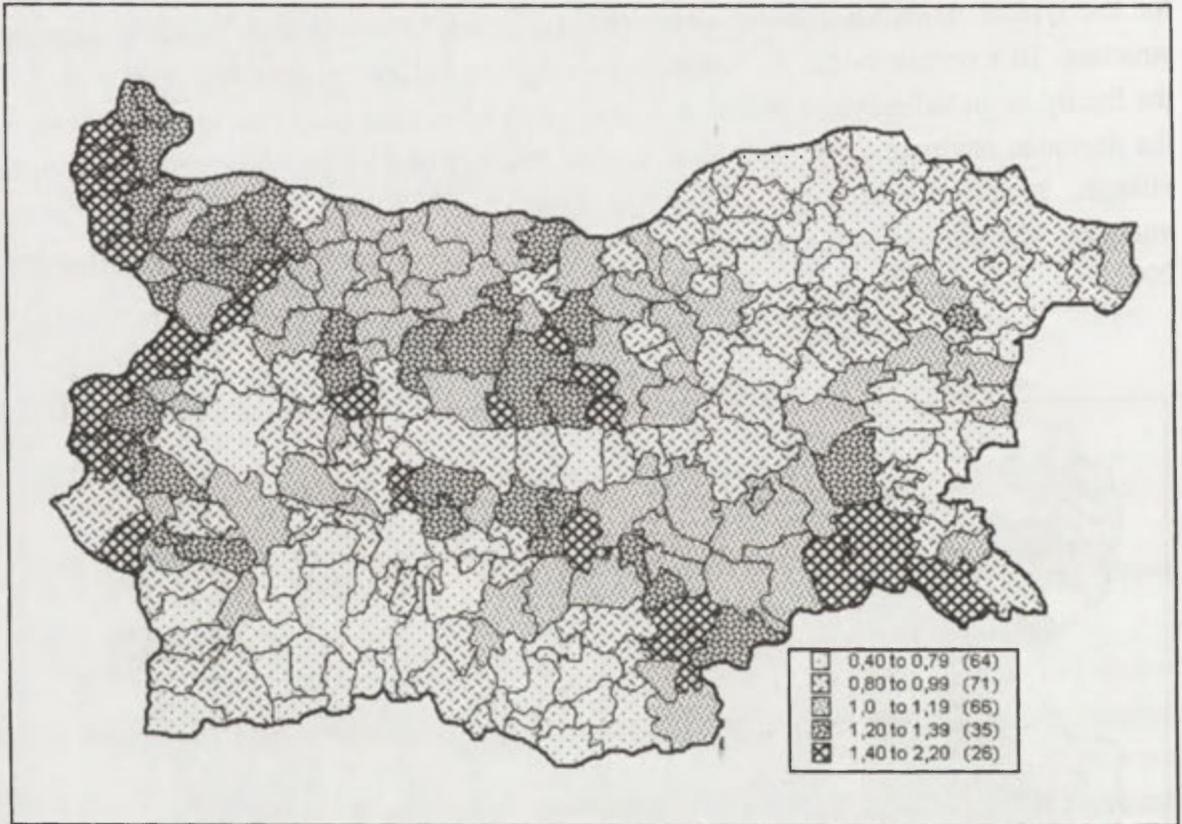


Fig.3. Age Dependency Ratio in the Rural Regions of Bulgaria (2001)

The rural population aging is a serious demographic and socio-economic problem. The rural population is already unable to reproduce itself. This feature together with the out-migrations will maintain high rates of population decrease. On the other hand, the aged population economically burdens the working-age population (Geography of Bulgaria, 1997).

As for the rural population, a pressing issue today is its reproduction. The natural increase has for long been negative. In 2000 it was -11.5 per thousand. During the last decade the negative natural increase was the main cause for the rural population drop. For example, in 2000 the natural increase was -30013 people and the migration increase -11558 respectively. However, the high negative values of natural increase, normalize the age structure but at the expense of a drastically reduced number of population.

The birth rates are very low, varying from 6.7 to 9.0 per thousand during the period of investigation. These low values predetermine the regressive type of population reproduction. On a regional scale there are certain municipalities where the birth rates are higher than the ones, needed to obtain a net reproduction rate (NRR) > 1 .

By contrast, the death rates are high, ranging between 18.6 and 20.7 per thousand. The high death rates result from the extreme aging of the rural population. On the other hand, the reform in health services and the economic crisis also exert their influence.

The migrations of the rural population are caused by social and economic factors.

It has to be noted that the inefficient production, its territorial organization and the economic restructuring have led to abating commuting. The latter has remained relatively intensive in the rural regions adjacent to large industrial complexes such as Varna-Devnya, Sofia, Bourgas, Kozlodui, etc. The reduced commuting flows are considered to be a factor adversely affecting the development of rural population by lowering the incomes, by impeding the reasonable use of the ecologically healthy living conditions, by stimulating the permanent migrations and by retarding the urbanization processes.

In the past decade, however, the migration of the rural population increased and shows an upward tendency (about +3 per thousand). This results from the instability in the economic sector and foreign politics during the transition period, associated with economic restructuring, from the high unemployment, from the land restitution, from the lower living costs in the villages and from the chances people are given to earn a living from their individual farms. From demographic, geographical, social and economic viewpoint this is considered to be a positive process. As those returning to the villages, are primarily pensioners and people in non-reproductive ages or in advanced working ages, having failed to find job under the new labour market conditions, the structure of the rural population does not improve and hence, the depopulation process enters a stage of fragile stagnation. Young people in working ages continue to leave their native villages, what makes their prosperity rather difficult and accelerates the population aging.

The educational structure of the rural population has social and economic dimensions. As a whole, the educational structure has been improved. The share of the population with a low educational level shrinks (in 2001 the percentage of people with education below the primary education level dropped by 7.3 points as compared to 1992). The share of people with university education insignificantly grows (by 0.6 points). Generally, the educational structure of the rural population is unsatisfactory: people with higher education - 1.6 %, with secondary and semi-higher education - 28.0 %, with primary education - 40.6 % and with lower education - 29.8 % (2001 data). The low level of education and qualification slows down the development of the rural settlements and prevents the introduction of advanced technologies in farming. There are no national educational programs for training in agrarian technologies and management. This disadvantage is partially compensated by the programs for qualification and re-qualification of the unemployed persons but they concern the non-agricultural sectors.

The economic restructuring, taking place during the system's transformation, has led to changes in the labour market. Much labour force has been released from the dismantled agro-industrial complexes and from the changing industry and other economic sectors. No alternative jobs have been offered and therefore much of the rural population has suffered unemployment. Unfortunately the latter is recorded at a municipal level and there are no data for the towns and villages. The unemployment is estimated indirectly – because the municipalities either lack an urban settlement or have a very small share of urban population. It can be concluded that the unemployment in the rural areas is twice as high as the national average (17 % in 1999). In the small municipalities it is over 40 % , e.g. Kainardzha (46.9 %), Borino (42.6 %), Ruzhintzi (41.9 %), Antonovo (42.2 %), Kaolinovo (41.6 %), etc. There is not a downward trend in the unemployment level. A curious fact is observed in Bulgaria - although people have their own land (in 2000 private ownership was restored on 99 % of the land plots) they are unwilling to cultivate it by themselves and rely on earnings from non-agrarian sectors, on relief benefits or on incomes from land leasing. It has to be noted that the share of employed persons in the tertiary sector has grown what is associated with the closure of certain production lines in the primary and secondary industries. Land cultivation on cooperative basis will play an important role but it is still ineffective and unattractive for most of the rural population. The reason is to be sought in the fact that many of the landowners live in the towns and give their land on lease to the cooperatives, that there are political clashes, frequent revisions of the laws, etc. A large number of peasants cultivate small plots of land to meet their own needs. A more active and independent land cultivation faces difficulties because the land division between the landowners or their offsprings has not been judically completed yet, because there is not land market, because there is too much bureaucracy for obtaining credits, because the farmers gain low profits and can hardly afford to buy farm machines, etc. The organization of farm production for the market is unsatisfactory and does not guarantee the producers decent earnings. The contribution of the foreign capital for agricultural development is also restricted as according to the constitution the foreigners are not allowed to possess land. As a consequence, many peasants are not engaged in agricultural activities and are registered as jobless.

In order to mitigate the unemployment and to encourage the peasants to return to their villages, a conception for multifunctional development of agriculture is needed. The performance of additional, non-agricultural activities by the farms, raises the people's incomes, enables the rural areas to adopt the urban way of life and improves the life style of their population. Small firms, especially those, processing agricultural products, are likely to invest in agriculture. Nevertheless, most reliable are investments, allocated from the EU pre-accession funds.

The attempts for reducing the unemployment in the country through stimulating the development of agriculture are significantly hampered by certain psychological barriers. In addition, the unattractive and non-prestigious farm work and the low wages in the agricultural sector also seem to be serious impediments in an effort to achieve this goal. Thus,

for example, the Gypsies, who have a low cultural and educational status, who do not possess farm land and who are most severely affected by unemployment, are unwilling to buy or to take land on lease from the municipal and state land resources although they can take it over on easy terms. In the Employment Offices they claim to get a „more prestigious work” although they don't have the necessary skill and education. The same tendency is observed with the poor Bulgarian and Turkish families.

Another serious problem relates to the conditions in which the rural population has to live. The technical and social infrastructure in the rural settlements is in bad shape, which makes them unattractive especially for the young people and maintains substantial volume of out-migrations. The underdeveloped infrastructure hinders the growth of the rural tourism, which in spite of the splendid natural conditions, is not a common practice. On the other hand, this type of tourism is still unattractive for the Bulgarian tourists and relies primarily on foreign visitors.

A conclusion can be drawn that among the main problems, the rural population is faced with, are depopulation, low birth rates, high death rates, advanced aging, intensive out-migration, low incomes, high unemployment level, low educational and qualification level, limited investments in agriculture, ineffective rural settlement network characterized by obsolete and inadequate technical and social infrastructure, poor job opportunities, gloomy perspectives for climbing up the social ladder, etc. The aforesaid problems further aggravate the depopulation processes and turn vast rural areas, situated chiefly in the mountains, hill regions, and border regions of the country into „economic deserts”. All this requires the implementation of target-oriented national and regional demographic and socio-economic policy based on strict legislation. For that purpose, a number of laws, treating the above-mentioned issues, have to be amended and synchronized.

A complex interdisciplinary research on the rural population and rural areas is needed on a national and regional scale, containing a detailed analysis of the current processes. The survey has to specify the prospects and barriers for future progress, particularly for multifunctional development, of these areas as well as the possibilities for applying the world famous models in the course of investigations. The ethnic and cultural problems of the rural population, its mentality and integration also deserve attention.

References

- Geshev G., Mladenov Ch., 1989, *Demographic Potential Impact on the Development the Territorial Systems in North Bulgaria*, A research paper, prepared by Institute of Geography, Sofia.
- Geshev G., 1990, *Depopulation of Rural Areas in Bulgaria*, [in:] *Problems of Geography*, 4.
- Mladenov Ch., 2001, *Depopulation in the Rural Regions of Bulgaria*, [in:] *Problems of Geography*, 1-2.
- *** *Geography of Bulgaria*, S., BAS, 1997
- *** *Number of Population by Districts, Municipalities and Settlements*, S., National Statistical Institute, S., 1993.
- *** *Population '98, '99, '2000*, S., National Statistical Institute, S., 1999, 2000, 2001.

PROBLEMY LUDNOŚCI WIEJSKIEJ BUŁGARII

Streszczenie

Znaczna część problemów ludności wiejskiej w Bułgarii zaktywizowała się i pogłębiła w wyniku zmian systemu gospodarczego i reform strukturalnych. Nastąpiło spowolnienie procesów industrializacji i urbanizacji wsi. Przemiany, które nastąpiły na wsi przejawiały się w różnej intensywności w poszczególnych regionach i były spowodowane różnicami w ich rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczym i demograficznym.

Na rozwój i kształtowanie się wsi mają istotny wpływ zmieniające się w układzie historycznym czynniki polityczne, gospodarcze, społeczne i psychologiczne. W rezultacie tych zmian we wsiach Bułgarii zachodzi deformacja sytuacji demograficznej, stając się przyczyną rozwoju procesów depopulacyjnych i podstawą silnie zarysowującego się kryzysu demograficznego.

Największe problemy na obszarach zamieszkałych przez ludność wiejską to: depopulacja, niski przyrost naturalny, wysoki poziom śmiertelności, wysoki stopień starzenia się, utrzymujące się znaczne migracje, niskie dochody, wysokie bezrobocie, niski poziom wykształcenia i kwalifikacji zawodowych. Problemy stwarzają zmniejszone inwestycje w rolnictwie oraz nieefektywna osadnicza sieć wiejska i przestarzała, niedostatecznie rozwinięta infrastruktura techniczna i społeczna, ograniczająca możliwości rozwoju i realizację społeczności wiejskiej. Efektem są pogłębiające się procesy depopulacyjne na obszarach wiejskich, powodujące powolne zamienianie ich w „pustynie gospodarcze”. To wszystko wymaga prowadzenia odpowiedniej polityki demograficznej i społeczno-ekonomicznej na poziomie krajowym i regionalnym. Także dla tych celów należy zsynchronizować oraz dokonać zmiany przepisów prawnych dotyczących wymienionych problemów.

CHANGES OF POLISH AGRICULTURE IN 1990s AND THE INTEGRATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION

Roman Kulikowski

Abstract: Paper presents changing spatial patterns of Polish agriculture in the decade of 90s, showing its position in Polish economy and comparisons with agriculture of EU countries. Analysis of transformation is running through the employed in agriculture, agrarian structure (ownership and size of farms) as well as operational and productional characteristics.

Key words: Poland, European Union, agriculture, changes, employment, agrarian structure, land use, crop and animal production.

Poland belongs to the group of countries which will join EU after the accession period, what will probably take place in 2004. Along with a whole economy, Polish farming has realized the necessity of its adaptation to the integration with Western Europe. According to W. Zgliński (2000) changes in Polish agriculture fall in Central European model focusing not on mass privatisation, but securing the functional continuation of enterprises and sustain farms adapted to market condition. The aim was to create effective family holdings, partly by the land tenancy. Contrary to Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia this model has been applied in Northern and Western Poland only, where state farms have been numerous prior 1989.

Base of this study are official statistical data as well as numerous earlier studies devoted to this problem (Andrychowicz and others 2000, Bański 2001, Halamska 2000, Kulikowski 2001, Kulikowski, Szczęsny 1998, Miklaszewski 1999, Niemczyk 2001, *Opinie...* 2001, Siekierski 1999, Szafraniec 2001, Wojciechowska-Ratajczak 1999, Wilkin 2000, Woś 2001, Zgliński 2000).

Contribution of agriculture to Polish economy

The years 1990-1995 are characterised by slight increase of rural population (about 110 thousand), due returns to villages of peasant-workers, who had jobs in towns. Share of rural population in the total country's population has not changed much and is constituting of 38%. On the areas located east from the Vistula river rural population represent 53% (Halamska 2000).

In the whole post-war period agriculture has long been the important division of Poland's economy, though in the recent years its role is more important as an employment for the big number of people, and less as a component of GDP. Post-war period was

characterised by the significant structural changes of income sources for rural population. In 1950 farming was a source of income for 73% of rural population, then declined to 27% in 1998. At the same time the social incomes growth from 2% to 35% - retired pays (0-14.4%) and disability payments (0-12.5%). See: J. Zegar (2000) and A. Niemczyk (2001).

Agricultural land represent 59% of total Polish area (18 408 thousand of hectares) and in the decade of ninetieths it has not change much. More significant changes have taken place in fiftieths when doctrine of socialisation was introduced in to the practice. All this give rise the share of state and collective farming, blocking by the lot of years development of peasant agriculture. The transformation of ninetieths was characterised by two periods of deterioration of rural economy. First (years 1990-1995) marked by the termination of existence of state-owned farms and rural marchant co-operatives as well as a worsening of material standard of former state farm workers. The second (from 1996) when price ratios of agricultural to non agricultural products were deteriorated (Zegar 2000).

After the World War II the contribution of agricultural production to the national income has been systematically decreasing from 58% in 1947 to 33.8% in 1960, than to 12% in 1980 and approximately 5% in 2000 (Fig. 1). The contribution of agriculture to the national income varies considerably across country space ranging from between 1.5%-3.0% in the highly urbanised areas (the former provinces of Warsaw, Łódź, and Katowice), up to 20-28% in the eastern part of the country. Average of this index for the EU 15 countries in 1999 was amounted only to 1.6% (Belgium, Germany, Great Britain – 1% each, Italy, France – 3% each, Ireland 5%).

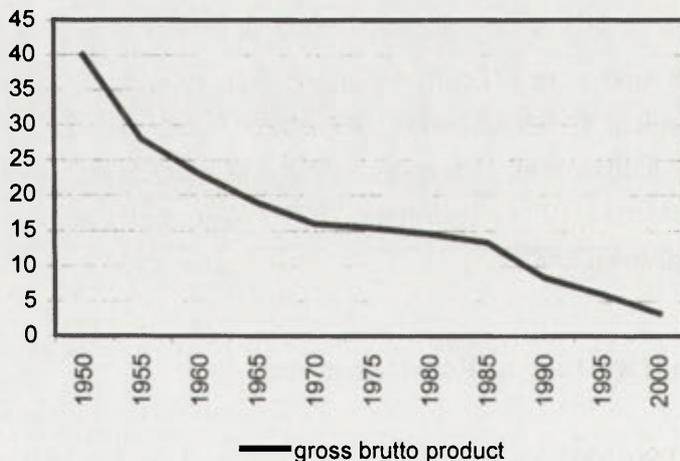


Fig. 1. Percentage share of agriculture in Polish brutto gross product

At the beginning of 1990s the efficiency of production factors in agriculture has fallen in comparison with other economic sectors, what seriously influenced upon recuction of income of agricultural population. In the years 1999-2000 the income of agricultural population in comparison with non agricultural reached the lowest level during the whole after world-war period. The parity of agricultural income amount only 40% (Orłowski 2001). According to A. Woś (2001) disposable gross revenues per one person employed

in agriculture constitute just 22% of that from outside agriculture. In 1997 has living in Polish rural territories 62.5% of people below social minimum and 8.7% below existential minimum (Strefa ubóstwa 1998).

In the middle of 1990s. 44% of total rural population was educated on the level of primary schools and 12% below primary (Szafraniec 2001). See Fig. 2.

Despite of activation of market economy transformations of last decade caused and maintain disadvantageous macroeconomic conditions for agriculture. Selling prices of agricultural products in relation to the industrial products used for agricultural production have dropped down in Poland from 100% in 1970 to 58% in 1998 (in EU to 90.4%) (Wilkin 2000). Low effectiveness of agricultural production, together with stagnation of food processing industry and high rate of unemployment were the reason of insufficient progress of rural areas. Opposite there have been observed their depreciation (Orłowski 2001). According to A. Niemczyk (2001) for 30% of rural population a social means are the only source of their livelihood. As a result of straitened economic circumstances of agricultural population in the last decade one can observe a significant fall of support of this social group for the integration with European Union. Field investigations being carried on by Szafraniec (2001) show that only 65% of farmers in 1995 and 35% actually are supporting the idea of Polish membership in EU.

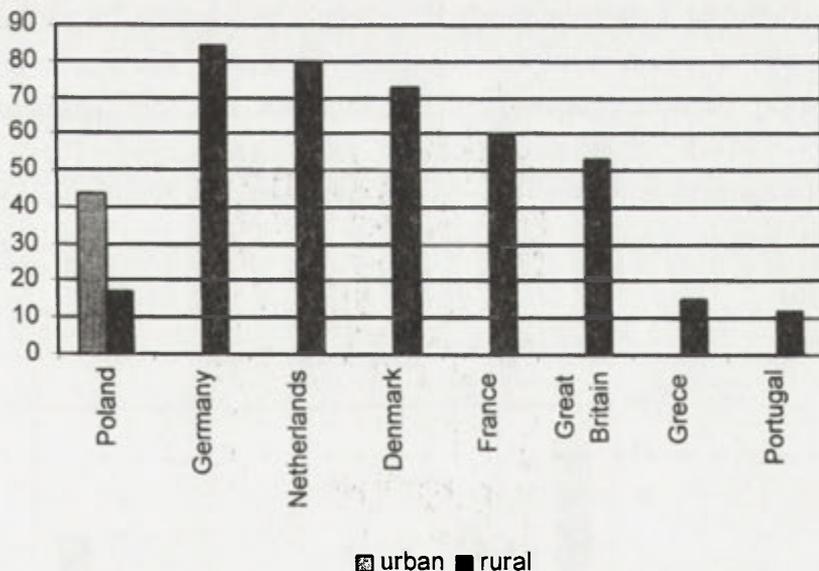


Fig. 2. Percentage share of rural population with high and university education in total number of rural population

Employment in agriculture

According to the statistical yearbooks number of employees in Polish agriculture decreased from 5143 thousands (78.7% in private agriculture) in 1980 to 4523 thousands (77.9%) in 1989 and 4193 thousands (97%) in 1995, afterwards slight increase was noted – to 4225 thousands in 1999. Decrease of employment in agriculture at the beginning of 90s was connected with the liquidation of state farming and slight increase in next few years was effected by the reduction of employment in big state industrial enterprises.

Average country's number of people actively employed in agriculture per 100 hectares of agricultural land dropped from 24 persons in 1989 to 22.9 persons in 1999. The number of employees per unit of agriculture area varies considerably across the country, ranging between 7-8 persons in Pomerania to 12 persons in North-Eastern part and almost 50 persons in the regions situated at the foothills of the Carpathians mountains. W. M. Orłowski (2001) estimates the number of farm workers in Poland on about 2.5 millions, and the number of persons in so called „social sector” (not employed or active in agriculture additionally, as a second job) at minimum 1.5 million persons. According to this author real share of population actively employed in agriculture is around 16% and is comparable with average for the OECD countries. A. Woś (2001) number of people constantly dispensable in agriculture estimates on 1.6 million persons. According to other sources of information (*Opinie...* 2001) share of people lived upon work in agriculture (mainly or exclusively) reach up to 12.4% of total number of workers. In EU countries the number of persons employed in agriculture per 100 hectares varies from 2.6 persons in Great Britain, 3.5 in France and Spain, 9 in Italy up to 16 persons in Portugal (Fig. 3). The distance in this respect between Poland and EU countries is quite significant, partly because of different methods of estimation of this data. The changes of the number of people employed in agriculture in 90s reflects also its increase in South-East and Central Poland, where considerable surplus was noted, and the decrease in North and Western parts of the country.

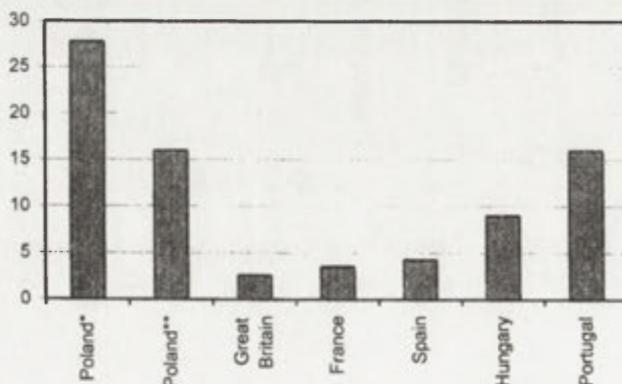


Fig. 3. Percentage share of population actively employed in agriculture in total number of employed

* - Data according Main Statistical Office.

** - Data according to Orłowski (2001).

The rural population is characterised by lower level of education than urban population. In 1996 almost 52% farmers have a primary and incomplete primary education. Data for 1998 shows fall of this indicator to 44.6%, but still its level is lower than that in the towns. Within urban population share of people with education on secondary and university level was much more higher (44%) than in rural territories (17.4%). In the majority of EU countries the level of education of rural population is significantly higher. The share of rural people with secondary education (high schools) amounted to 84.6% in Germany, 80% in Netherlands, 72.7% in Denmark 59.3% in France, 53.4% in Great Britain. Within EU countries only in Greece (15.5%) and Portugal (11.8%) that index was lower than in Poland (Wawrzyniak 2001).

Agrarian structure

In the last decade the changes of size of farms and especially land ownership have been significant. In 1989 private, individual farming occupied 14274 thousands hectares of agricultural land (76.2% of total agricultural area). At the some time socialised sector possessed 4453 thousands of hectares (23.8%), from which 18.8% remained in state farms, 3.8% was under collective ownership and 0.3% under agricultural production circles. In the years 1992-1995 agricultural circles and state farms were liquidated and their land, together with lands belonging to the State Fond of Land (0.8 millions of hectares) was taken over by of Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury. Under administration of this Agency fell about 4 millions of hectares of land, out of that about 2.9 millions of hectares were leased out, only some 380 thousands of hectares were sold. As a result of these undertakings numerous individual holdings have been enlarged as well as 1171 big agricultural farms from 100 up to 500 hectares, and 159 agricultural farms and companies with acreage above 1000 hectares were created. As a result of these transformations the share of private agriculture has amounted from 75.8% in 1990 up to 78% in 1997 being divided between family farms (75.8%) and agricultural production co-operatives (2.2%).

Due to restructuring of the state-run agriculture in the beginning of 90s there have occurred essential changes in the use of land. The private farming used 80% in 1990 and 91% of country's agricultural land in 2000 (in the some time individual farms occupied respectively 76% and 84%). The share of individual farms in country's agricultural area varies considerably across space, ranging from 36-43% on North-Western Poland (areas with numerous state farms in the past) up to 90% or even more 96% on some Eastern and South-Eastern parts of the country.

Number of Poland's individual holdings decreased from 2138 thousands in 1989 to 1989 in 1999 (by 7%), together with an increase of its average size from 7 to 8 hectares. At the some time the process of polarisation was progressing and connected with rise of small holdings (size of 1-2 hectares) as well as with increase of farms above 15 hectares in total number of individual farms from 6% to 8.5%. The smallest acreage of holdings was still

observed in Southern provinces of the country. The provinces featuring the largest average acreage of family farms were on North, where farms with the size over 15 hectares constitute over 80% of total country's agricultural areas.

In spite of these positive changes the average acreage of a private farm in Poland was yet more than two times smaller than on the average in the countries of European Union (about 18 hectares). Though in the latter these averages ranged from 4 hectares in Greece, 6 hectares in Italy to about 40 hectares in France and 70 hectares in Great Britain (Fig. 4).

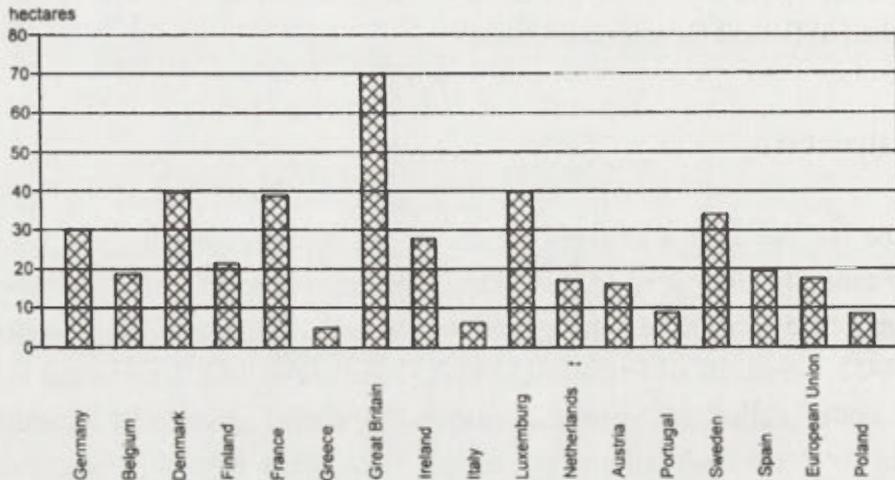


Fig. 4. Average size of farms in Poland and EU countries

Investments and technical means in agriculture

Agricultural inputs (in constant prices) decreased from 100% in 1990 to 40% in 1999, showing very big differences across the area. Its level is ten times higher in Greater Poland province (317 zł/1 hectare in former Poznań voivodship) than in some areas of Little Poland province (31 zł/1 hectare in former Krosno and Jelenia Góra voivodships). In the structure of total agricultural inputs the costs of agricultural machines and instruments occur the higher position (39.5%).

Very rapid growth of prices of technical products, from the beginning of 90s, in comparison with low increase of agricultural products, were the reason of radical drop of use of artificial fertilizers and other chemicals for plant protection.

In the years: 1989/1990-1992/1993 there has been a deep collapse of application of mineral fertilizers (from 160 kg NPK content/1 hectare of agricultural land down to 66 kg). The greatest decrease of volumes of mineral fertilizers applied has been observed in this period in Northern and Western territories of Poland in connection with the decline of plant production in the former state farms. In 1999/2000 application of mineral fertilizers

has been increased up to 85.8 kg and it is still much lower in comparison with EU countries: Spain – 144 kg, Italy – 222 kg, Germany – 241 kg, France – 277 kg (Fig. 5).

Sale of plant protection chemicals has been decreasing from 20.6 thousands tons (active content) in 1989 to 7 thousands in 1995 and 8.6 thousands in 1999/2000. In last year of the above sequence only 0.6 kg of plant protection chemicals (active content) per 1 hectare of arable land has been used. It is much lower consumption in comparison with EU countries (Belgium – 11.9 kg, Italy – 10.7 kg, Netherlands 5.2 kg).

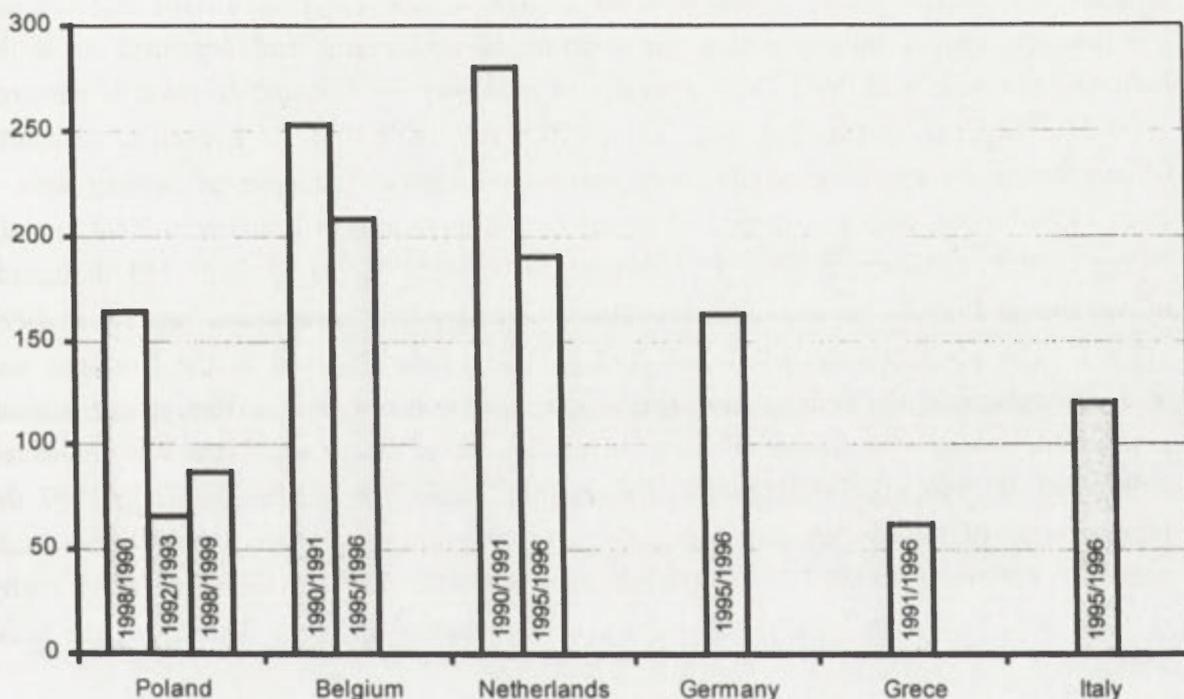


Fig. 5. Consumption of chemical fertilizers in kilograms of pure content per 1 hectare of agricultural land

Sale of plant protection chemicals has been decreasing from 20.6 thousands tons (active content) in 1989 to 7 thousands in 1995 and 8.6 thousands in 1999/2000. In the last of these years only 0.6 kg of plant protection chemicals (active content) per 1 hectare of arable land was used. It is much lower consumption in comparison with EU countries (Belgium – 11.9 kg, Italy – 10.7 kg, Netherlands 5.2 kg).

Aggregate draught power in agriculture (mechanic and animal in conventional units) has elevated from 9 millions units in 1990 up to 10 millions in 1999. Together with sharp collapse of number of horses the share of animal draught power has been decreasing from 9.7 to 4.7 % of total. At the same time number of tractors increased from 1.1 million to 1.3 million, and the area per one tractor came down from 16 hectares in 1990 to 14 hectares in 2000 (Netherlands – 5.2 hectares, Italy - 5.6 hectares, Germany – 9.7 hectares, France - 14 hectares). It is the fact, that more tractors were before 1980. One can notice

the lack of small tractors, better adapted to the numerous group of small private holdings, what makes that bigger tractors are not effectively used on these farms.

Agricultural land use and crop production

There has been slight reduction of agricultural land in our country, from 18 720 thousands hectares in 1990 to 18408 hectares in 2000. Poland belongs to the countries with high percentage of agricultural land (59%) in total area and very high percentage of arable land in total area of cultivated land (76.7%). In the last decade the changing spatial patterns within the structure of agricultural land depended on slight reduction of arable land (by 1.7%), expansion of meadows (by 4%) and decrease of pastures (by 8.3%). Bigger changes have taken place within the arable land. As a result of reduction of cultivation on the purest soils there has been a distinct collapse of sowing area – from 14 242 thousands of hectares in 1990 to 12 408 thousands of hectares in 2000, mainly owing to the fallowing of land. Fallow lands in farming increased from 163 thousands of hectares in 1999 (1.1% of total arable lands) up to 1668.5 thousands of hectares in 1999 (11.9%). The greatest share of fallow land (20-25%) was observed in the Northern and Western regions of the country, and their appearance resulted from extensive agricultural production, as well as in former Warsaw voivodship, where fallowing of land was connected with plans of changing the functions of agricultural areas into another ones¹. In 1997 the biggest areas of fallow one can find in former voivodships: – Olsztyn (102.4 thousands hectares), Zielona Góra (82.1 thousands hectares), Koszalin (72.5 thousands hectares). Partly it is the land that after tenancy came back to Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury.

In the total sowing area the cereals have been dominated (56.9%), with the preponderance of wheat (20.5%) and rye (17.8%), with the considerable share of fodder cereals (11%) and barley (8.8%). Within a root crops the potatoes occurred 10% and industrial crops 7.3% of sowing area (in it rape seed 4.3%). In the years 1990-1999 from among the basic crops it is wheat (+302 thousands hectares) and fodder cereals for grain (+ 215 thousands hectares) that increased, while the surface under rye, oats and potatoes decreased. In the beginning of 90s there has been an important decrease of yields, largely influenced by the lower application of mineral fertilizers. Yields of cereals decreased from 32.3 q/1 hectare in 1989-1991 to 27 q in the years 1991-1995, and to 25.3 q in 2000, being more then twice lower then in Germany – 62.3 q, France - 71.7q, Great Britain 70.4 q (Fig. 6).

Cereal production fell down from 27.9 millions tons in 1990-1991 to 20.8 millions tons in 1992-1993 (drop of yields and reduction of sowing area), then increased to 24 millions tons in 1999-2000.

¹ In the commune of Jabłonna, located near by Warsaw and characterized by high development of housing, fallows constitute almos 80% of arable lands.

Production of potatoes decreased from 35.4 millions tons in the years 1989-1990 to 22 millions tons in 1999-2000 (mainly due to reduction of yields – 200 q/h in 1998, 157 q/ha in 1999, and reduction of sowing area). In 1999 yields of potatoes in EU countries reached adequately: in Belgium – 490 q, in Netherlands – 430 q, in Great Britain - 427 q, in Germany – 402 q, in France – 371 q.

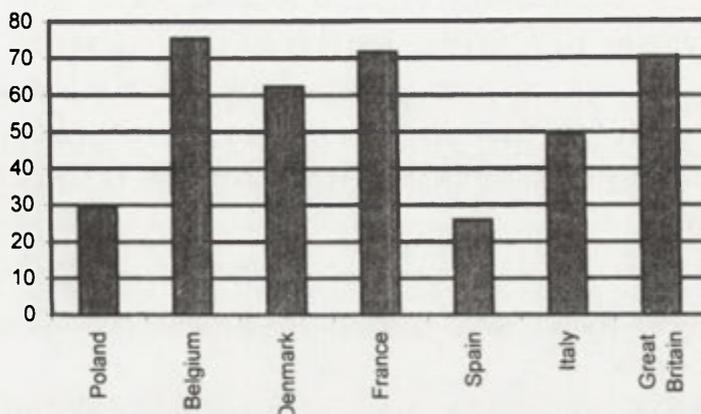


Fig. 6. Yields of cereals per1 hectare of cropland 1999

Within industrial crops small changes in the 1990s were connected with the reduction of sowing area of sugar beets, and their production varied, together with decline of yields was which from 15 millions tons in 1989-1990 to 12.6 millions tons in 1999. The yields of sugar beets in Poland – 340 q run away from the level in EU countries France – 706 q, Belgium - 611 q, Great Britain – 529 q, Germany – 510 q, Netherlands – 509 q). Harvests of rape seed, after considerable decline in the beginning of 90s, connected with the liquidation of state farms, were reconstructed and in the last few years are higher (by 10-12%) compared with its production from turn of 1980s and 1990s.

Harvests of vegetables (5.5-6.0 millions tons) do not show bigger changes. The production of fruits amounted 1.77 millions tons in the years 1990-1995 increased up to 2.3 millions tons in 1999-2000. More than 1/3 of fruits came from Grójec and Warka region, located south of Warsaw.

Livestock breeding and animal production

Traditionally the most important component of animal production in Poland constitute livestock and pig breeding, as a secondary branch is poultry.

The years 1988-1996 show a significant drop of gross agricultural production amounted to 11.4% (Szczęsny 1999), and in the next years there has been noted very slight increase. The great changes have gone also within the structure of gross and commercial agricultural production, depended on increase of the share of gross plant production from 50.6% in 1990 up to 53.3% in 2000. At the some time the share of animal production

within the total agricultural commercial production has decreased from 66.8% to 62.6%. This decline, mentioned before, was mainly a consequence of the general drop in the cattle numbers, from 10 millions of heads in 1990 to 5.7 millions in 2000 (drop by 30.9% in the years 1988-1996, and further 7% till 2000), reaching the score of 1947.

Number of cattle per 100 hectares of agricultural land fell from 54 heads in 1990 down to 37 in 2000. The number of heads of cattle has been reduced nearly by half in Northern and Western Poland, and its high decrease was caused by the practical liquidation of cattle breeding in the restructuring state farms as well as by the systematic decrease of cattle number in small private holdings. Only the North Mazovia and Podlasie are the regions with reasonable increase of cattle breeding (connected with foreign capital inputs in milk processing industry).

The phenomenon commonly observed in 1990s regarding cattle and pig breeding was the liquidation of animal breeding in small individual holdings and its concentration in big commercial farms.

Number of pigs have been changing from 19.5 millions of heads in 1990 up to 22 millions in 1992, and after that largely decreased to about 15.4 millions in 2000. Number of pigs per 100 hectares of agricultural land fluctuated from 104 heads in 1990 up to 110 in 1995 and 100 in 2000. Level of the index, mentioned above is much more lower in comparison with some EU countries: Netherlands – 572, Belgium – 496, Denmark – 444, Germany – 143, but higher than in France – 51, Great Britain – 48, and Italy – 83.

Analogically like cattle breeding, the most significant decrease of pig breeding was observed in North and in Western regions of the country. At the same time within Greater Poland and Kujawy province there has been a significant increase of the pig numbers connected with development of big herd breeding system.

There has been a drastic reduction of number of sheep (4837 thousand in 1985 and 4159 in 1990 to 313 thousand in 2000). That enormous collapse of sheep breeding was a consequence both: the worsening profitability of agricultural production as well as low wool prices on the international market.

The kind of recession have been observed on the example of poultry breeding. In the decade of 90s number of hens decreased from 52 millions in 1990 to 48 millions in 2000, (ducks from 7.2 millions to 3.6). Nevertheless the share of poultry in total meat production has grown in this period (from 4.1% to 7.4%) mainly due to decrease of beef consumption.

Commercial agricultural production

During the recent dozen or so years the role of individual sectors of agriculture in the total commercial production changed, as well. In 1980 private agriculture supplied 71% of domestic commercial agricultural production, the state farms 22%, collective farms – 5%, and farming associations (agricultural circles) – 1.3%. Thus, the so-called „socialised” sector of agriculture supplied at that time 28.3% of the total country’s commercial production of agriculture. After liquidation of the state farms and farming associations, and the formal transfer of the co-operatives to the private sector, the share of public farming in the total country’s commercial production dropped by 1998 to just 4.7%, while the share of private farms increased to 86%.

The biggest shares in the domestic agricultural production in 1997 according to spatial distribution were contributed by the provinces (administrative division in force until 1998) of Poznań, Bydgoszcz and Kalisz (4-4.5% each). The smallest shares in the country’s agricultural production were taken by the provinces in southern Poland, e.g. Krosno, Bielsko-Biała and Nowy Sącz, where population density in rural areas is among the highest in the country, and farming is largely self-sufficient. Likewise, the provinces of Middle Pomerania, where, in spite of high average farm size, agricultural production had not yet been reconstructed after its decline due to the liquidation of the state farms, featured a small contribution to the national agricultural commercial production.

Among the individual sectors of agriculture, the highest values of commercial agricultural production per 1 hectare of agricultural land in 1997 were observed in collective farms (2233 PLN), high in individual farms (1652 PLN) and low (1300 PLN) in public sector of agriculture. The volume of agricultural production per unit of cultivated area is most often referred to in the literature as land productivity. Index, mentioned above, in the end of 90s was in Poland nearly three times lower in comparison with its average in EU countries.

According to agricultural census 1996 land productivity for Polish individual agriculture varies considerably across the area of the country from between the lowest – 552 PLN per 1 ha of agricultural land in former province of Krosno, and the highest – 2234 PLN in Poznań province. Ranges of this feature observed among the smallest administrative units (gminas) have been much more higher and value of this index for some communes located nearby Warsaw shows eight time higher values in comparison with corresponding value in communes where the land productivity was the lowest.

One out of the measures applied in spatial analyses of agriculture is value of agricultural production per 1 person employed in farming (labour productivity). Among the 49 former voivodships the highest value of agricultural commercial production in individual farming (agricultural census data 1996) was noted in Poznań voivodship and it was equal 13.8 thousand PLN, while the lowest was in Krosno voivodship – 1.2 thousand PLN, meaning the proportion of roughly 12 times. The average value of labour productivity

for EU agriculture is almost 5 times higher in comparison with its average level for Polish agriculture, mainly due to larger acreage of farms, better management and better technical equipment what allow the proper use of machinery and limited labour sources.

In Poland the agricultural production valued 100 thousand ecu generate 29 persons actively employed in agriculture, and the average for EU group of countries as many as 5.7 persons only (Miklaszewski 1999).

Conclusions

Stagnation or even regression in a number of agricultural production branches brought about by technological backwardness of this sector of economy and the worsening profitability of production, caused that starting with 1993 foreign trade in agricultural and food product has been noting deficit and negative net balance in trade with the countries of the EU. Four times higher direct subsidies for EU farmers and financial support of food processing products cause that agricultural production of these countries is and will be highly competitive with Polish agriculture. State allowances in a form of direct subsidies for agricultural producers and maintenance of stabile prices for agricultural products have amounted 765 euro/1 ha of agricultural land in EU and only 172 euro there in Poland. The same refers to the last propositions of EU Commission in regard to future direct subsidies for Polish farmers (after 2004), subsidies will be four times lesser in comparison with the level of support of EU farmers (altogether for 10 years transitional period).

Further processes of transformation of Polish agriculture are, however, unavoidable, although they will be significantly prolonged over time, and connected with Polish membership of EU. Integration with EU agricultural policy and liberalization of agricultural trade with a group of EU countries – may be a factor of development in the future for Polish agricultural production. This may also stimulate the reduction of the net negative balance of commerce with the EU member-countries. According to A. Wos (2001) beside certain benefits, involved in the promise of integration accompany at the same time the demands on the side of Poland, namely to effect certain real concessions such as additional costs of partial reduction of national independence, widening of the range of risk and hazards of social fear against the unknown future.

The hope for the resolution of these problems reside not so much only in agriculture itself but also in the remaining links of the food economy, which following the model of western European countries, ought to form in time a food system chain united by the common interest rather than the set of isolated links. Present Polish food economy is characterised by too high employment in agriculture and too big share of agricultural production in total value of food economy production.

References

- Andrychowicz A., Drygas M., Lisztwan I., 2000, *Wybrane problemy przygotowania Polski do wykorzystania środków pomocowych Unii Europejskiej z programu SAPARD*, (*Chosen problems of Poland's preparation to use EU assistance means of the SAPARD program*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo*, 2 (107).
- Bański J., 2001, *Polskie rolnictwo na tle rolnictwa Unii Europejskiej – ocena dystansu*, (*Polish agriculture against the background of EU agriculture – an assessment of the gap*) [in:] J. Bański (ed.), *Wieś i rolnictwo u progu Unii Europejskiej. Studia obszarów wiejskich*, 1,
- Halamska M., 2000, *Wiejskie społeczności lokalne a problem integracji europejskiej* (*Rural local communities versus European integration problems*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo*, 4 (109).
- Kulikowski R., 2001, *Przemiany rolnictwa Polski w latach dziewięćdziesiątych. Daleko czy blisko do UE 15*, (*Transformations of Poland's agriculture in the 1990s. Far from or near to the UE 15 ?*) [in:] J. Bański (ed.), *Wieś i rolnictwo u progu Unii Europejskiej. Studia obszarów wiejskich*, 1.
- Kulikowski R., Szczęsny R., 1998, *Changing spatial patterns of Polish agriculture after 1998 and a forecast to 2010*, *Problems of Geography*, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences no. 1-2.
- Miklaszewski S., 1999, *Polityka rolna i regionalna jako podstawowe kwestie sporne w negocjacjach Polski z Unią Europejską*, (*Agricultural and regional policy as a basic questions of Polish negotiations with EU*), *Materiały z konferencji* (Conference papers) Business and Marketing School in Chorzów.
- Niemczyk A., 2001, *Szanse i zagrożenia polskiego rolnictwa w świetle integracji z Unią Europejską* (*Chances and threatens of Polish agriculture in the light of integration with the EU*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo*, 3 (112).
- Opinie w Unii Europejskiej dotyczące polskiego rolnictwa*, (*EU opinions about Polish agriculture*), 2001, *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 3, (112).
- Orłowski W. M., 2001, *Makroekonomiczne uwarunkowania rozwoju rolnictwa polskiego w długim okresie*, (*Macroeconomic conditions of the development of Polish agriculture in the long-time period*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 2, (111).
- Siekierski J., 1999, *Procesy transformacji systemowej w rolnictwie i gospodarce żywnościowej w Polsce*, (*Processes of system transformations in Polish agriculture and food economy*), ZP-H „Syntex”, Kraków.
- Strefa ubóstwa*, 1998, *Strefa ubóstwa w Polsce (w świetle badań gospodarstw domowych, 1997)*, (*Poverty zone in Poland in the light of households investigations*), *Studia i Analizy Statystyczne GUS*, Warszawa.
- Szafraniec K., 2001, *Wieś wobec szans i zagrożeń procesu transformacji – dynamika zmian* (*Chances and threatens of rural territories in front of transformation process – dynamics of changes*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 3, (112).
- Szczęsny R., 1999, *Przemiany struktury przestrzennej rolnictwa Polski 1988-1996*, (*Changes of spatial structure of Polish agriculture in the years 1988-1996*), *Zeszyty IGiPZ PAN* 59.
- Wawrzyniak B., 2001, *Luka edukacyjna barierą procesu integracji polskiej wsi i rolnictwa z Unią Europejską*, (*Educational gap as a barrier of integration of Polish village and agriculture with EU*) *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 3, (112).
- Wilkin J., 2000, *Polskie rolnictwo w procesie transformacji – mechanizmy tendencje i efekty przemian*, (*Polish agriculture under transformation porocess – mechanisms, tendency and effects of changes*), *Problemy Integracji Rolnictwa* 4.
- Wojciechowska-Ratajczak B., 1999, *Podstawowe uwarunkowania ekonomiczne oraz kierunki polityki strukturalnej wobec wsi i rolnictwa*, (*Fundamental economic conditions and orientations of structural policy toward village and agriculture*), *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 1, (102).

- Woś A., 2000, *Concepts, Policies, Programs and Institutions of Rural Development in Poland*, Third World Bank – FAO EU Accession Workshop in the Rural Sector, Sophia, Bulgaria, (mimeographed).
- Woś A., 2001, *Nowy wymiar uwarunkowań rozwoju polskiego rolnictwa, (New dimension of agricultural development in Poland)*, *Wieś i Rolnictwo* 3, (112).
- Zegar J., 2000, *Dochody ludności chłopskiej. Metody pomiaru – poziom – relacje, (Peasant incomes, Measuring methods – level – relationships)*, IER i GŻ, Warszawa.
- Zgliński W., 2000, *Dekolektywizacja rolnictwa i jej skutki w postkomunistycznych krajach Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej, (Decollectivization of agriculture and its consequences in Central and Eastern Europe)*, *Europa XXI*, 5, IGiPZ PAN. Warszawa.

PRZEMIANY ROLNICTWA POLSKI W LATACH 90. A INTEGRACJA Z UNIĄ EUROPEJSKĄ

Streszczenie

Rolnictwo jest ważnym działem gospodarki i jednym z trudniejszych problemów w negocjacjach Polski z UE. Jego udział w PKB spadł z 12.1% w 1989 r. do 5% w 1999 r. (przeciętna dla krajów UE w ostatnim, wymienionym roku wynosiła zaledwie 1.6%), a liczba zatrudnionych w tym sektorze gospodarki zmniejszyła się w tym samym czasie z 5.1 mln do 4.2 mln (głównie w rezultacie likwidacji gospodarstw państwowych). W. M. Orłowski (2001) szacuje liczbę osób pracujących w rolnictwie na 2.5 mln a liczbę osób w „sektorze socjalnym” (niepracujący i prowadzący uboczną działalność rolniczą). Przeciętna wielkość indywidualnych gospodarstw rolnych wzrosła w tym czasie z 7 ha do 8 ha a ich liczba zmalała z 2138 tys. w 1989 r. do 1989 tys. w 1999 r. (przeciętne rozmiary gospodarstw w wybranych krajach UE por. ryc. 2) Gospodarstwa indywidualne podlegały procesowi polaryzacji, polegającemu na wzroście liczby i zajmowanej powierzchni przez gospodarstwa najdrobniejsze oraz gospodarstwa o powierzchni powyżej 15 ha. W 1998 r. działalność rolnicza była podstawą dochodu dla 27.4% mieszkańców wsi (73.3% w 1950 r.) a niezarobkowe źródła dochodu dotyczyły 35% ludności wiejskiej (14.8% emerytury, 12.5% renty).

W początkowym okresie transformacji z lat 90. spadła też wydajność czynników produkcji w rolnictwie, co przyczyniło się do znacznego pogorszenia poziomu dochodów ludności rolniczej w porównaniu do zatrudnionych w innych działach gospodarki.

W rolniczym użytkowaniu ziemi, w latach 90. nie zaszły większe zmiany. W użytkowaniu gruntów ornych na uwagę zasługuje znaczny wzrost powierzchni ugorów (z 1% do 11%). W zasiewach zmiany polegały na wzroście powierzchni pod zbożami i mieszkankami pastewnymi oraz znacznej redukcji uprawy ziemniaka. Większe zmiany w tym okresie dotyczyły struktury własnościowej (likwidacja państwowych gospodarstw rolnych i kółek rolniczych).

W początku lat 90. wraz z dużym spadkiem nawożenia mineralnego nastąpił spadek plonów zbóż, które w porównaniu z plonami tej grupy roślin w niektórych krajach UE wykazywały poziom ponad dwukrotnie niższy (ryc. 3).

W sumie, w latach 90., znacznie większy spadek zanotowano w dziale produkcji zwierzęcej. Pogłowie bydła zmniejszyło się w tym czasie o około 35%, a na obszarach popegeerowskich liczba tych zwierząt spadła o ponad połowę.

W przypadku chowu trzody chlewnej nie notowano aż tak dużych spadków pogłowia a zmiany obserwowane w tych latach polegały na rezygnacji z chowu tych zwierząt w gospodarstwach najmniejszych i rozwoju chowu wielkostadnego w gospodarstwach dużych.

Tylko w latach 1988-1996 nastąpił spadek produkcji globalnej rolnictwa o 11.4% (R. Szczesny 1999), którego do tej pory w pełni nie odbudowano. Pogarszająca się opłacalność produkcji rolnej, w wyniku nieproporcjonalnie wyższego wzrostu cen na środki produkcji spowodowała, że od 1993 r. notowane jest ujemne saldo w handlu produktami rolnymi z krajami UE. Wynika to z istniejących w krajach UE, znacznie wyższych subsydiów dla rolnictwa oraz finansowego wsparcia eksportu produktów rolnych. Wsparcie państwa w formie dotacji bezpośrednich i podtrzymania cen na produkty rolne w UE wynosi 765 euro/1 ha UR a w Polsce zaledwie

172 euro/1 ha UR. Zaproponowane przez UE polskim rolnikom dotacje bezpośrednie w wysokości 4-krotnie niższej od obecnie istniejących w krajach Piętnastki, powodują, że wypada się chyba zgodzić ze zdaniem A. Wosia (2001), który twierdzi, że „obok pewnych korzyści, które obiecuje integracja, domaga się jednocześnie określonych koncesji realnych, w postaci dodatkowych kosztów utraty części suwerenności narodowej, zwiększając obszar ryzyka i społecznych lęków o przyszłość”.

THE UNDERDEVELOPED RURAL REGIONS - AN OBJECT OF THE PRESENT DAY REGIONAL POLICY IN BULGARIA

Iliya Iliev

Abstract: The research is devoted to a pressing issue of our time - the underdeveloped rural regions and the prospects for their development planning and management. Their social, economic and demographic features are described on the basis of different indexes. Suggestions are made for the solution of certain problems. It is emphasized that as an object of the regional policy, these regions have to become a legitimate participant in the above-mentioned process.

Key words: underdeveloped rural areas, migration, human development index, regional policy.

The fundamental changes in Bulgaria's political, social and economic system, which started at the beginning of the 1990s, and the transition from centralized planned to market economy triggered off numerous processes of transformations. The economic crisis, the past and current mistakes, the existing impediments and other factors exacerbated the socio-economic and demographic problems and accelerated the process of depopulation. This applies mostly to the rural and border regions. A policy, stimulating the progress of economically underdeveloped border areas, began to be implemented as early as the 1980s but it didn't lead to the expected results. This can be explained by the attempts to find a partial rather than a complex solutions to the whole set of problems, factors, causes and effects.

The development of the country in a period of transition to market economy proved the necessity of carrying out a policy, aimed at restriction of the adverse consequences and tendencies in the individual territorial units and at regional development management. In order to overcome these negative effects, it is necessary first to identify the rural regions in Bulgaria and then to implement a goal-oriented persistent policy. The Bulgarian scientific literature does not suggest a universally accepted definition of the notion „rural regions”. Most of the researchers admit that their characteristic features are the relatively low population density, the concentration of villages or small towns up to 10 000 people in them and the predominance of activities from the primary sector (Geshev, 1994, Madjarova, 2000, Ilieva, 2001, etc.). The rural regions are defined as a „compact part of the national territory, incorporating villages and small towns which are basically engaged in farming, fishing, forestry, crafts and agro-tourism (*Agraren доклад*, 1999).

The Regional Development Law (1999), drafted in compliance with the requirements of the European Regional Policy distinguishes several types of regions for purposeful impact - regions for growth, for development, for trans-border cooperation and regions with specific

problems and priorities. According to the Law, the underdeveloped rural regions embrace municipalities or groups of municipalities with a distinct rural lifestyle, specializing in agriculture and forestry and characterized by a poorly developed economic basis and technical infrastructure, by a low qualification level of the workforce and ensuing from it acute social problems, by a high unemployment level, by low incomes and by processes of depopulation. By virtue of a normative document, in 1999 the backward rural regions have incorporated municipalities, which meet the following criteria:

- they shouldn't have a mid-sized, big or very big town - i.e. the biggest town in them should not exceed 30 000 people;
- the per capita incomes from activities, performed within the area of the municipality and calculated for the previous two or three consecutive years, should constitute not more than 30% of the average national ones during the last year;
- the mean annual unemployment level for the last two or three years should be by 50% over the national average during the last year;
- the population density should be less than 75% of the average national;
- the relative share of the area, occupied by farm land and forests, should be by 20% over the national average share;
- the relative share of the employed in agriculture and forestry out of all employees should be by 20% higher than the average national during the last year.

Out of a total of 170 rural municipalities, 77 are confronted with the most serious problems and are spatially integrated into 34 underdeveloped rural regions (Fig. 1). They cover an area of 27 000 km² and are located in the outlined six planning regions (Table 1). The analysis of the territorial distribution of the backward rural regions indicates that they have been formed not only in the border areas but also in the inner parts of the country. Their development level results from the continuous impact of a whole set of natural, social, economic, demographic, historical, political and other factors.

Table 1. Underdeveloped rural regions in Bulgaria

Planning regions	Indicators		
	Number of municipalities	Share from territory of planning regions	Share from population of planning regions*
North-West	22	57,03	42,34
North Central	9	17,13	8,18
North-East	23	40,06	20,95
South-West	7	13,59	2,58
South Central	14	20,38	10,01
South-East	2	10,47	4,72
Bulgaria	77	24,33	11,20

* Census of the population 2001

The population of the underdeveloped rural regions amounts to 972 000 people. Most of them (67.2%) live in villages and this percentage share is twice as high as the national average (31.6%).



Fig. 1. Undeveloped Rural Areas
1 – border planing region; 2 – border of undeveloped rural area

The demographic indexes in the backward rural regions are spatially differentiated. These differences depend on a number of limiting factors such as the characteristic features of socio-economic development related to the ethnical composition of the population, to its religion, traditions, educational and cultural level and the last but not least to the traditional family patterns adopted by the Bulgarian, Turkish and Gypsy population groups. The traditionally higher birth rates among the Turks and the Gypsies have slightly increased the average value of the same index in the backward regions as a whole (9.1 per thousand); for comparison's sake the national average one is 9.0 per thousand. Birth rates, exceeding the national average and the average for the areas under survey, have been registered in the municipalities of Garmen (13.8 per thousand), Kainardzha (13.6 per thousand), Varbitza (13.4 per thousand), Nikola Kozlevo (13.2 per thousand), Kotel (12.4 per thousand), Venetz and Belitza (11.8 per thousand each), etc. By contrast, the birth rates in many municipalities, which occupy the depopulated western border areas, are several times lower, e.g. in Nevestino (1.7 per thousand), Treklyano (2.8 per thousand), Tran and Gramada (4.3 per thousand each), etc.

The high death rates are not less alarming for the future development of the backward regions. The average national index is 14.1 per thousand while the average index for the backward regions is estimated at 17.5 per thousand. The highest values are in the municipalities of Gramada (41.9 per thousand), Boinitza (41.1 per thousand),

Treklyano (40.1 per thousand), Nevestino (34.4 per thousand), etc. Most critical is the situation in the districts of Vidin, Kiustendil and Montana. Lower death rates than the national average are observed in the municipalities of Borino (7.4 per thousand), Garmen (8.7 per thousand), Belitza (9.3 per thousand), Yakouruda (9.8 per thousand), etc.

Obviously, with these values of birth rates and death rates, the average natural increase of the underdeveloped regions is more unfavourable (-8.4 per thousand) than the national average (-5.1 per thousand). Too high are the negative values of the natural increase in the municipalities, included in Vidin, Kiustendil and Montana districts - Gramada (-37.6 per thousand), Treklyano (-37.3 per thousand), Boinitza (-35.5 per thousand), Nevestino (-32.7 per thousand), etc. Positive natural increase have only 8 out of the 77 underdeveloped rural municipalities in which the values vary from 0.2 per thousand (Rakitovo) to 5.1 per thousand (Garmen).

The migration mobility of the population in the underdeveloped regions is similar to that in the rural regions of the country. As a whole, the migration bilans, outflux in them is negative (-0.7 per thousand). In certain municipalities, however, it significantly deviates from this value. Thus, for example, municipalities with a positive natural increase have a negative migration increase (Garmen). At the same time other municipalities (Strazhitza, Belogradchik, Boichinovtzi) are notable for their low positive migration increase. The municipalities with a high negative natural increase (Nevestino, Treklyano) have a high negative migration increase. Apparently, the settlements with unfavourable geographical location, poorer natural and economic potential and insufficient economic development are subjected to out-migration while the municipal centers and the settlements with substantial gravity potential receive immigrants.

The analysis of the demographic processes and the investigations, conducted by Geshev (1990, 1994), Michev (1993), Mladenov, Dimitrov (2001), etc., come only to corroborate the changes in the demographic development of the backward rural regions, observed during the last decade (1990-2000). The most important of them are as follows:

- the number of the population steadily decreases;
- the birth rates decrease, the death rates increase, the natural increase is negative, with values exceeding the average national ones;
- the migration increase is negative but the balance between immigration and emigration equals almost to zero;
- the population age structure deteriorates and the share of people in above-working ages rises;
- the share of the population with higher and secondary education is significantly lower than the average for the country.

These features of the demographic development are closely related to the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of labour force and its employment in the backward rural regions. The peculiarities, common for the transition to market economy, additionally exert

their influence. In recent years the demand for workforce has been considerably reduced, the employment has dropped and the number of unemployed has become rather impressive. The regional analysis points to essential differences in the distribution of the employed and unemployed at a municipal level, depending on the economic development, the stage of the structural reform, the allocated investments, the creation of new jobs, etc. One of the most acute problems both in the backward regions and throughout the country is the persistent unemployment. The young people have poor chances to get jobs but, anyway, most vulnerable remain the registered unemployed persons with a low educational level, whose share reaches a peak in the underdeveloped regions.

The gross domestic product per capita illustrates the differences in the economic development of the individual municipalities (Fig. 2). It can be seen that the share of the municipalities, in which the per capita gross domestic product in 1998 was responsible for less than 50% of the national average, is high. This is indicative of their poor economic potential and low level of economic development. Only in one out of the total 77 municipalities this indicator has values above the national average ones for 1998.

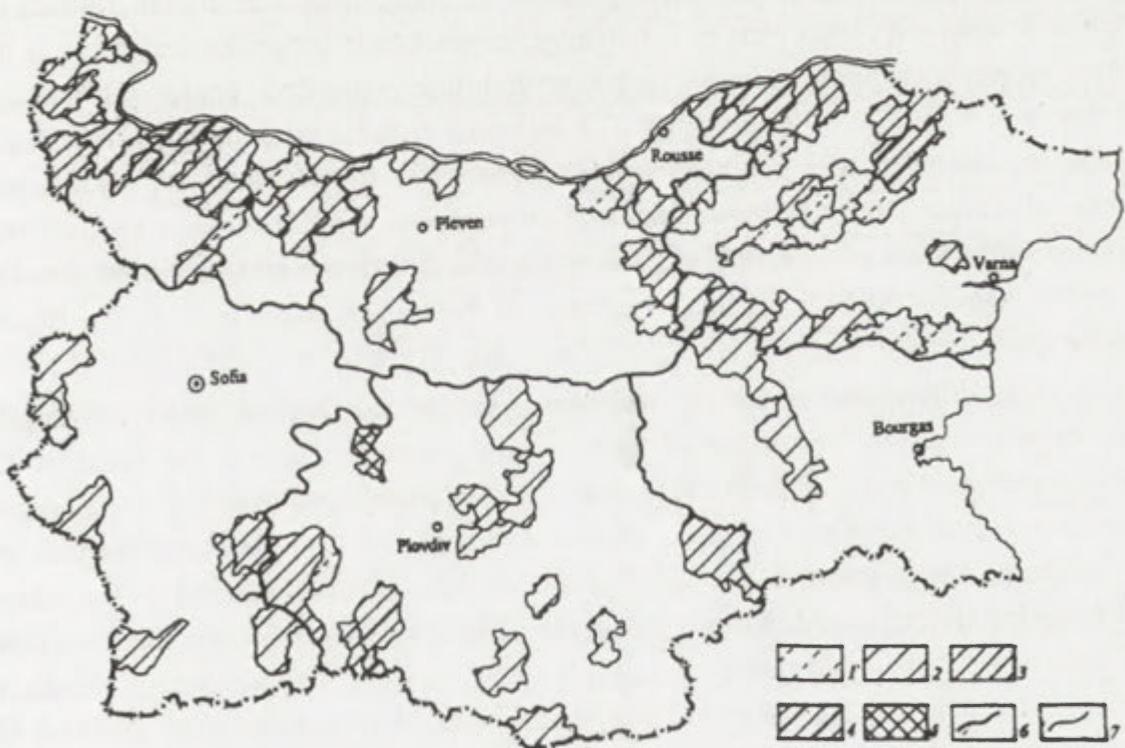


Fig. 2. Gross Domestic Product per capita by Municipalities (Bulgaria = 100%)
 1 – less than 30%; 2 – 30,1-50,0%; 3 – 50,1-70,0; 4 – 70,1-100%; 5 – over 100%;
 6 – border of planning region; 7 – border of undeveloped rural area

The economy of the study areas is dominated by agriculture. The regions have vast fields of farmland (25.4% of the country's farmland) and woodland (23.4% of the country's woodland). The municipalities in them are endowed with favourable conditions for agricultural activities (e.g. the Danube Plain, the Upper Thracian Lowland, etc.)

or particularly for monocultural farming (e.g. the Rhodopes) which has influenced the agricultural specialization. The development of agriculture largely depends on the characteristic features and pace of the agrarian reform, on the formation of private farms different in terms of their size and specialization, etc. In many of the municipalities under investigation forestry also plays an important role.

Industry participates with a much smaller share in the economic structure of the surveyed municipalities. In some of them workshops or enterprises were shut down at the beginning of the transition period while in others - new small or mid-sized factories were established. Most of the enterprises are from the food-or wood-processing industries, from light industry, etc.

The economic, social and cultural level of the underdeveloped rural regions is closely related to the availability and functioning of the technical infrastructure, including the transport network. The individual municipalities differ with respect to its density and state. Transport services are maintained primarily by the motor transport. The majority of the regions are far away from the main national transport axes and the low-grade roads constitute a large share. This lowers the quality of the transport services in them, restricts their economic links with other parts of the country, impedes their integration and prevents them from taking advantages of more active relationships with their border municipalities. At the same time many of the municipalities, incorporated in the underdeveloped rural regions (29), are included in the regions for trans-border cooperation and development. This will favour their social and economic progress and will further develop their trans-frontier cooperation. A decisive role in this respect has their membership in the municipalities' regional associations such as the Association of the Danube Municipalities, the Rhodope Municipalities, etc.

The differences in the development level of the regions under investigation are demonstrated by the index of human development, calculated for the first time on a municipal level in 2000. This index reveals both economic and social aspects. As a whole, the municipalities in the backward rural regions are remarkable for their poor or moderate development level (Fig. 3). Most of them (49) are assigned to the category of municipalities, characterized by a low development level (0.688-0.730). The lowest index is calculated for the municipality of Kotel, followed by Rakitovo, Stambolovo, Opaka, etc. Other 28 municipalities have reached a moderate development level (0.731-0.770). As compared to the national average index (0.772), the highest index is observed in the municipalities of Devin, Borino, Strazhitza (0.769), Strelcha (0.764), etc.

„Proceeding from the empirical data, it can be concluded that the minority ethnic groups live primarily in municipalities with a low and moderate level of human development”, but „the low values of the index are also indicative of certain development factors such as the level of education, degree of professional qualification, adopted stereotypes and life style” (*Bulgaria...* 2000, pp. 32). According to the same publication, the minority groups are integrated into the dominating population.

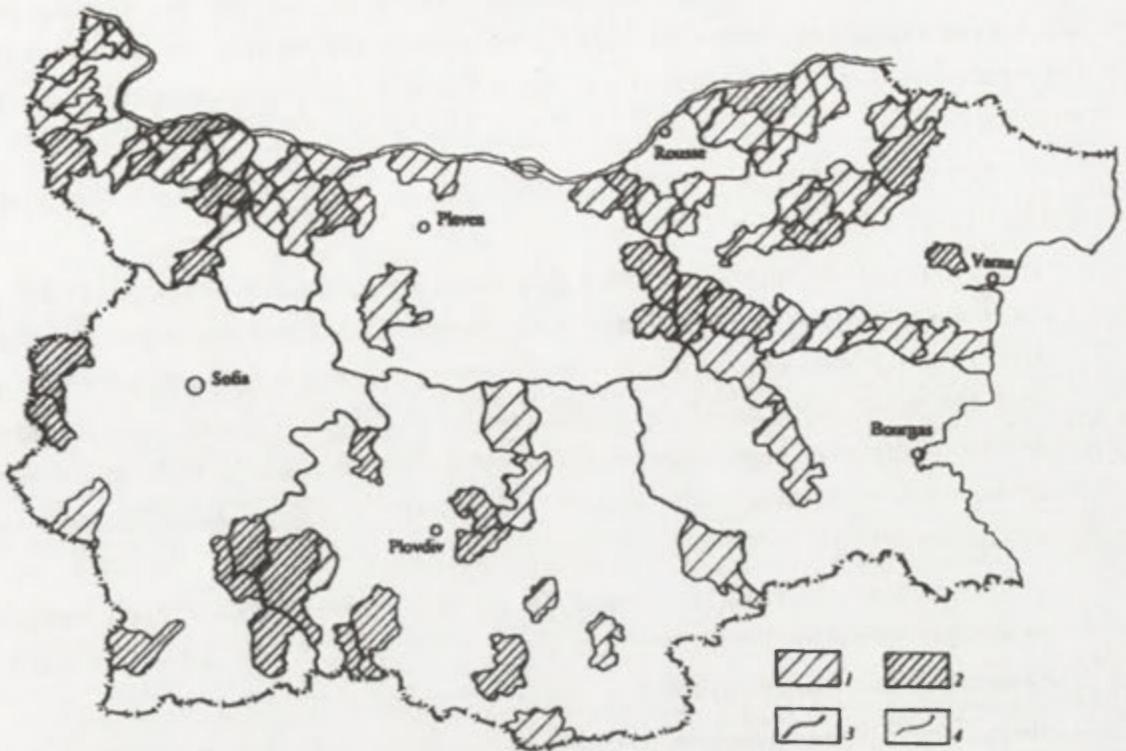


Fig. 3. Human Development Index

1 – 0,688-0,730; 2 – 0,731-0,770; 3 – border of planning region; 4 – border of undeveloped rural area

As stipulated by the Law of Regional Development and the National Plan for Regional Development, there are municipalities that have to generate ideas and promote initiatives and projects, to contribute as a chief partner to the process of working out and funding regional development plans and to attract the private sector and the non-government organizations in the elaboration and implementation of various projects (*Bulgaria... 2000*). In addition, the municipalities within the regions under investigation may apply for grants under different international and national programs.

In conformity with PHARE Program's requirements and principles for investment assistance, aimed at bringing closer the social and economic development of the regions and municipalities, three out of the total six planning regions have been chosen, that would receive funds from the PHARE Program - the North-West, the South Central and the South-East planning regions. Among them the most underdeveloped is the North-West region which faces the most serious socio-economic problems and disproportions. In the South Central and the South-East regions the big centers with great potential for growth co-exist with the backward periphery, covering mountain and rural areas in the Rhodopes, Sakar, Strandzha and the Eastern Stara Planina. The municipalities can use funds allocated by SAPARD - the EU Special Program for Assistance of Agriculture and Rural Regions.

The Project „Jobs through Business Support” (JOBS), led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy within the Government Program „Bulgaria 2001” and the UNO's

Development Program will also afford opportunities for solving the existing problems and for encouraging the employment in the backward rural regions. This project will enable the creation of new jobs by supporting the small and very small enterprises and the farm producers.

Simultaneously, the surveyed municipalities can participate in the preparation and implementation of:

- regional programs, aiming to create conditions for sustainable development by carrying out micro-projects. They can deal with the competitiveness improvement, with the implementation of investment programs for employment growth, with the achievement of better sanitary norms in the work places, with the emergence of the vulnerable population groups on the labour market, with the development of business in harmony with nature (eco-farming and stock breeding, rural tourism, ecotourism, etc.).
- programs for employment in the rural regions and municipalities with high unemployment level, for providing temporary jobs and for creation of new jobs in socially useful economic sectors and sub-sectors;
- special employment programs, regarding the ethnic groups of the population;
- the Program „Higher Literacy, Qualification and Employment”, the „Gypsies Employment Program”, etc.

Being in the focus of the governmental policy, the municipalities cannot and should not be only consumers. They have to become legitimate participants in the development process. This applies especially to the underdeveloped rural municipalities because only in this way they would be able to overcome their backwardness. The combined efforts at a local, regional and national level provide the basis for solving successfully the problems of employment, for developing effective and environmentally friendly agricultural production, for improving the infrastructure and the living conditions and for achieving sustainable development in the backward rural regions.

References

- Agraren doklad*, 1999, Ministerstvo na zemedeliето i gorite.
- Bulgaria 2000*. Doklad za choveshkoto razvitie. Mozajkata na obshtinite. UNDP., S., 2000.
- Geshev G., 1990, *Depopulatsia na selskite teritorii v Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 4.
- Geshev G., 1994, *Demografska ustojchivost na rayonite v Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 1.
- Ilieva M., 2001, *Some issues in the transformation of rural regions in Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2.
- Madjarova S., 2000, *Strategii na Evropejskija sajuz za razvitie na selskite rayoni v Evropa, Ikonomika i upravlenie na selskoto stopanstvo*, 2.
- Michev N., 1993, *Demo-ekistichno rayonirane na selskoto naselenie na Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 3.

Mladenov Ch., Dimitrov E., 2001, *Savremenna demografska situatsia na selskite teritorii v Bulgaria*, [in:] 30 godini Shumenski Universitet, Shumen.

*** Naselenie 2000, 2001, Natsionalen Statisticheski Institut., S.

*** Natzionalen plan za regionalno razvitie za perioda 2000-2006 r., 1999.

*** Natzionalen plan za razvitie na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (2000-2006), 1999.

*** Natzionalen plan za razvitie na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (2000-2006) po spetsialnata programa na ES za prisaedinjavane v oblasta na zemedeliето i selskite rayoni (SAPARD), 1999a.

*** Postanovlenie na Ministerskija Savet No 105/2.06.1999 za priemane na Naredba za kriteriite za opredeljane na rajonite za tzelenasocheno vazdejstvie i teritorialnija im obhvat.

*** Reshenie No 374/2.06.1999 na Ministerskija Savet za opredeljane na rajonite za tzelenasocheno vazdejstvie i teritorialnija im obhvat.

*** Sektorna strategia na Ministerstvoto na truda i sotzialnata politika 2000-2006.

*** Statisticheski godishnik na Republika Bulgaria ,1991,1992, 2000.

*** Statisticheski spravochnik, 2001.

*** Zakon za regionalno razvitie. - Darzhaven vestnik, 1999, 26.

REGIONY SŁABO ROZWINIĘTE – PRZEDMIOT WSPÓŁCZESNEJ POLITYKI REGIONALNEJ W BUŁGARII

Streszczenie

Słabo rozwinięte obszary wiejskie zgodnie z ustawą rozwoju regionalnego przyjętą w Bułgarii w roku 1999 należą do regionów celowego, specjalnego działania. W 34 wydzielonych obszarach tej kategorii znalazło się 77 obsztin (gmin), zajmujących 24,3% terytorium kraju (w 22 z 28 oblast - jednostek administracyjnych) i zamieszkałych przez 11,2% ludności kraju.

Analiza wykazała, że na tych terenach w porównaniu z innymi obszarami kraju, rozwijają się bardzo niekorzystne procesy demograficzne. Znacznie wyższy jest poziom bezrobocia jak też mniejsze możliwości zatrudnienia. Obszary te charakteryzują się niskim poziomem rozwoju gospodarczego mierzonym wielkością produktu krajowego brutto (GVP) na jednego mieszkańca oraz niskim lub średnim wskaźnikiem rozwoju społecznego (Human Development Index). Są to głównie tereny rolnicze i leśne.

Zgodnie z Ustawą Rozwoju Regionalnego i Narodowym Planem Rozwoju Regionalnego obsztiny (gminy) są głównym partnerem w procesie przygotowania planów rozwoju regionalnego oraz jednym ze źródeł ich finansowania, dla nich przewidywane są środki dla specjalnych celów. Obsztiny mogą też uczestniczyć w przygotowaniu oraz realizacji różnych programów regionalnych, starać się o uzyskanie środków z narodowych i międzynarodowych programów (PHARE, SAPARD, JOBS itd.)

DIRECTIONS IN FUNCTIONAL-SPATIAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF RURAL REGIONS IN THE KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE VOIVODSHIP IN THE YEARS 1988-2000

Mirosław Biczkowski
Jan Falkowski

Abstract: This paper is the result of a study carried out at the Department of Spatial Management and Strategic Planning, Institute of Geography, Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń, related to processes and structures of transformations over rural regions in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship. The subject of the paper includes transformations in social, infrastructural, economic and natural-cultural spheres of the studied area.

Key words: Rural areas, transformations to market economy, socio-economic restructuring, education, employment.

The Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship has been established in 1999 from the union of Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Włocławek counties. In historical respect it occupies five traditional territories: Pomerania (Krajna), Chełmno Land, Kujawy, Wielkopolska (Pałuki) and Dobrzyń Land. In the year 2000 the surface area of the voivodship was 17.970 km² (5,7% of Poland's surface area, 10th place in the country) and it had 2 100 thousand inhabitants (5.4% of the inhabitants in Poland, 10th place in the country). Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship has more advantageous than average position in the country if count after respecting area and population: housing resources (7th place), number of shops (7), area of agricultural land (1), number of pigs (2), number of cattle (6), use of mineral fertilizers (4), purchase of slaughter animals per 1 ha agricultural area (2), purchase of milk per 1 ha agricultural area (5), and less advantageous than average position in the fields: average monthly gross salary (14), medical care (13), death rate of infants per 1000 live birth (13), and environment pollution (14). Regarding administration the area of the voivodship is divided into 23 districts (4 town and 19 land districts) that contain 144 communes: 17 town, 35 urban-rural and 92 rural communes. There are 52 towns and 3568 villages in the Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship.

1. Transformations in the social demographic sphere

During 13 years (1988-2000) rural population in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship increased by 25 thousand people, i.e. up to 794 thousand. The greatest increment in the population number in the studied period occurred in the suburban communes of the towns

Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Grudziądz. Such communes as Lubicz, Wielka Nieszawka, Zławieś Wielka and Obrowo (in the suburban zone of Toruń), Nowa Wieś Wielka, Nakło on Noteć, Białe Błota and Osielsko (in the suburban zone of Bydgoszcz), Grudziądz, and Chełmno (in the suburban zone of Grudziądz) had 10-20% growth what means an average annual increment by more than 50 persons. The growth in the number of rural inhabitants occurred on about 20% over the studied area. Stagnation on about 30% of the area mainly on the territory of Chełmno Land, Krajna, Bory Tucholskie and in the suburban zone of Włocławek), while regression on about 50% of the voivodship area (especially on Kujawy, Pałuki, Dobrzyń Land and in the northern part of Chełmno Land).

Migrations had a significant influence on the state of the population number, positive for the multifunctional suburban zones (with possible taking lodging in the zone and work in the nearby town, moreover many people returned to these regions disengaged from the urban industrial establishments during the so called group releases), and negative for the typically agricultural regions where the high unemployment became the main reason of emigration. The lowest birth rate occurred also on the mentioned regions with regression in the population number (decrease in 2000 to below 70% of the 1988 value), i.e. to 10‰. The natural growth decreased in the analysed period from 7.2‰ to 2.4‰ for the rural areas.

The part of the population in pre-productive age continuously decreased from 32.1% in 1988 to 28.0% in 2000, the part in the group of productive age increased from 54.4% to 58.3%, respectively, while the part of the population in post-productive age remains almost on the same level, i.e. 13.5-13.7%. From economic point of view very important so-called economic strain, the number of persons in unproductive age per 100 persons in productive age, its value is now 71.5 person compared to 84.8 person in 1988.

Estimating the so-called demographic potential of rural areas in the voivodship, i.e. the possibility of future demographic increase (the age of the population, number of new marriages, natural growth, average migration balance, index of economic strain), demographic valorisation was elaborated what permitting to distinguish three condition types of demographic development:

- 1 – regions with disadvantageous development conditions (Eastern Kujawy and northern parts of Dobrzyń Land);
- 2 – regions with stagnating or variable development conditions (Bory Tucholskie, Świecka Plain, Chełmno Land, Pałuki, Western Kujawy and southern part of Dobrzyń Land);
- 3 – regions with advantageous demographic development conditions (Krajna, suburban zones of Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Grudziądz).

The education evidence a quite varying quality of the rural society. Tough education in the region shows gradual but slow increase, still the portion of population with only primary education level is high, in 1995 47.6%, and together with the incomplete primary and without school education as high as 55.4% (for women even 61%). Inhabitants of Dobrzyń Land and Eastern Kujawy (former Russian sector) make an especially high part in this lowest education

level group; their portion is 70-80% for people working on own farms (Gałczyńska 1995). The percentage of population with secondary education level is 41.7, in this with trade school 29.2 and with grammar school 12.5. 1.0% of the rural population in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship had college education, while 1.9% higher education (this corresponds with the mean values for the whole country). The portion of people with higher education level is four times less here than in the towns, where it equals 7.6%. Regions with the highest portion of population working mainly on their own farms with higher or secondary education are Western Kujawy, Pałuki, Chełmno Land, Krajna and the suburban zones of Bydgoszcz and Toruń, where this portion is 20-30% (*Spis Rolny* 1996), (Fig. 1).

In the employment structure of rural population, according to EKD, employment in agriculture dominates (57.2%) what decreases but in 1997 it was in the analysed province about 196 thousand person and about 82 thousand in other professions. Among the employed in the second group 27.4 thousand worked in the industry (33.6%), 3.3 thousand in construction (4.0%), 7.1 thousand in trade and service (8.6%), 4.3 thousand in transport, warehousing and communication, 13.1 thousand (16.1%) in education, 4.9 thousand (6.0%) in health and social care.

The phenomenon of unemployment in the studied region appeared in 1990 and the number of unemployed dynamically grew in the following years. The highest unemployment level in rural regions was noted in 1993, 83 thousand people (37%). State institutions not being a subject to restructuralisation, especially building companies, state farms, agricultural productive cooperatives, where general so-called group releases were used, gave the main sources of unemployment.

During the following years till 1997 a gradual decrease occurred in the number of unemployed down to about 65 thousand (i.e. from about 18 to 13 person per 100 person in productive age). In the period 1998-2000 the number of unemployed increased again to 78 thousand and in many communes of the voivodship the degree of unemployment exceeded 20% (Fig. 2).

The following factors are dangerous for the development of rural areas: 1 – high unemployment level, 2 – low education and qualification level, 3 – coming demographic boom of 1980s, 4 – growing still larger portion of population in the postproductive age that require social and medical care.

2. Transformations in the infrastructural sphere

Rural areas have backward infrastructure in social sphere as well as in technical one. On the other hand, the significance of infrastructure in the country becomes one of the most important development factors (Kamiński, Zawadzki 1992, Stasiak 1995, Falkowski 2000). Long years of neglect in the sphere of social infrastructure of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship caused a deep regression in the educational system. The result is the low portion

of rural population with higher and secondary education level, difficulties to gain modern general and professional subject knowledge as well as low preparation of youth to further study on higher level.

The state of health care is negatively exposed by low expenditures for the clinics, equipment and low engagement of medical personnel (in the province 3000 patients queue for one doctor, while in the whole country 2795). Beside the traditional diseases of rural population like intoxication by chemical substances, parasitic diseases, affections of movement organs, allergic diseases, civilisation diseases like cancer, diseases of the nervous and coronary system, diseases of the digestive tract, and so on. Lowering incomes in the country caused the limitation of the usage of many services, for example tailor's, shoemaker's, blacksmith-locksmith's, joiner's, and the like.

Still more serious negligence occurs in the sphere of technical infrastructure, especially in the scope of density and quality of hardened roads, low state of the sewage and gas system, melioration facilities are more and more neglected. The density of hardened roads equals 7.8 km/100 km² (average for the whole country is 13.8 km²). During the last years the material ranges of works and investments as well as financial expenditures for local and regional roads have lessened very distinctly what in consequence leads to the decapitalisation of roads and the prolongation of inter-repair cycle (Województwo kujawsko-pomorskie, diagnoza prospektywna, 1999, s. 285-286 – Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship, prospective diagnosis, 1999, pp. 285-286).

In spite of the realisation across the province territory the Jamal gas pipeline, situation in the gas network is still unsatisfactory, because 31 of 52 towns have gas connection and in equipment the rural areas practically it does not exist. However the number of communal mechanical-biological wastewater treatment plans is growing from year to year, still the sewage network develops very slowly. Wastewater from about 80% of the farms is not treated at all.

In the years 1988-2000 an essential progress took place in the water supply and telecommunication system. The length of the water pipe system in rural communes increased in the years 1988-2000 by 220%, i.e. to more than 15 thousand km. The development of telecommunication shows still more dynamic growth. In 1988 in the villages of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship there were about 50 thousand telephone connections, while in 2000 their number was 135 thousand. The number of cable telephone subscribers in many rural communes of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship during the last 13 years increased 8-10 times (for example in the communes: Dąbrowa, Dobrcz, Ciechocin, Łubianka, Wielka Nieszawka, Baruchowo, Choceń), exceeding 170-200 subscribers per 1000 residents (Fig. 3.).

The main risks in this sphere are: 1 – low level of social infrastructure, especially the very low number of schools above the primary level, low level of health care, lack of infrastructure in the cultural sphere and low diversification level of customer service, 2 – low expenditure on communication infrastructure, thus the considerable decapitalisation, 3– complete lack of gas network in rural areas, 4 – underinvestment of medium and low voltage

electric network, 5 – deficiency of water for the agriculture, apart from periodical flood hazard, 6 – 76% of the farms is not included in organised waste management.

3. Transformations in the economic sphere

Transformations in the economic sphere lead to stronger and stronger multifunctional character of villages. Białe Błota, Osielsko, Wielka Nieszawka, Lubicz, Nowa Wieś Wielka, communes situated in the influence and co-operation zone of Bydgoszcz and Toruń, belonged to the communes with the greatest development undertakings of not agricultural economic in 1988-2000 (Fig. 4). Rural areas with the weakest enterprise development are situated on the peripheries of the 3 former counties and far from the main arteries of traffic. These are among others Łasin, Strzelno, Lubień Kuj., Izbica Kuj., Nowe, Świecie n. Osa, Lubraniec and Ciechocin communes (Prospective diagnosis, p. 369). Among the economic units in the country small, employing up to 5 persons units dominate begin 90% of all. The biggest firms work in the food, wood and furniture, building, transportation industry, and in trade with services. They are located in the villages Rogowo, Piotrków Kuj., Białe Błota, Złotniki Kuj., Zławieś Wielka, Wieniec Zdrój, Pruszcz, Osnowo, Osie, Unisław, Śliwice, Sadki, Potulice, Osięciny and Nowa Wieś Wielka. On the rural areas the portion of firms with foreign capital is negligible.

In the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship the most favourable conditions for the highly productive and intensive agriculture occur on Kujawy and Chełmno Land. Agricultural land take up 64.6% (in the whole country 59%). Comparative analysis of the period 1988-2000 shows the following tendencies in the agriculture: growth of the portion of individual and middle size farms from 8.2 ha to 11.2 ha, fall of the area of the co-operative farms, decrease in the area of state farms (state treasury lands), forming after 1990 a new form of land property, i.e. commercial companies, both private and public (Fig. 5).

Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury (AWRSP) took over 283 thousand ha and many agrarian real estates, mainly properties after former state farms and from these it sold 34 thousand ha (on the average 11 ha per contract), 7 distilleries, 7 pork-buther's, 14 feed mixer, 128 granaries, 47 manor house – palace complexes. 12 ha were transferred gratuitously to the Catholic Church, 6 thousand ha to state forests, 186 thousand ha leased out, in this 5 thousand to companies with foreign capital (German and Dutch). Country branch of State Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury (AWRSP) in Warsaw took over the plant raising station and animal breeding centre in: Świętosław, Waganiec, Polanowice, Sobiejuchy, Osięciny, Chodeczek, Izbica Kuj. and Nowe Jarantowice to the nationwide resources as commercial law companies.

Fixed assets in agriculture in the studied period insignificantly grew, simultaneously with the strong decapitalisation of the old property. As much as 75% of the dwelling and stock houses are 75 or more years old, and about 50% were built before the world War II.

During the years 1988-2000 80% of the foil tunnels and 25% of greenhouses came into existence. The number of tractors grew only by 2% to 7.4 tractors per 100 ha agricultural land. The degree of melioration grew by 1%, i.e. to 67%. Presently 85% of the farms use water pipe and in comparison to 1988 it means more than 20% increase. The usage of mineral fertilizers converted to clear component, decreased in the period 1988-2000 by 40 kg, i.e. to 120 kg NPK/1 ha agricultural land due to the rising prices of fertilizers and low profitability of plant running.

The introduction of free prices for agrarian products in 1989 and the rules of free-market economy from 1990 revealed the economic, organisational and social weakness first of all of state farms, but also of the whole agriculture. As a consequence the agricultural production strongly dropped. In the structure of sowing area in the analysed period the area of corns grew from 60% to 72%, while there was a decrease in the area of potato from 11% to 5.5%, industrial plants from 13.0% to 11.5% (partially due to the decrease in the production quote of sugar beet) and fodder plants from 8.0% to 6.8%. The amount of harvested crops increased from 25.4 q/ha in 1987 to more than 31 q in the second half of the 1990s, then in 2000 decreased to 25 q. The amount of potato was 187 q, 160-170 q and 202 q/ha respectively, while the amount of sugar beet increased from 330 q to 411 q/ha.

In the branch of animal breeding a distinct fall occurred in the number of cattle from 50 heads/100 ha agricultural land in 1988 to 36 heads in the 1990s. Still greater fall was noted in the number of sheep from 23 heads/100 ha in 1988 to 3.3 heads in 2000. In the analysed period only the number of pigs increased strongly from about 130 heads/100 ha agricultural land to over 180 heads at the end of the 1990s. Changes in the structure of livestock number reflected to the decrease of the slaughter cattle, sheep and horse production, and to the increase of slaughter pigs from 200 thousand t to about 300 thousand t and poultry from 20 thousand t to 46 thousand t. The production of milk after a fall by 30% in the early 1990s in the following years increased to 700 million l, i.e. to the level of the late 1980s, thanks to the mean increase of milk yield from 1 cow to 3800 l milk.

4. Transformations in the sphere of the natural-cultural environment

Rural areas in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship show essential differentiation of natural and cultural environment. At the north-eastern part of the region the Precambrian Eastern-European Platform can be found, while to the south of the Tuchola-Chełmno-Lipno-Dobrzyń on Vistula, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Anticlinorium with exploited strata of halite in the Kujawki Basin and non-exploited ones in the Kłodawa Basin, and with non-exploited lignite-fields in the Koniński Basin. The mentioned deposits are not exploited within the province because of the small thickness of coal and salt fields and the simultaneous occurrence of high natural and landscape qualities. For the needs of the building industry natural aggregate and lacustrine chalk is exploited in many regions of the region, and for healing purposes mineral water in Wieniec Zdrój, Inowrocław, Ciechocinek and in the future

Marusza near Grudziądz. In the analysed period 1988-2000 the exploitation of high quality mineral water for consumption purposes developed in Janiszewo near Lubraniec, Rządka Wola near Brześć Kuj., Ostromecko and Czerniewice near Toruń. The main underground water reservoirs in the environs of Grudziądz, Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Włocławek have been spotted, documented, and the partial of their protection has been determined.

The development of industry, communal management, agriculture and transport for years causes the degradation of natural environment, especially of surface water, soil and climate. The greatest rivers in the region, Vistula, Drwęca, Noteć, their whole length have water beyond any purity classification (n.o.n.). The highest emission of sulphur dioxide, nitric oxides, chlorine and the like occur in Kujawy and in the surroundings of Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Włocławek, Świecie and Grudziądz. Soils show the greatest pollution with compounds of sulphur, nitrate and nitrite. Urban and suburban territories and Kujawy show considerable air dustiness connected with industrial plants, especially with the "Kujawy" Cement Mill and chemical factories. In the years 1990-1997, in result of slowing down industrial production, and simultaneously introduction of different devices reducing the pollution, the emission of dust decreased by 66% and of gas by 35%.

Legal protection of nature and landscape includes on the studied area of ecologic zone along Vistula valley, Bory Tucholskie and the Gopło Lake region (of international significance), valleys of Drwęca, Brda, Noteć and Brodnica Lake District (of national significance) belonging to the ecologic network system NATURA 2000 and ECONET-POLSKA. Moreover there are here: 1 national park (Bory Tucholskie), 8 landscape parks, 30 regions of protected landscape and 76 nature reserves among them, 37 forest, 14 floristic, 12 peat-bogs, 8 game reserves and 5 landscapes. Together the legally protected area with special natural values in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship equals 210 thousand ha, i.e. 11.7% of the whole surface area (Rocznik Statystyczny Województwa Kujawsko-Pomorskiego 2001, U.S. Bydgoszcz 2001 – Statistical Yearbook of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship 2001, U.S. Bydgoszcz 2001).

In respect to cultural identity the province is not a homogeneous region, but accidentally overlapping geographic and historical factors, heritage of material culture, administrative divisions and different social and economic development of the particular spots. There are 9 main ethnic population groups there: Borowiacy Tucholscy, Chełmiacy, Dobrzyńscy, Kociewiacy, Krajniacy, Kujawiacy, Lubawiacy, Pałuczanie and Wielkopolanie (Prospective diagnosis, Toruń 1999). In many villages historical settlement outline, like oval, circular, row, with the oldest defensive settlement type of Lusatian culture in Biskupin has been announced in 1994 as the Monument of History.

In the voivodship there are over 38 thousand archaeological stands, over 900 palaces (or manor houses) with the greatest number (more then 20) in the communes : Inowrocław, Kruszwica, Mogilno, Żnin and Chełmża, 1027 park establishments with the largest in Lubostroń 37 ha, Samostrzel 26 ha, Ostromecko 21 ha, Sokołów 20 ha, Witostaw 19 ha,

Turzno 18 ha, most frequent in the communes Chełmża (26), Inowrocław (20) and Brodnica, Gruta, Kowalewo, Łasin and Stolno (14-18).

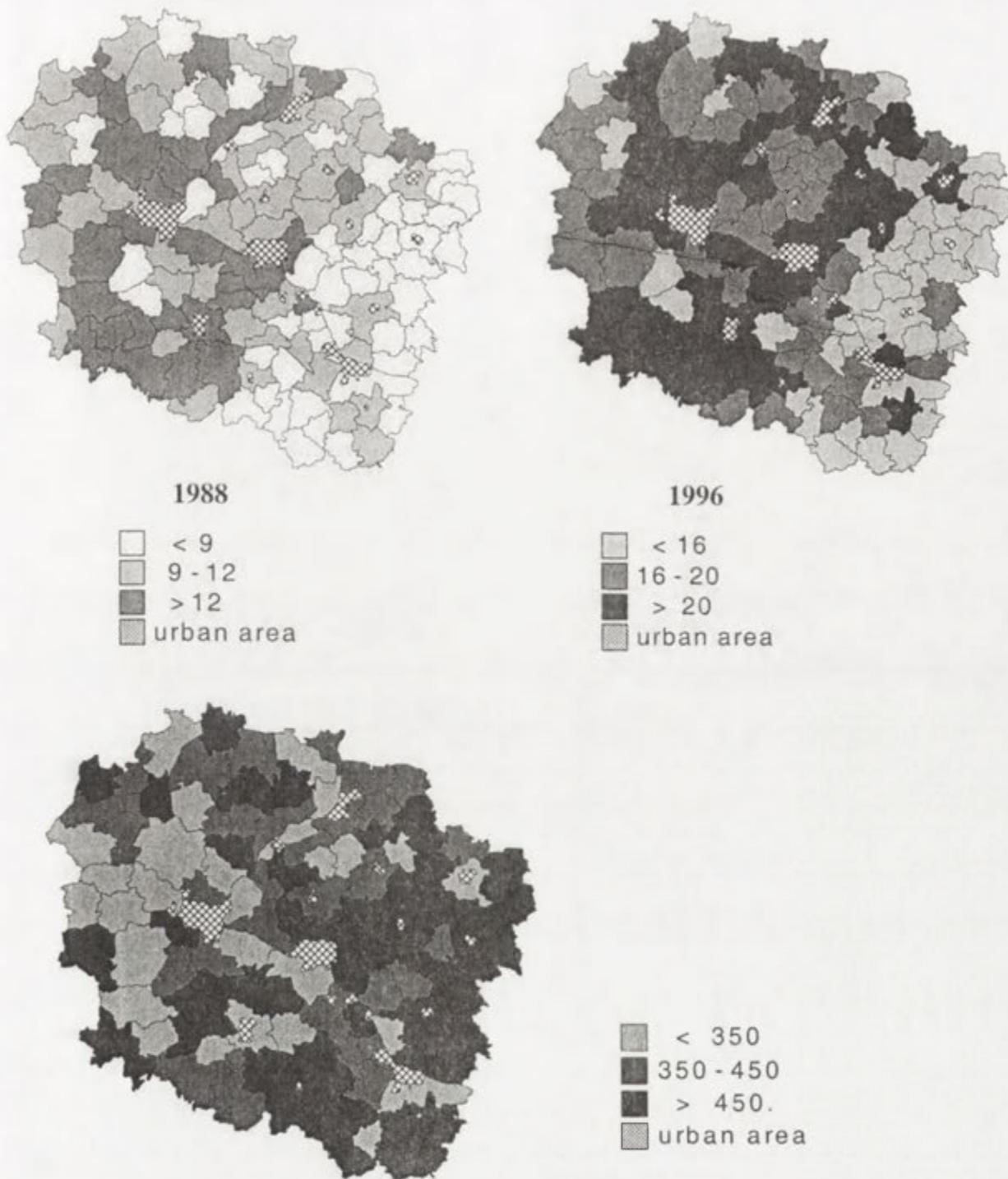
Sacral and secular architecture has a significant role in the cultural resources of villages, especially Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classicistic churches, monasteries, converents, chapels and wayside crosses, sometimes more than 100 years old, monumental cemeteries. In many villages wooden buildings survived from the 18th and early 19th century. The numerous works of defence are also characteristic, such as castles (ruins of castles), fortification complexes and other defensive forms (walls, moats, shelters). There remained also numerous different economic objects, like mills, breweries, forges, barns, and the like.

On the territory of Kujawy, Chełmno Land, Dobrzyń Land and Bory Tucholskie, where the objects of material culture are most frequent, in the individual villages there are sometimes 5-10, and in the communes above 100 different elements of the cultural environment.

However problems of natural environment protection and management have been already on a great degree accepted by the society, questions of respect, protection and restorations of the values of cultural environment requires still many judicial, financial and educational formal and legislative works.

References

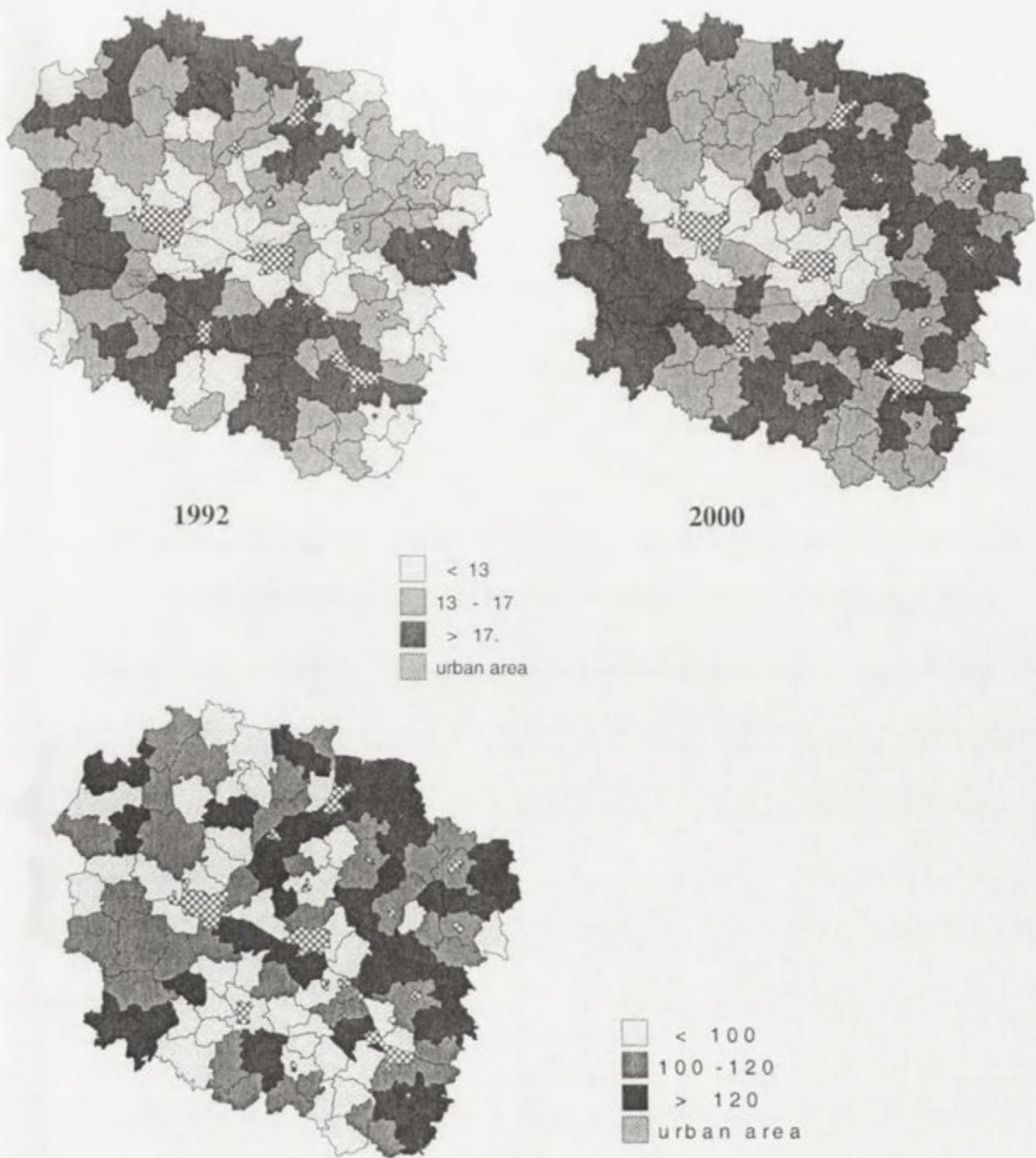
- Falkowski J., 2000, *Geograficzno-ekonomiczne uwarunkowania strategii rozwoju obszarów wiejskich i rolnictwa regionu kujawsko-pomorskiego*, AUNC, Geografia XXX, Toruń.
- Gałczyńska B., 1995, *Wykształcenie ludności rolniczej*, [w:] *Atlas Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, PAN Warszawa, ark. 63.5.
- Kamiński W., Zawadzki W., 1992, *Infrastruktura a rozwój wsi i rolnictwa*, Wyd. Poligrafia ERiGŻ, Warszawa.
- Stasiak A., 1995, *Wpływ przekształceń struktury rolnictwa na zagospodarowanie przestrzeni wiejskiej*, [w:] *Polska 2000 plus*, Wyd. CUP, Warszawa.
- Diagnoza prospektywna województwa kujawsko-pomorskiego*, 1999, Zarząd Województwa Kujawsko-Pomorskiego, Toruń.



Dynamics of changes (1988 – 1996) in %

Source: Agrarian Register 1988, 1996; own calculations

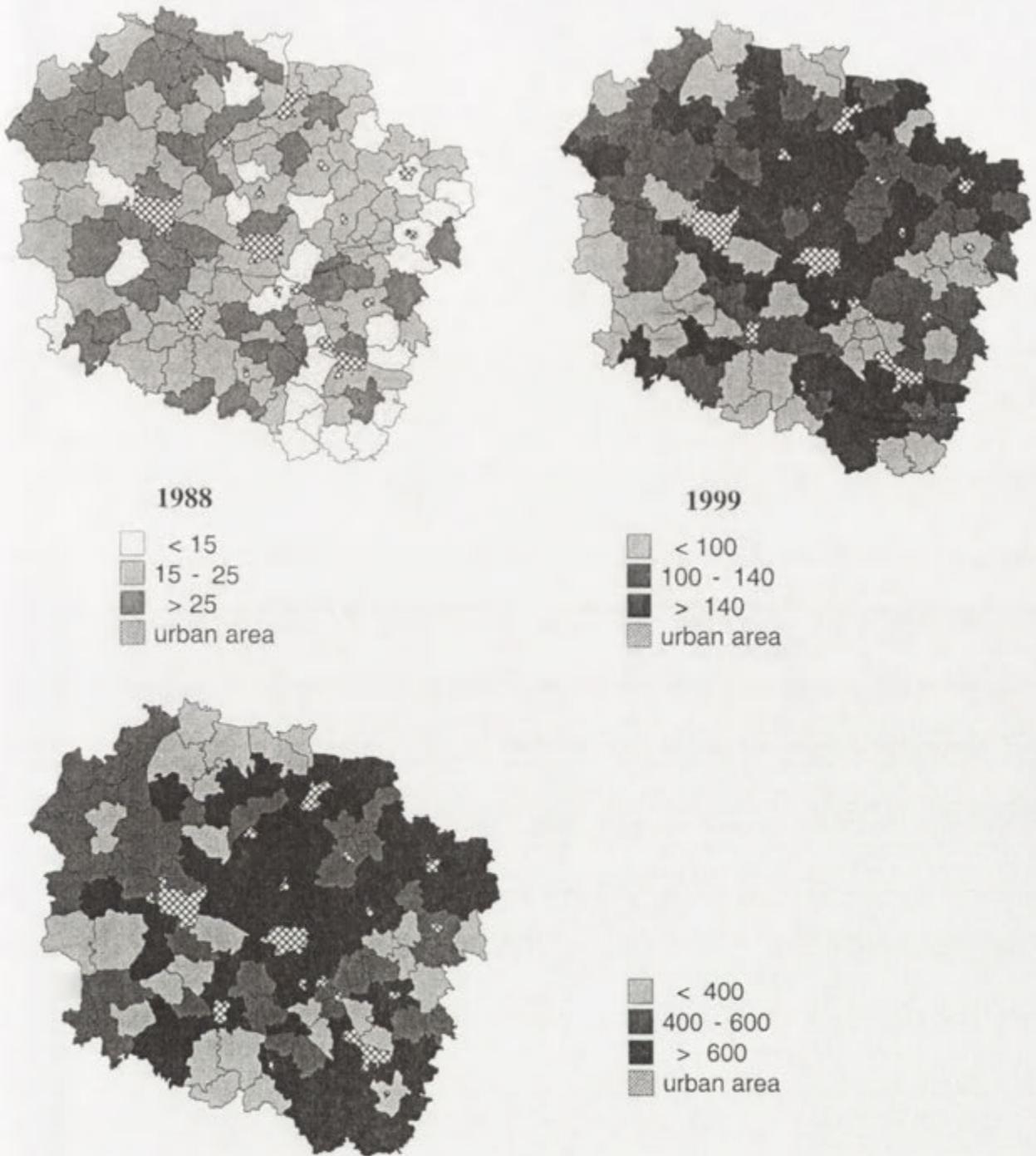
Fig. 1. Individual farmers with secondary and higher education in % of the total population in the years 1988 – 1996 and the dynamics of changes (1988 = 100%)



Dynamics of changes (1992-2000) in %

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of Bydgoszcz and Toruń counties, *Panorame of Włocławek* (1993) and *Kujawsko-Pomorskie counties* (2001); own elaboration

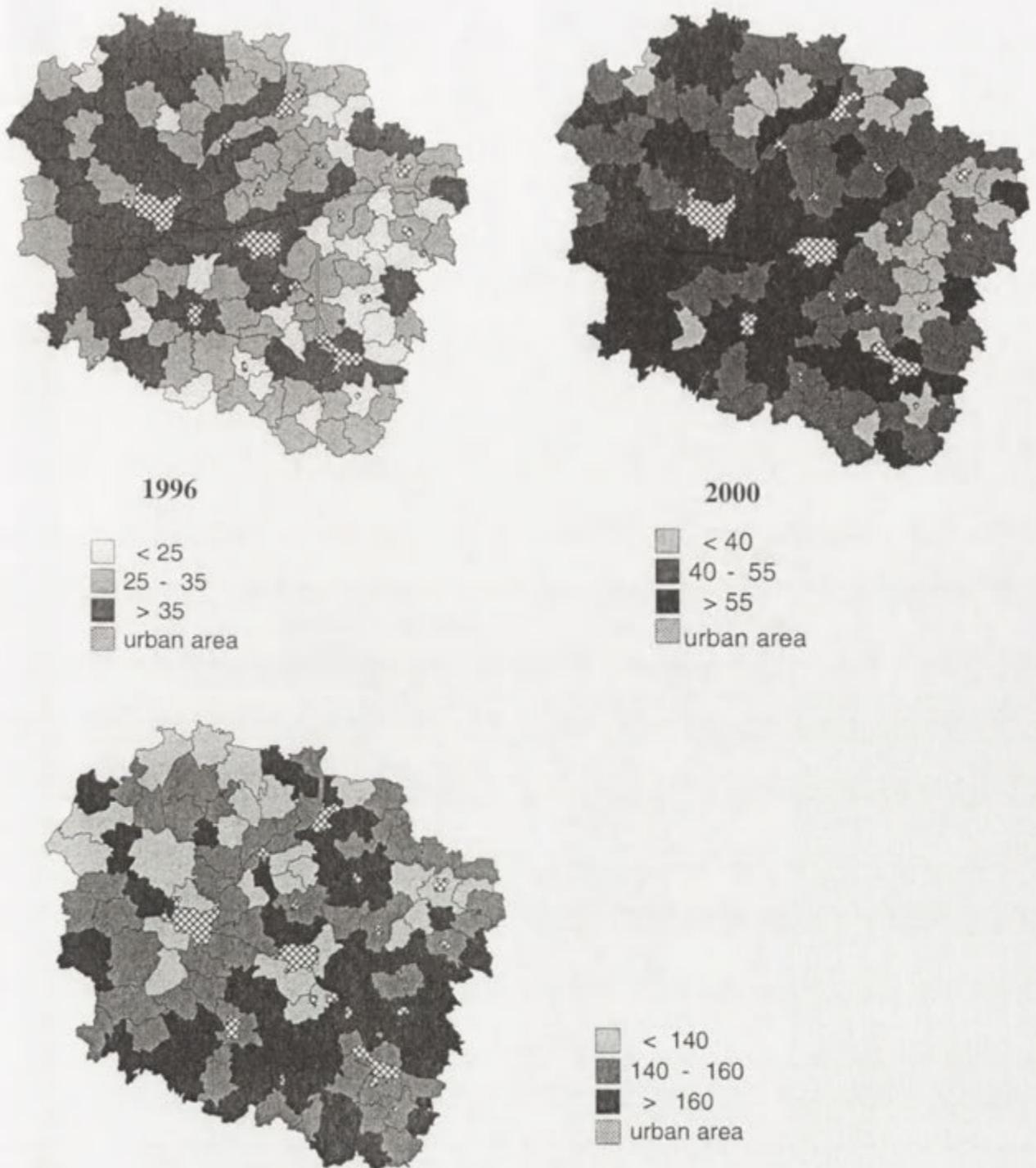
Fig. 2. Percentage of unemployed within the population in productive age in % in the years 1992 – 2000 and the dynamics of changes (1992 =100%)



Dynamics (1988-1999) in %

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Włocławek and Kujawsko-Pomorskie counties (2000); own elaboration

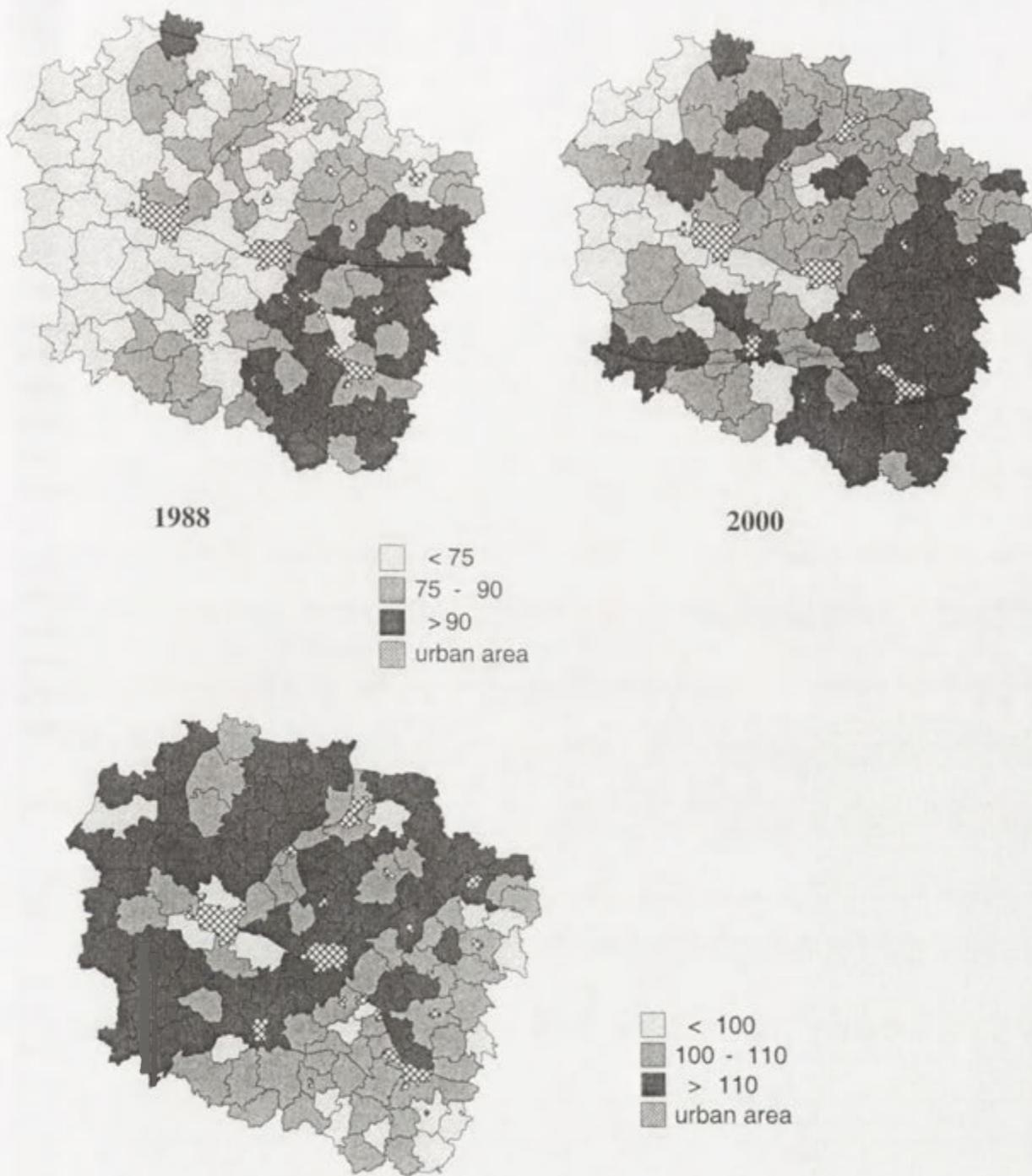
Fig. 3. Telephone subscribers per 1000 rural population in the years 1988 – 1999 and the dynamics of changes (1988 = 100%)



Dynamics of changes (1996-2000) in %

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Włocławek and Kujawsko-Pomorskie counties (2001); own elaboration

Fig. 4. Registered units in REGON system per 1000 population in the years 1996 – 2000 and the dynamics of changes (1996 =100%)



Dynamics of changes (1988 – 2000) in %

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Włocławek and Kujawsko-Pomorskie counties (2001); own calculations

Fig. 5. Percentage of private farms in the surface of arable lands in the years 1988 and 2000 and the dynamics of changes (1980 = 100%)

KIERUNKI PRZEKSZTAŁCEŃ FUNKCJONALNO-PRZESTRZENNYCH OBSZARÓW WIEJSKICH WOJEWÓDZTWA KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIEGO W LATACH 1988-2000 R.

Streszczenie

Artykuł prezentuje złożone problemy procesu przemian i przekształceń funkcjonalno-przestrzennych obszarów wiejskich w województwie kujawsko-pomorskim. W sferze zagadnień społeczno-demograficznych ukazane zostały szanse i zagrożenia (starzenie się populacji, malejące wskaźniki zawartych małżeństw i przyrostu naturalnego, duże bezrobocie, niskie tempo wzrostu wykształcenia ludności wiejskiej, korzystny współczynnik obciążenia demograficznego) i na tej podstawie wyróżniono tereny, które zostały zaklasyfikowane do trzech podstawowych typów uwarunkowań rozwoju demograficznego. Wykazano, że najkorzystniejsze uwarunkowania posiadają gminy podmiejskie większych miast (Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Grudziądz).

Obszary wiejskie województwa kujawsko-pomorskiego charakteryzują się niskim poziomem rozwoju infrastruktury zarówno w sferze społecznej, jak i technicznej. Wieloletnie zaniedbania w tym zakresie doprowadziły do dużego regresu w zakresie szkolnictwa, a także ochrony zdrowia. Bardzo niekorzystnym zjawiskiem jest utrudniony dostęp młodzieży wiejskiej do szkolnictwa wyższego, co prowadzi do pogłębienia dysproporcji w wykształceniu młodzieży miejskiej i wiejskiej. Także w wyniku zmniejszenia nakładów na ochronę zdrowia oraz ograniczenia liczby personelu lekarskiego, nastąpiło utrudnienie dostępu ludności wiejskiej do opieki zdrowotnej.

Poważne zaniedbania występują również w zakresie infrastruktury technicznej. Zauważalny postęp natomiast dokonuje się w zakresie sieci wodociągowej oraz telekomunikacyjnej.

W sferze gospodarczej widać coraz wyraźniejsze tendencje przemian prowadzące do wielofunkcyjnego charakteru wsi. Dotyczy to zwłaszcza gmin położonych w sferze podmiejskiej Bydgoszczy i Torunia, a także leżących w pobliżu głównych ciągów komunikacyjnych.

W zakresie przekształceń agrarnych zaobserwować można korzystne tendencje, do których zaliczyć można wzrost udziału gospodarki indywidualnej i średniej wielkości gospodarstw z 8,2 ha do 11,2 ha. Majątek trwały w rolnictwie wzrósł nieznacznie. Widoczne są spore zaniedbania odnośnie budownictwa mieszkaniowego i inwentarskiego (około połowy ogółu zabudowy pochodzi sprzed II wojny światowej). Wzrostowe kierunki produkcji rolnej obejmują podniesienie areалу zbóż oraz przyrost pogłównia trzody chlewnej i żywca drobiowego.

W sferze środowiska przyrodniczego na tle kraju województwo kujawsko-pomorskie odznacza się silnym zanieczyszczeniem, głównie na skutek rozwoju przemysłu, gospodarki komunalnej, rolnictwa i transportu. Prawna ochrona przyrody i krajobrazu obejmuje ciągi ekologiczne wzdłuż doliny Wisły, Bory Tucholskie i rejon J. Gopła /o znaczeniu międzynarodowym/ oraz doliny Drwęcy, Brdy, Noteci i Pojezierze Brodnickie /o znaczeniu krajowym/. Łączna powierzchnia prawnie chroniona obejmuje ok. 11,7% ogólnej powierzchni województwa.

Pod względem tożsamości kulturowej jest to obszar bardzo zróżnicowany /występuje tu 9 grup etnicznych ludności/. W wielu wsiach zachowała się znaczna ilość obiektów zabytkowych, które pełnią istotną rolę w zasobach kulturowych /budownictwo sakralne, świeckie, drewniane, zachowane historyczne układy urbanistyczne wsi, budowle obronne, fortyfikacje, liczne obiekty gospodarcze, jak: młyny, browary, kuźnie, stodoły itp./.

Editorial

The first issue of the journal in 2003 is devoted to the theme of 'Education and the Future'. The special issue is edited by David Bridges and features contributions from a range of leading philosophers of education. The first article, by David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The second article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The third article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The fourth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The fifth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The sixth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The seventh article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The eighth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The ninth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England. The tenth article, by David Bridges and David Bridges, asks 'What is the future of education?' and considers the implications of the current educational reforms in England.

RURAL AREAS TRANSFORMATION IN WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

Michał Jasiulewicz

Abstract: Till now the economical development of the rural areas of West Pomeranian Voivodship indicates one function – the agricultural one – to be dominant. However, because explicit criteria, methodology and full statistic information are not available, it is difficult to specify the functionality of the rural areas and their development. Till present day non-agricultural activity developing during transformation period are services, especially trade. Great spatial differentiation exists in regard non-agricultural business activation – urbanized areas around cities (close to agglomerations), coastal zone of tourist function and frontier areas (with well developed trade function) are conspicuous by high dynamism. Lowest activation can be observed over former state farms areas, in the middle, eastern and southern parts of the region.

Key words: multifunctionality, rural areas, non-agricultural activity, structural alternations.

1. Introduction

Agriculture transformation on areas, where state-owned sector dominated, are peculiarly difficult and complex issue. Due to its range and scale they can be described as revolutionary. The state sector of agriculture, owing about 58% of this region's grounds, was entirely liquidated and put to a restructuring process.

Within the process good, efficient farms were put on a par with bad, poorly effective ones, regardless of their founding unit or the financial and property situation.

Political circumstances were more important here from economical and social ones. State-owned farms – created and improved for many years – got liquidated in a short period of time, despite social and economical consequences.

Introduced suddenly, without any preparatory period, a new economical liberalism even more worsened the financial situation of the state sector of agriculture. In many cases State-owned farms activity finished with a loss of their credit capacity and with the entire equity sale (debt collector execution) resulting from bank restrictions. Due to a lack of legal procedures for state-owned farms transformation in its first phase (1990, 1991) a process of non-controlled destruction and plunder in state-owned and co-operative farms occurred. Only the Act of

19.02.1991 „On Managing Agricultural Properties of the State Treasury and on Alteration of Other Acts” enabled to bring Agency of Agricultural Property of the State Treasury (AWRSP) into existence. The Agency's has been responsible for ownership transformations within state-owned sector of agriculture and for managing the agricultural lands possessed by the state. The ownership transformation was entrusted to AWRSP from 1.01.1992 on with the following tasks:

- create favourable conditions for using production capacities,
- restructure and privatize equity of the State Treasury,
- trade in real estates and other equity,
- manage resources designed for agricultural purposes,
- establish farms,
- hold responsibility of the State Treasury equity,
- run device-agricultural activities,
- create new workplaces along with the restructuring process.

AWRSP has been given a large freedom by the Parliament to administer the equity, i.e. the equity may be sold, leased, brought as property to another companies, managed in the form of administration, spared or handed over for free.

The properties were legally liquidated before they were taken over. Parallel to taking over the equity into AWRSP - the process of restructuring and managing the properties took place.

2. Structural Alterations of West-Pomeranian Agriculture

West-Pomeranian Voivodship is included into regions, where highest share of state-owned agriculture (67,4%) had been observed by 1989. Largest area of grounds was taken over into the Resource of AWRSP in this Voivodship, i.e. 783,733 ha (by 30.06.2001), including 648,265 ha of agricultural land. Within the total area of grounds taken over into the Resource the majority was of the state-owned farms origin, i.e. 680,842 ha.

As a result of the restructuring and of managing activities, 24.7% of the taken over grounds were ultimately handed over to third parties (by 30.06.2001) including: 19.7% – sales (Fig. 1); 5% (39.2 thousand) – transferred to State Forests, communes, housing associations and Catholic Church, of which mostly to State Forests – (3.5% – 27.0 thousand). The remaining grounds, i.e. 75.3% continues in the AWRSP Resource, including mainly lease, i.e. 58.4% (457.4 thousand); about 0.3% is managed (by National Parks, State Forests and others), 1% is perpetually leased, a small part is administered, i.e. 0.2%; about 2.6% of the grounds is temporarily handed over gratis and 12.8% is left to be still managed – Fig. 1.

The structure of the grounds management has been continuously altered – the share of grounds sold increases (18.9% by 31.12.2000; 19.7% by 30.06.2001) as well as of grounds

handed over gratis (4.7% by the end of 2000; 5.0% by 30.06.2001). On the other hand, the share of grounds eased decreases (60.1% by 31.12.2000; 58.4% by 30.06.2001) – Tab. 1.

Initially it was assumed that the basic form of the grounds management would be sale of the land and of the real estates. However, only a total of 19.7% of grounds taken over to the Resource had been sold by 30.06.2001 (154.5 thousand, including 136.5 thousand of agricultural land). Grounds of the former state farms constitute most of the areas sold – Tab. 1.

The sales structure of the grounds indicates strong concentration, i.e. most of the area was sold to a sparse group of buyers and many plots of small area were offered. Lack of capital among local buyers caused the lease to be the major form of the grounds management.

The leasing contracts are reached for a longer term, i.e. 7-15 years. The larger is the area of the leased grounds, the longer is the contract period – was taken as a rule. A leaseholder pays a rent, negotiated before signing the contract, to the State Treasury (AWRSP). Lease contracts include clauses of minimum employment level. Leaseholders activities restrictions refer only to strategic goals requiring larger investment expenditures, increasing significantly the equity value. An incentive for rational management and for investments is preemption, in accordance with the Act. For the purpose of acceleration of ownership transformation in the agriculture of West-Pomeranian Voivodship and lowering costs of preparing the real estates for sale, AWRSP Local Affiliate (OT) in Szczecin sent in 2000 about 1,500 offers to the leaseholders proposing a purchase of the leased grounds. 800 leaseholders used the offer.

Returns to the Resource are an important problem. Their total area in 1992-2001 counts for 354.3 thousand. Most of the returns resulted from contracts termination – 58.6%; 27.8% by excluding part of the area from contracts; 13.6% by contracts expiry. Out of 31.9 thousand of lease contracts until 13.4 thousand were terminated. There is also a large area of degraded lands, overgrew with forest in the West-Pomeranian AWRSP Resource. The lands are placed close to forest complexes being not fit for agricultural use. Afforestation is the most rational form of their lasting allocation. However, there is a necessity of considering these grounds in the local spatial development plan. Currently, only an insignificant part of them is expected in the plans to be afforested. As a result of implementation of „National Afforesting Program” of 1995, OT AWRSP in Szczecin declared to hand over for afforestation about 50 thousand grounds, out of which only 27.0 thousand have been handed over by now. In order to improve this Program realization, an amendment to the Act of 1966 was prepared, allowing AWRSP to transfer to State Forests the woods and lands fit for afforestation which were not included into local spatial development plans. These lands have to be approved by a Commission¹. Arrangements regarding the use of land (forms of managing), included within local spatial development plan, considerably influence market value for a real estates. This is why there is a need for activities aiming at

¹ The Commission consists of representatives of State Forests, OT AWRSP and a communes representatives.

Table 1. Grounds taken over and managed by OT AWRSP in Szczecin (ha)

	Grounds taken over AWRSP in total	Agricultural land taken over the Resource	Grounds from liquidated farms	Managing of the taken over grounds					Grounds to be managed (awaiting)
				Sale	Lease	Handed over for free	Handed over in Administration	Handed over in perpetual leasein	
West-Pomeranian Voivodship	783 733 100%	648 265	680 842	154 522 19,7%	457 360 58,4%	39 166 5,0%	2 269 0,3%	7 640 1,0%	100 002 12,8%
Koszalin Affiliate	340 840 100%	276 870	300 132	82 438 24,2%	187 764 55,1%	19 022 5,6%	636 0,2%	1 511 0,4%	39 725 11,7%
Szczecin Affiliate	442 893 100%	371 395	380 710	72 084 16,3%	269 596 4,5%	20 144 4,5%	1 633 0,4%	6 129 1,4%	60 277 13,6%

Source: Information of OT AWRSP, Koszalin Affiliate activities; Koszalin, 30 June 2001.

alternative (different from agricultural) managing of many estates of AWRSP Resource. These refers especially to grounds:

- highly attractive in terms of investment (favourable localization),
- placed within and around towns,
- close to existing and planned transportation routs,
- at boarders,
- on areas marked by recreational-tourist features,
- on areas of commercial importance.

Project regards rural settlements and economical centers that due to their location objects can be used alternatively, e.g. adaptation for gymnasiums, rural common rooms, communes centers, or for agri-tourism and non-burdensome industry (food processing), also as warehouses, wholesalers, storehouses. It needs to be emphasized that operations taken commonly by communes and OT AWRSP in Szczecin, heading for rational managing of AWRSP Resource estates, should enable rural activation towards multi-diversified development balance – through attractiveness improvement and tax receipts increase to local budgets, employment growth, demand increase for services.

Such a cooperation of communes and OT AWRSP in the scope of alternative managing AWRSP Resource estates is possible not only due to economical situation but also social effects of restructuring and privatization process. It is particularly important on areas where high, structural unemployment is observed and urgent need of alteration of rural economy structure remains.

The unemployment rate reached a high level in most communes, especially on areas, where state controlled economy had dominated in agriculture. The unemployment problem on former state farms areas is one of most bothering and hard to solve ones. The reason is low qualification of the manpower, lack of entrepreneurship, and of own capital, too. This group of population has been left on their own, without any real prospects for earning provision. Lack of own entrepreneurship features causes apathy and awaiting for outer assistance. Undoubtedly, in this situation larger scale of public works is desired especially in order to improve infrastructure, as well as increase afforestation works (Józwiak, 2000).

The existing over-supply of the manpower (registered and hidden unemployment) and the group of population boom (youth entering productive age) require intensive, accelerated activities towards non-agricultural development of rural areas. Creation of a new workplaces enable to use of not only the excessive manpower but will also improve social and economic development in the country-side. In the first phase, however, the emphasis should be put on institutional and technical infrastructure equipment.

The delayed and often inappropriate restructuring process of former state farms and efficiency decrease in breeding production caused in many cases decapitalization of farms, defined currently as „questionable estate”, featured with: disadvantageous localization, poor technical status, obsolete technology, high functional consumption, total loss of features enabling to fulfill their functions. Many of this sort of real estates are deterrent elements of rural landscape and are discouraging the potential investors. This is the reason for a major part of these real estates should be liquidated provided a thorough analysis of their usefulness and technical backwardness is warranted.

As a result of carried out process of state owned economy restructuring in agriculture a large part of grounds was taken over by private farms, what improved their structure a lot. Comparison of size structure of individual farms in West-Pomeranian Voivodship with the average in Poland and in European Union countries (Fig. 2) shows that the West-Pomeranian structure is more favorable than the Polish one and close to this in European Union countries. It should be stressed that the smallest farms, i.e. below 5 ha of agricultural land represent in European Union 58.3% of total number of farms, and in West-Pomeranian Voivodship only 42.3%; also the share of large farms (over 20 ha) – 15.5% – is close to the EU average – 18.2%. Various sorts of companies running large-area farms – not counted in the presented size structure of farms – should also be taken into consideration in the total agrarian structure. Almost half of the area managed by companies is administered by joint-venture companies with foreign capital – Germany dominates with 40.7%, Denmark – 22.0%, Holland – 11.5%.

Average size of an individual farm in West-Pomeranian Voivodship is 16.8 ha of agricultural land (1999). Comparing to the national average – 7.0 ha – it is 2.5 times larger and very close to EU average (18.7 ha). Although small farms of less than 5 ha represent 42.3% of the total number of farms, 21.5% share of large farms (15-50 ha) is triple as high as the average in Poland and the share of the largest farms (over 50 ha) is the highest in the country and counts for 3.4% (average in Poland: 0.5%).

Resulting from restructuring process the West-Pomeranian agriculture is relatively low employer – total employment rate in agriculture forestry and hunting is 15.4% that is significantly lower than the nationwide average (27.6%). The employment in West-Pomeranian Voivodship is 7.6 persons per 100 ha of agricultural land, i.e. 3 times less than the country average. Relatively high productivity of work shows much lower over-employment than in southern or eastern part of Poland. On the other hand, low productivity of the land (about 83% comparing to national average) indicates extensive economy of agriculture. One should pay attention to the fact that despite large average size of an individual farm only 43% of rural population earns on agricultural activity, and 70% of employed in agriculture make a living only or mainly by working at own

farm². This influences considerably a low level of income of the rural population and parallel of commerce. Connection between agricultural producers and markets is weak, despite favorable farms size structure.

Crop production predominates in individual farms and large-size company farms, including high share of cereal in sowing (74.9%), increasing year by year.

The structure of agricultural production space (significant share of meadows and pastures) indicates large potential for raising milk- and meat-cattle and sheep. Current indicators of the number of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land (13.9 heads/ 100 ha compared to the average in Poland – 36 heads / 100 ha) and of milk production (252 liter/ 1 ha; average in Poland – 646 liter/ 1 ha) are much lower than the national average and one should characterize this situation as misused opportunity.

3. The level of social and economic development of communes

The transformation carried out on rural areas of West-Pomeranian Voivodship during the previous decade, both the economic and the social ones, affected the variety of socio-economic development level. A significant differentiating factor was ability of communes (gminy) to drastic adjustment to new economic circumstances. The classification of communes according to socio-economic level has been carried out using Z. Hellwig's method of "development measure" (Hellwig 1968).

The use of systematizing "development measure" lead to a calculation of synthetic measure on which classification of communes (as of 1999) was based. The basis for distinguishing objects (communes) are development measure ranges built on the strength of arithmetical average and standard deviation. 4 classes of development level were established: I – high, II – medium, III – low, IV – very low. Taking into consideration the methodological assumptions, following features were selected for research:

1. own incomes of communes per 1 inhabitant,
2. investment expenditures per 1 inhabitant,
3. a number of economic units per 1000 persons in productive age,
4. percentage of unemployed in comparison to population in productive age,
5. percentage of population served by sewage treatment plants.

Own incomes of urban-rural communes in West-Pomeranian Voivodship per 1 inhabitant are about 583.4 zł, and in rural communes – 642.5 zł (it is a somewhat lower level than the national average). Spatial differentiation of own incomes in particular communes is presented on

² This share is much higher than the national average – 53%.

Fig. 3. Communes placed in the coastal zone and at the boarder with Germany (surround Szczecin) are the highest. The lowest level is observed in communes of eastern, central and southern parts of the region. Most often these were areas of high rate of state ownership of the grounds before 1989.

The level of unemployment (Fig. 4) is high in eastern, southern and central part of the region, and low in coastal communes and around Szczecin agglomeration and in boarder communes. The unemployment on rural areas of this region results mainly from bankruptcies of state farms and other state owned economic units connected with agricultural sector.

Economic activation of the rural areas was measured by using an indicator – the number of economic units per 1000 persons in productive age (Fig. 5). Communes of low economic activation level dominate, what obviously affects negatively the own incomes of communes and the employment level.

A very important economic issue on rural areas is investment. As a measure, investment expenditures per 1 inhabitant were taken. Spatial layout of investment expenditures size in particular communes is presented on Fig. 6. Differentiation of this feature is high, although lower than in case of the previous measures. Also this indicator's level is highest in coastal communes and surrounding Szczecin agglomeration. However, generally there is more even investment level among communes. It is commonly known that rural infrastructure development is a basis for entrepreneurship growth, unemployment alleviation, improvement of income situation of communes and of the population. The picture of rural infrastructure is usually presented with an indicator – the share of population served by sewage treatment plants in communes. The West-Pomeranian Voivodship region belongs to areas of exceptional nature resources and this is the reason for its protection should be treated as a priority. The region is positively distinguished within the country with the sewage system level but comparing it to Western Europe countries – it is a low level. The differentiation among the communes regarding the share of population served by sewage treatment plants is high, too, although varies from another analyzed features. It is higher in coastal communes and around Szczecin but also locally, mainly in the southern part, many communes are marked with high level of the indicator – Fig. 7. It results both from investment activities of former state farms and communes during the transformation period.

The synthetic socio-economical “development measure” calculated according to the assumed rules classified the communes into 4 development classes (levels). Spatial layout showing the socio-economical development levels of communes is presented on Fig. 8. Out of 103 urban and rural-urban communes only 7.6% are communes of high development level (class I). Also the share of medium developed communes is low (21.3%). Low developed communes dominate (66% of the total number) and 2 communes (1.9% – Barwice and Bobolice) are classified as very low developed. An analysis of the spatial differentiation of the socio-

economical level brings to a conclusion that the most favorable situation is observed in the coastal zone, in areas placed close to the Szczecin agglomeration and in the border zone. One should note that most of the communes (2/3) represents low development level of similar features. These are mainly areas, where post state-owned farms lands dominate. Low economic level of the above mentioned communes indicates that there is a necessity of activities acceleration towards economic and social activation.

4. Summary

During the carried out restructuring of agricultural economy of this region there is a great opportunity for construction a favorable agrarian structure, agriculture modernization, settlement network re-shaping and proper rural construction. Such complex activities could lead to establishment in the future efficient farms adjusted to economic and social requirements of settlement network and infrastructure.

Farms modernization aiming at production efficiency improvement should lead to full competitive potential on international markets. A great opportunity for this region is a high tourist attractiveness in the coastal zone and in the lakes strip, enabling tourist function development. One should pay attention to unused chance of non-consumer raw materials production such as: flax, hemp, rape – for “bio-diesel” fuel, willow for energy, cereal or potatoes – for waterless spirit used in energy production. Further alterations to be implemented in the region’s agriculture are as follows:

- economical efficiency improvement,
- modernization of agricultural production and food processing,
- agrarian structure improvement,
- rural areas activation leading to multifunctional development of the countryside,
- development of institutional sphere of agriculture environment,
- rural infrastructure development,
- production structure diversification.

An important issue within the activities to be carried out should be market activities aiming at searching for production niches (national and international ones), as well as introducing non-consumer cultivation and changes towards non-agricultural use of the grounds (tourism, recreation, afforesting, infrastructure).

Despite great structural alterations that took place in the rural areas of this region in the past decade there is still a need of much effort to meet international competition and elevate the level of socio-economical development of rural areas. Taking into account the underdevelopment of market and institutional arrangement, technical and social infrastructure, it is essential to invest

in basic further agricultural modernization and higher out-put. It would be worthwhile to add more dynamic agro-business development as a way to create new management methods in agricultural, new production categories, unconventional undertakings finally leading to faster implementation of productive and economic progress. One should remember that the whole agricultural sector and rural areas in the border region (e.g. West-Pomeranian Voivodship) will more and more often meet the international market, especially of European Union countries. Poland is a country for which the access to EU offers many opportunities but it has also to take into consideration existing hazards to counter act them in time. Despite many negative effects, the already carried out restructuring of the rural areas in West-Pomeranian Voivodship creates great, historical chances to rebuild the whole rural economy.

Bibliography

- Aktywizacja gospodarcza terenów wiejskich na pograniczu polsko-niemieckim w świetle procesów integracyjnych z Unią Europejską*, 1999, (ed.) M. Kłodziński, IRWiR PAN, AR in Szczecin, Warszawa.
- Hellwig Z., 1968, *Zastosowanie metody taksonomicznej do typologicznego podziału krajów ze względu na poziom ich rozwoju oraz zasoby i strukturę wykwalifikowanych kadr*, Przegląd Statystyczny, 4.
- Hunek T., 2000, *Dylematy polityki rolnej. Integracja polskiej wsi i rolnictwa z UE*, Warszawa.
- Hunek T., 2000, *Transformacja systemowa gospodarki narodowej determinantem modelowania sektora rolnego Polski* [in:] *Dylematy polityki rolnej. Integracja polskiej wsi i rolnictwa z UE*, (eds.) L. T. Hunek, Warszawa,
- Jasiulewicz M., 2000, *Restructuring of the State Agriculture in Mid - Pomerania*, in *Socio-Economical Alterations* [in:] *Rural Areas of Central Europe in the Transition Period*, (ed.) by: M. Jasiulewicz, Technical University of Koszalin, Faculty of Economy and Managment, Polish Economy of Science - Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization in Warsaw, Koszalin 2000, 174.
- Józwiak W., 2000, *Przegląd sytuacji wyjściowej sektora agrobiznesu w Polsce z uwzględnieniem trendów zmian polityki rolnej*, [in:] *Strategiczne opeje dla polskiego sektora agrobiznesu w świetle analiz ekonomicznych*, (eds.) E. Majewski, G. Dalton, SGGW, Warszawa, 45.
- Kłodziński M., Włodarczyk M., 1999, *Bariery i priorytety w rozwoju terenów wiejskich w świetle możliwości wykorzystania środków przedakcesyjnych Unii Europejskiej*, [in:] *Aktywizacja gospodarcza terenów wiejskich na pograniczu polsko-niemieckim w świetle procesów integracyjnych z Unią Europejską*, IRWiR PAN, AR w Szczecinie, Warszawa, 29.
- Ramowe kierunki i zasady współpracy OT AWRSP w Szczecinie z gminami Województwa Zachodniopomorskiego*, 2001, Szczecin.
- Rocznik statystyczny województw 2000*, GUS, Warszawa.
- Strategia rozwoju Woj. Zachodniopomorskiego do roku 2015*, 2000, Szczecin.
- Strategiczne opeje dla polskiego sektora agrobiznesu w świetle analiz ekonomicznych SGGW*, 2000, Warszawa.
- Zasady gospodarowania mieniem Zasobu AWRSP*, 2001, [in:] *Ramowe kierunki i zasady współpracy OT AWRSP w szczecinie z gminami Województwa Zachodniopomorskiego*, Szczecin.

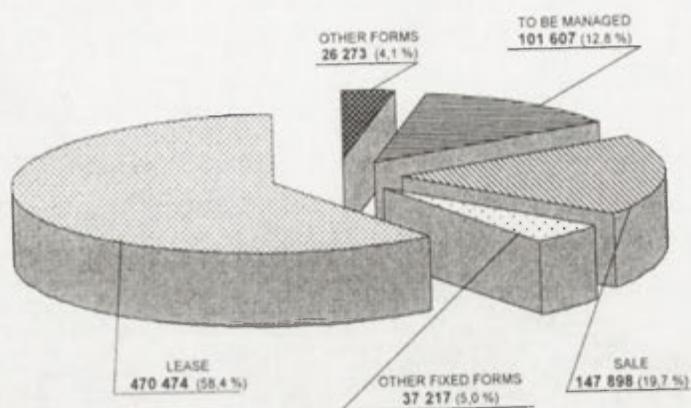


Fig. 1. Managing of the grounds taken over to the AWRSP Resource in West-Pomeranian Voivodship (As of: 30.06.2001)

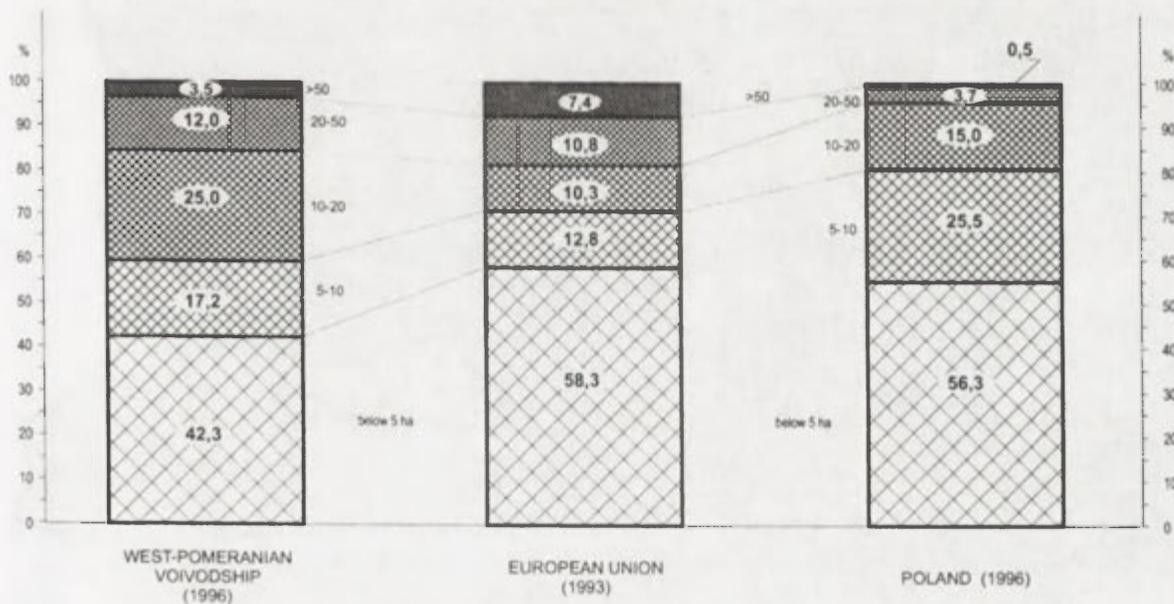


Fig. 2. Individual farms according to size groups in West-Pomeranian Voivodship in comparison to the national average and to European Union

Source: Die der Landwirtschaft in der Europäischen Union. Bericht 1996. Europäischen Kommunikation. Brüssel 1997, s. 146-151.

Rocznik statystyczny woj. Zachodniopomorskiego 2000 r., Tab. 289.

Rocznik statystyczny rolnictwa 1998. GUS, 1999, Warszawa, tab. 34.

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP



Fig. 3. Own incomes of communes per 1 inhabitant in West-Pomeranian Voivodship (without municipal communes)

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

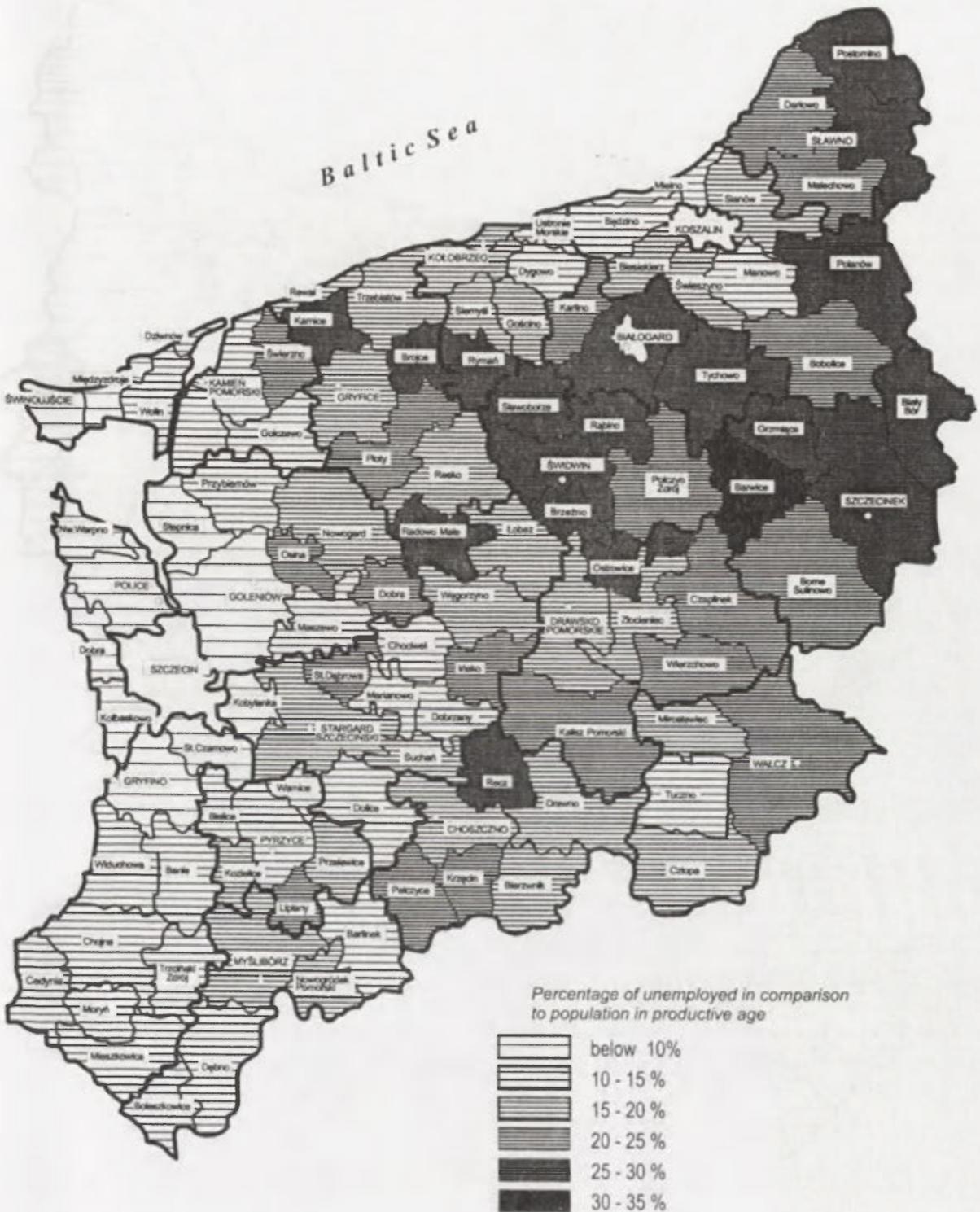


Fig. 4. The unemployment level in the communes of West-Pomeranian Voivodship (without municipal communes)

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

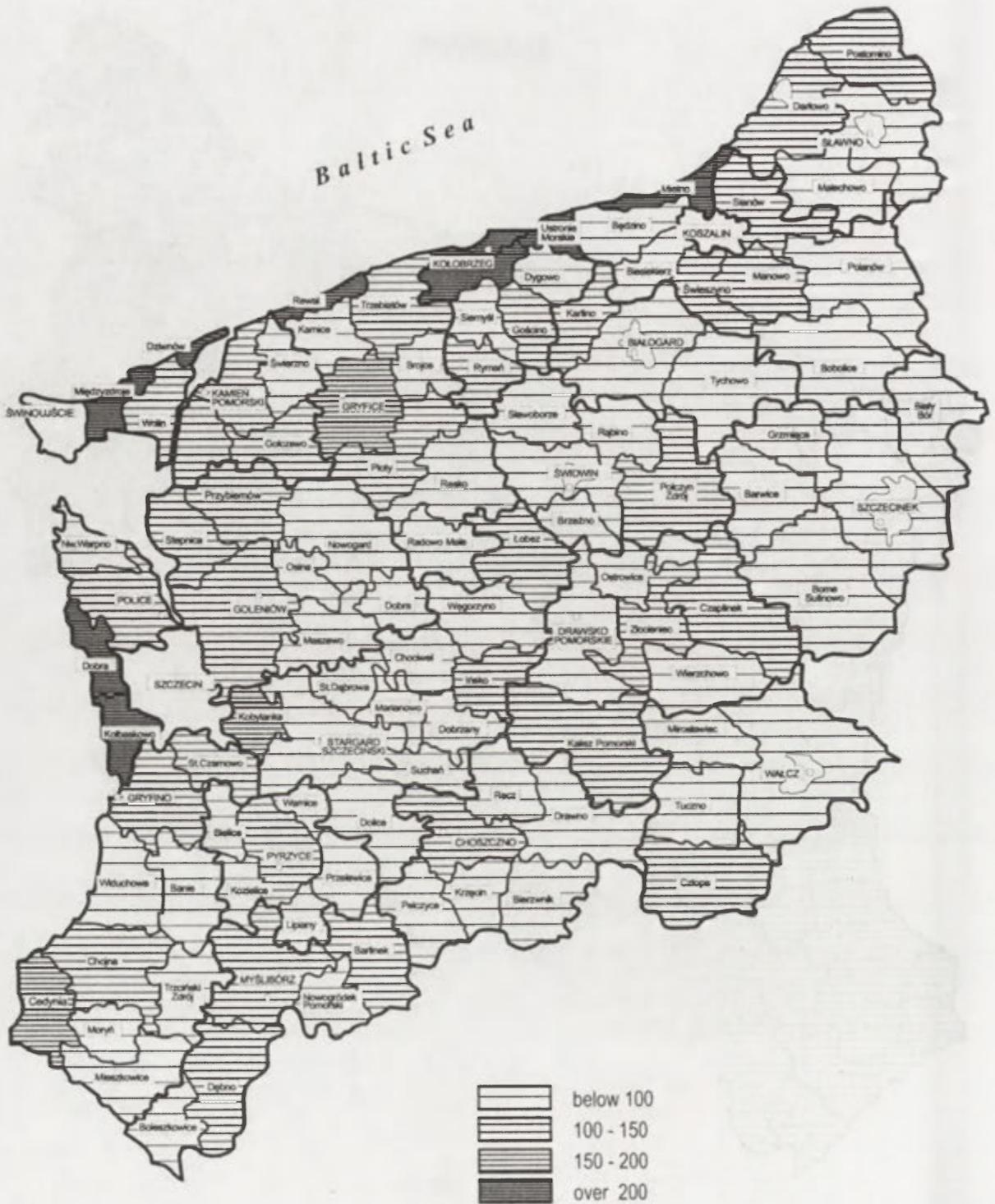


Fig. 5. Number of economic units per 1000 persons in productive age in the communes of West-Pomeranian Voivodship (without municipal communes)

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

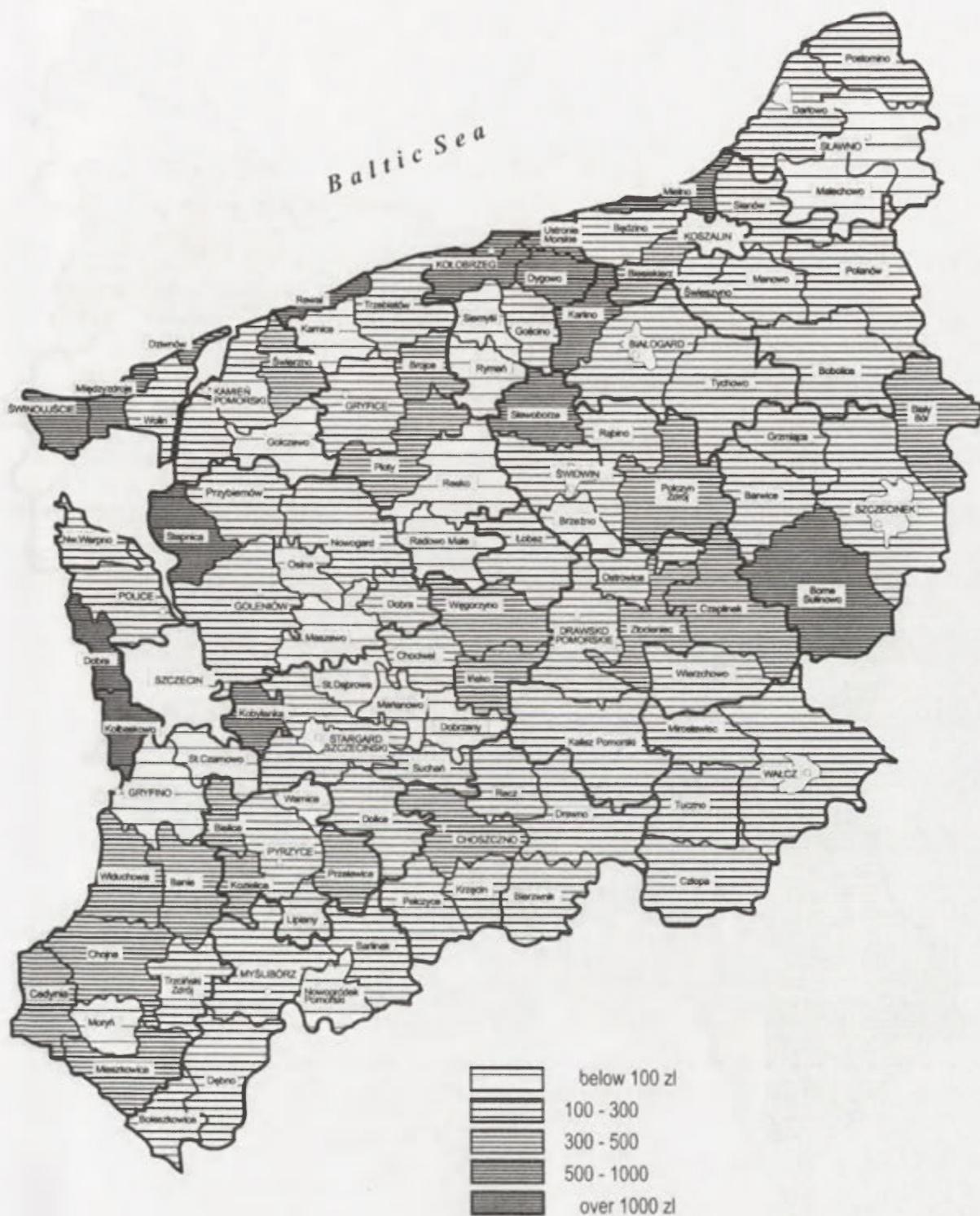


Fig. 6. Investment expenditures per 1 inhabitant in the communes of West-Pomeranian Voivodship (in zł) (without municipal communes)

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

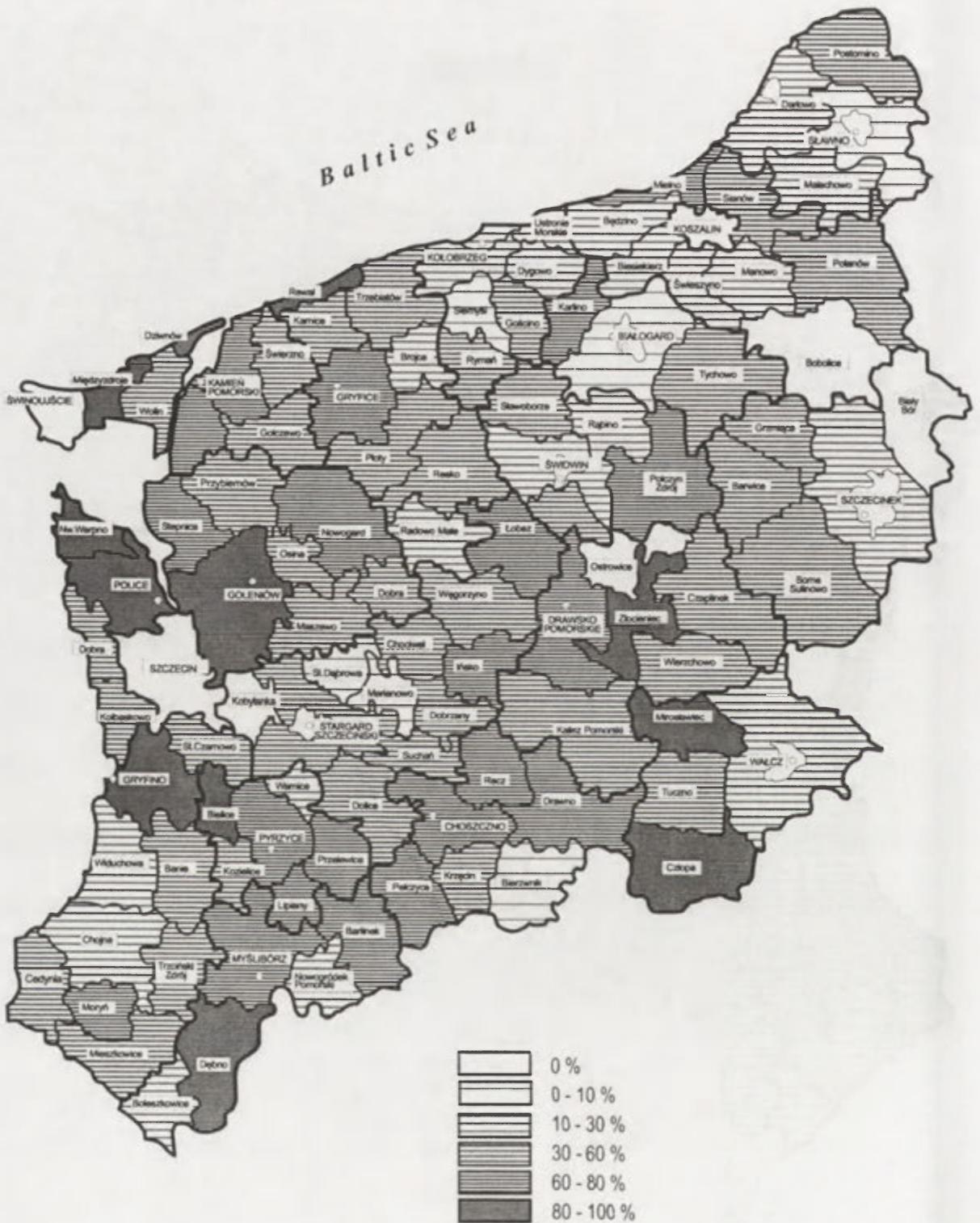


Fig. 7. Percentage of population served by sewage treatment plants in the communes of West-Pomeranian Voivodship (without municipal communes)

WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

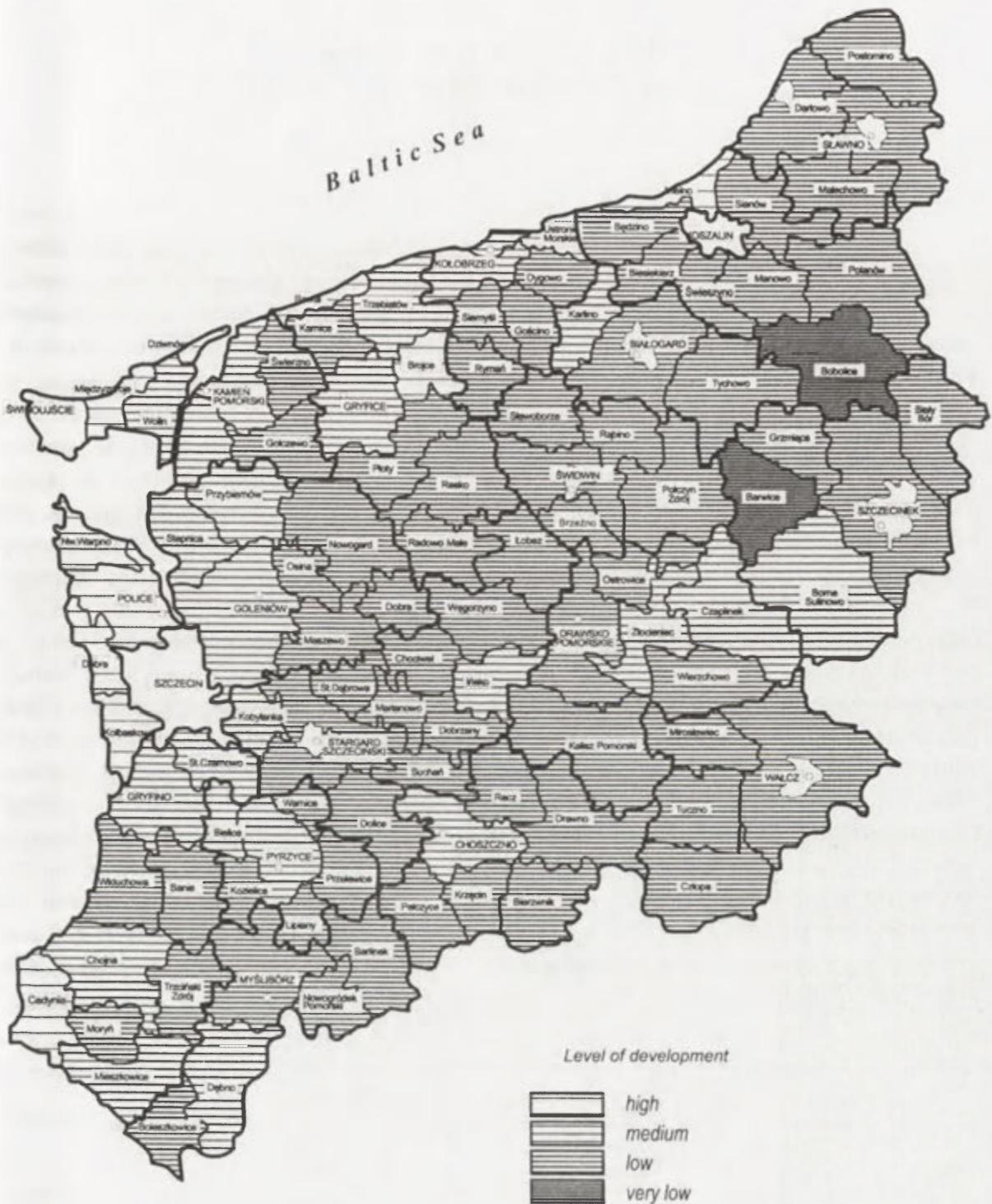


Fig. 8. The level of socio-economic development in the communes of West-Pomeranian Voivodship (without municipal communes)

RURAL AREAS TRANSFORMATION IN WEST-POMERANIAN VOIVODSHIP

Streszczenie

Województwo Zachodniopomorskie należy do tych obszarów w Polsce, które przed 1989 r. cechowały się najwyższym udziałem gospodarki uspołecznionej w rolnictwie. Tempo przemian rolnictwa i obszarów wiejskich tego regionu w ostatniej dekadzie jest bardzo wysokie. Nastąpił znaczny transfer gruntów z gospodarki państwowej do sektora prywatnego, który użytkuje obecnie ok. 90% ogółu gruntów. W gospodarce rolnej pojawiły się nowe podmioty gospodarcze tj. wielkoobszarowe gospodarstwa użytkowane przez spółki prawa handlowego, wśród których ok. 50% gruntów zajmują spółki z udziałem kapitału zagranicznego. W zagospodarowaniu gruntów państwowych dominuje forma dzierżawy, sprzedaż stanowi ok. 20% gruntów przejętych do zasobu AWRSP. Relatywnie dobra struktura wielkościowa indywidualnych gospodarstw rolnych jest wynikiem restrukturyzacji rolnictwa. Przejście z gospodarki sterowanej centralnie do gospodarki rynkowej spowodowało wzrost zróżnicowania gmin w poziomie rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego. W dokonanym podziale gmin według „poziomu rozwoju” dominują (ok. 65%) gminy o niskim poziomie rozwoju obejmujące głównie tereny o wysokim udziale gruntów państwowych. Gminy o poziomie wysokim i średnim stanowią niewielki udział, a położone są głównie w pobliżu aglomeracji Szczecina i Koszalina oraz w strefie nadmorskiej i przygranicznej. Pozytywnym zjawiskiem okresu transformacji jest poprawa poziomu wyposażenia w infrastrukturę techniczną jednakże istnieją w tym zakresie jeszcze poważne braki zwłaszcza w dziedzinie: kanalizacji, melioracji, oczyszczalni ścieków, stanu dróg. Dostosowanie rolnictwa i obszarów wiejskich tego regionu do warunków UE wymaga dalszych przekształceń strukturalnych, wzrostu przedsiębiorczości, aktywizacji obszarów wiejskich w kierunku rozwoju wielofunkcyjnego wsi, poprawy wyposażenia w infrastrukturę techniczną instytucjonalną, społeczną. Ważnym aspektem zmian rolnictwa są konieczne dostosowania do wymogów i potrzeb rynku. Niezbędne są zmiany struktury produkcji, uwzględniające nisze rynkowe, zwłaszcza w produkcji surowców niespożywczych. Wysokie walory turystyczne w strefie pojezierzy oraz w pasie nadmorskim stwarzają możliwości rozwoju agroturystyki.

PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL INHERITANCE IN RURAL AREAS IN BULGARIA IN THE PERIOD OF THE TRANSITION

Petar Petrov, Alexandra Kiselkova, Emil Ivanov

Abstract: This article attempts to reveal and analyze the problems related to the cultural heritage in Bulgaria's rural regions. A classification has been devised based on its significance: regional, national, international. The key measures, aimed at better preservation of the rural heritage, have been outlined which are in compliance with the idea of sustainable development of the rural areas.

Key words: natural inheritance, cultural inheritance, sustainable development, nature protection

The philosophy of survival and urgent satisfaction of bare food necessities, and consequently cumulation of fast profits has led to several undesired trends in the use of natural and cultural environments, throughout the country, including the rural areas. Processes of the transition and their concomitant problems have found their regional expression. It was at that time when the notion „rural area” appeared in Bulgaria. From the very beginning it started to be used rather chaotically and misdirectedly, most often by analogy with “agricultural region” – a key term of the socialist regionalization. Unfortunately there is still no clear and precise definition "rural area". Obviously the macrosectoral direction of production is not enough - rural areas might be also those with prevailing forestry and fisheries. For the time being, the rural areas are associated with the administrative units – municipalities. There are also several widely used criteria for this:

Biggest town of the municipality with up to 30, 000 citizens and population density less than 150 citizens per km² (derived from the National Plan for the development of the agriculture and rural areas (2000–2006) according to the special programme of EU for integration in the fields of agriculture and rural areas). According to these two criteria – from a total of 262 municipalities, 229 are rural areas. They encompass 81.4% of the Bulgarian territory and 43.6% of the population.

Another criteria is the existence of settlements (villages and towns), with population less than 10, 000 (Geshev, 1994), the same position is supported by M. Ilieva (2001) who placed the stress upon the structure of economy (dominating agriculture). Almost all the specialists use the notion "rural area" as a common one, out its ranking content. Probably in order to simplify and make the issue easy they use the available municipal administrative boundaries of the individual municipality or group of municipalities. Maybe this corresponds to S. Madzharova's statement (1999) that the rural areas are established on a legislative basis

(surprisingly there is no respective law). Based on this statement the same author completely rejects the principle of continuity, according to her the boundaries of different municipalities do not overlap but strongly differ.

Rural natural and cultural inheritance – problems and particularities

According to the ratified Convention of UNESCO, in Paris, 1972 for Conservation of the World Heritage, as natural heritage are defined:

- "Natural monuments, comprised of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which from natural or scientific point of view have an exceptional worldwide significance;
- Geological, geomorfological formations and exactly defined zones, which function as habitats for endangered plants and animal species, which from scientific or conservation point of view have an exceptional worldwide importance;
- Exactly defined natural zones and sites, which from conservation, scientific or esthetic point of view have an exceptional worldwide importance".

According to the same Convention, as a world cultural inheritance are defined:

- "Monuments: architectural, sculptural, and constructional, art works, archeological elements or structures, inscriptions, caves and groups of elements which from historical, art or scientific point of view have an exceptional worldwide importance;
- Ensembles: isolated or unified buildings, which because of their architecture, unity or connection with the surrounding landscape, historical, artistic or scientific importance have an exceptional worldwide value;
- Sites (outstanding sites) - creations of man or of man and nature, zones, including archeological landmarks, which from historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view have an exceptional worldwide importance."

These definitions regularly pose the question about the degree of significance of the heritage: international; national and regional, and the degree of originality which is transmitted to the next generations.

Natural heritage, transmitted in original form (conserved) for the next generations, is illustrated later with concrete examples. According to the scale and significance in spatial aspect, it is logical to outline several categories of natural heritage in Bulgaria (Fig. 1)

According to the Convention for Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the programme of UNESCO "Man and Biosphere", two Bulgarian biosphere reserves are included: "Srebarna", near the Danube river and "Baiuwi dupki - Djindjritsa" in Pirin mountains.

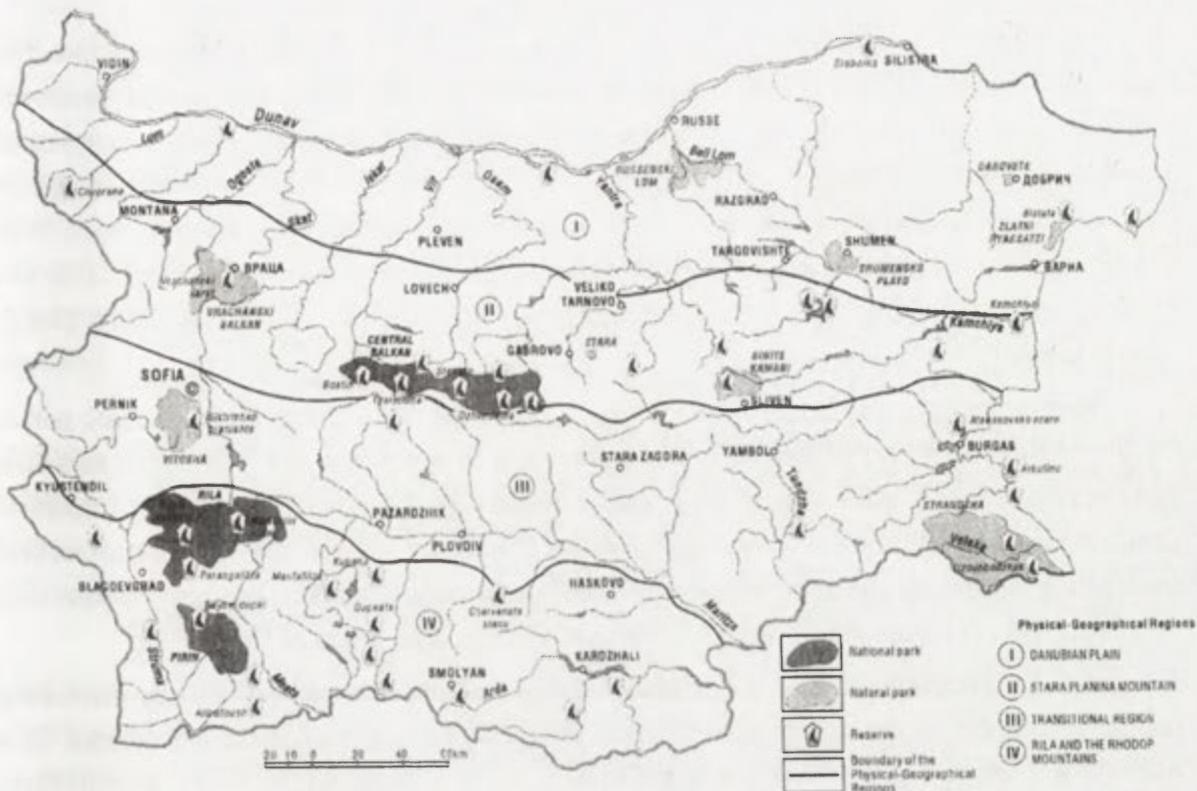


Fig. 1. Principal objects of the natural heritage in Bulgaria

According to the spatial dimensions to the category "Natural heritage with supernational significance" belong objects, which are considerable natural heritage of the continent of Europe and the Balkan peninsula as a big European macroregion, (more than national, but not worldwide significant objects) where could be included the rest of the biosphere reserves, totally 17, with total area exceeding 25, 000 ha - "Steneto", "Alibotush", "Bistrishko branishte", "Boatin", "Djendema", "Dupkata", "Baiwi dupki - Djindjiritsa", "Kamchia", "Kupena", "Mantaritsa", "Marichini ezera", "Uzunbudgak", "Parangalitsa", "Srebarna", etc. To this category belong the wetlands chosen for the Convention for Conservation of Habitats of Waterfawls. Bulgaria supplements the list of internationally important wetlands with 5 protected territories, (International Conventions for Conservation of Biological Diversity, 1998): reserve "Srebarna", reserve "Arkutino", reserve "Atanasowsko esero" natural landmark "Durankulak".

A question about the remaining protected areas arises, namely: maintained reserve protected site, natural landmark whether some of them could be considered as internationally important and in what way to refer the categories natural and national park. The latter could be clarified considering the spatial definition of the parks - they are large territories, from several hundred hectares to thousands of hundred hectares which are complicated spatial formations comprising different patterns of land use and land protection. They encompass either concrete protected objects or areas (like natural reserves and landmarks), and agricultural lands, which are not entirely preserved from human influence.

According to the ratified Convention for Conservation of Wild European Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats, a vast multiplicity of Bulgarian plant and animal protected species from the lists compiled for such European threatened species, also must be referred as international natural heritage. In this category of natural heritage obviously except biosphere reserves, wetlands, and single species may be added as well some of the strict reserves, even suppressed ones, some protected sites as "Shablensko ezero", even natural landmarks (the last category marked in the Law for Protected Areas), for example "Belogradchishki Skali", "Pobiti kamani".

Some natural and maintained reserves, most of the area of the three national parks: "Rila", "Pirin" and "Central Balkan" contain objects with more than national importance like strict reserves. Some of the natural parks are considered by the population not less important than the national parks, as "Strandja", "Rilski Monastir", "Witosha". National natural inheritance are also all the rest protected sites and many natural landmarks mostly conserving the biodiversity for example "Usketo", "Trigradsko jdrelo", the gorge of Erma river.

In the category "Natural inheritance of regional importance" fall all the remaining natural landmarks as century-old trees, caves abysses. But some of these are at least of a national importance as the "Baikushewata Mura", a 1300 years old White Fir tree in Pirin mountains. Regional natural heritage is also some protected sites, even natural parks as "Shumensko Plato" and "Zlatni piasatzi".

Due to different reasons there are in Bulgaria many natural sites with considerable heritage value, which are still not protected by the law, but deserve like the others to be treated as natural heritage, at least regional ones. Often they are hardly explored, hard passable terrenes of gorge valleys, and most often - situated in representative rural areas. They are unique natural sites, with well-preserved natural components and complexes (unique compositions of physical and living nature). Their exploration and their importance assessment as natural heritage should be a subject of nearest future.

The largest part of Bulgarian natural elements, being really precious as natural heritage and actually need warrants for their preservation for the future are situated in more or less typical rural areas. Specific problem remains with the preservation of natural heritage outside of protected areas. In this category fall natural elements of lands which are used by man and which stewardship and protection is not well defined legally. We have substantial reasons to assert that these lands also contain natural and cultural elements, which must be preserved for the future, for example - different local breeds of domestic animals and plant strains, as well game, herbs, mushrooms and others. This problem closely corresponds with the overall biodiversity preservation, including cultivated species. The legislative base for this is partially developed in different laws and acts. The problem often derives from the low degree of control and regulation efficiencies.

Still more delicate is the question with the preservation of **cultural and historical inheritance** which lack clear fixed legal base. Particularly interesting is the example of preservation and transmission of public traditions in rural areas. This is likely to be entirely

left for the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) sector, which especially on local level works rather anemically. The preservation of the cultural historical heritage, for which there is no clear-cut legislation, is an even more delicate question. Particularly interesting is the example of preservation and continuation of such national traditions in rural areas. This task seems to be entrusted exclusively to the third sector organizations – non-economic and non-governmental organizations, which are rather weak, especially at a local level. Due to the complex historical development, the superimposing and intertwining of different cultural influences, Bulgaria is considered to be a country of a rich and diversified cultural heritage.

These are the cultural sites that are included in UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. Out of seven cultural sites, four pertain to rural areas: the Madara Horseman – located near the village of Madara (Shoumen region), the Sveshtari Tomb – located near the village of Sveshtari (Razgrad region), the Rila Monastery, The Rock Churches near the village of Ivanovo – (Rousse region).

The cultural heritage of European and Balkan importance are: prehistoric settlements and vestiges: the Hotnitsa culture, Karanovo culture, Ezerovo culture etc., the Magura cave (prehistoric wall paintings), Devetaki cave (multi-layer historic material). „Bacho Kiro” cave – prehistoric finds etc.; Classical and Medieval Archaeological Sites – Nikopolis ad Istrum, near the village of Nikiup, Veliko Tarnovo region; Ulpia Eskus, near the village of Gigen; Pleven region, the Starossel Thracian Ritual Complex, Plovdiv region etc. The some fortifications are located in typically rural areas in the Eastern Rhodopes: Perperek, Ustra, Mezek, Patmos and in other parts of the country – Matochina, Raciaria etc. The Thracian treasures discovered near the villages of Rogozen, Valchitrun etc. are of international importance. Throughout the centuries the Bulgarian culture has been preserved in the monasteries and monastic complexes situated mainly in rural areas: the Bachkovo Monastery, the Troyan Monastery, the Rozhen Monastery etc.

The category “Cultural heritage of national importance” mainly includes the architectural monuments and complexes, which are architectural historical reserves – the villages of Bozhentzi, Kovachevitza, Dolen, Arbanasi etc.

Notwithstanding the hardships of the transitional period, the rich rural cultural ethnographic heritage has been preserved in many ethnographic museums and museum expositions, characteristic for a particular region (cultural heritage of regional importance), in Northeastern Bulgaria, for instance, these are Topchii (a *kapantzi* folklore group); Pobit kamak, Razgrad region, Alfatar, Silistra region etc. The sustaining and the programs of the various folklore groups are largely connected to the status and activity of the local community cultural centers. The tradition of successive national and regional folklore festivals in the villages is still alive: the folklore festivals of Predela, Rozhen, Shiroka luka, Koprivshitzta, Gramatikovo etc.

Conservation of natural and cultural inheritance in the context of sustainable development

Regardless of the indiscriminately and not rarely stereotyped use of the term "sustainable development" it is becoming increasingly evident that when we address the future this idea will turn into an ultimate benchmark, optimal model and standard, maximal unified ruling initiation. The conservation and transmission to the next generations of natural and cultural elements is underlying the most general definition of this notion – possibility for material and social welfare of people now without reducing it for the next generations. The phrase "sustainable development" has started to obtain a meaning of directive, obligatory for projects referring not only to private branch strategies, programmes and conceptions, but - to complex, integral (sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, sustainable development of rural areas). Realization of this idea often meets considerable difficulties, especially in rural areas. There are different reasons for this, from which most general are the degrees of development of the society and the dominating so far roughly utilitarian approach towards the cultural and natural inheritance. Definitely the local people are those with the greatest responsibility and concern regarding the initiation of sustainability process.

The idea of sustainability is the most important element of the notion of development of rural areas and not by chance it underlies the frames of recently created National Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas (2000 - 2006). Referring to natural and cultural inheritance in rural areas, a legal bases assuring sustainability has been marked in the National Plan ("innovation and development of the villages, preservation and conservation of rural heritage and cultural traditions"). For this step till 2002 are totally foreseen 38, 000, 000 Euro, 28, 000, 000 of from SAPARD programme. By this step as well as by the rest, a priority is given to the undeveloped rural areas, according to the content of Law for Regional Development. For this step is used the term "rural inheritance", which seldom happens in Bulgaria, what's more cultural traditions are also heritage.

The idea for conservation and transmission of the current heritage in rural areas underlies other steps of the same plan, concerning particular branches. For example for viticulture together with the introduced strains, a priority is given to the local branches as well. The same is valid for the breed of farming animals. Steps are foreseen for the land quality also – actions for its improvement, including recultivation of quarries. In the list of activities following step of agricultural and farming activities, aiming at environmental conservation are enumerated: biological agriculture, biological farming, extensive use of pastures, preservation of threatened local breeds, preservation of threatened local plant strains, preservation and improvement of landscapes, transformation of the arable land into pastures (in protected areas) and in territories with high erosion, management of abandoned agricultural lands, management of abandoned forests.

Rational use of natural and cultural inheritance, as element of its conservation

In practical perspective, warrants for the conservation for the future of cultural and natural inheritance should be sought predominantly concerning its rational use. For illustration a very representative example is used – development of ecotourism and cultural tourism in accordance with the concrete particularities of the region (sustainable tourism). Especially through tourism could be obtained resources to invest in the conservation for the future of different natural, cultural objects and traditions. Exactly this these underlie the idea of Bulgarian Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism (BARET) under the name "Bulgarian trails". This is an original programme, closely related to developing of the rural areas, particularly of those more backward. It aims accomplishment of National net of special, highly attractive routes (new type) in three categories: ecotrails (with accent on the flora and fauna); geotrails (with accent on the geological heritage – physical nature) and inheritance trails (with accent on the cultural inheritance). So far in Bulgaria the notion of natural inheritance is not so popular – cultural inheritance is more often used a partial explanation of the conscious mistake of the definition "inheritance trails". The most important outcome of the complex effect, which is expected from the realization of this programme is natural protection and conservation of cultural inheritance. The first results are already evident. So far partially are constructed 8 ecotrails – and there are already some demonstrations for change in the attitude not only of tourists, but of locals as well for better conservation of detached valuables.

Trends in the state of natural and cultural inheritance in the period of transition

In the period of transition yet clearly are outlined some negative trends, which could be defined most generally as out of control and regulation utilization of different resources, as well as of overall territories. This is already tangibly observed for biological resources and cultural as well.

Because of the bad economic situation the role of wood in energy balance of rural areas is permanently increasing. More and more often are seen cases of illegal tree cut for heating. A similar tendency is noticed in the timber production for processing. For many places, particularly in the coniferous layer of Rhodopi mountains timber for construction, furniture and others is the only source of income for the local people. This problem is becoming still more serious after the initiation of the restitution of forests. Almost a fifth of the forests are yet private and reliable experience for their correct management and exploitation is lacking. In the last years arose serious problems because of the illegal cutting of quality timber, especially from the more accessible sites in lowlands. This refers the most for poplar and walnut plantations. The excessively irrational use of many quality kinds of herbs, including – protected mushrooms, fish, game is currently presenting negative results – the numbers of some species have fallen disastrously.

Probably a typical Bulgarian feature during the period of transition proves to be the goat raising. Recently due to purely economic reasons goat is the most advantageous animal for many Bulgarian families. Development of family goat raising has caused serious controversy referring generally to issues of balance in the natural environment. A first glance this particular problem needs careful considerations in regional scale.

A subject of increased "invasion" is water resource in rural areas. Particularly actual is the problem of the contamination of little rivers and their catchment areas, where monitoring is hard to implement. There are grounds for future troubles coming from the recently well advertised construction of private hydroelectric plants, despite the obligatory assessment of the impact on the environment legally required from the government, what is true is that most often the economic interests prevail. Serious problems pose litter collecting practices; the establishment of landfills near the villages is quite negative. These negative processes, although not always connected directly with the conservation of detached natural elements, do create at least unfavorable psychological environment.

Better are presented the negative trends in the conservation of the cultural inheritance. Rural areas are subject of invasion of organized and not organized pseudolovers tradesmen of material objects, which not so rare possess an exceptionally high heritage value. The typical Bulgarian "branch", called treasure hunting is actually a well organized system of trade leading to liquidation of cultural inheritance. The campaign against the above now, is not very successful.

As a whole the multiplicity of Bulgarian villages slowly and surely go to their decline. The process of depopulation for now could not be stopped. The hopes that it could be stopped through the process of privatization and restitution of lands and forests and estates has failed. The background of clear negative trends in the period of transitions, there are also some positive trends, observed as a result of the social and economic changes. Still people understand the difficulties of the transitional period, and a lot of them become aware of their role in the development of society. Interesting is the situation with the land use. Rural areas are becoming cleaner and cleaner, particularly – the chemical contamination – from purely economic reasons the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has been reduced many times, which consequently lead to limited quantities of nitrates and other toxic compounds in waters, lands and products. Rural Bulgaria is becoming as well much greener, because of the abrupt diminishing of the agricultural and farming production, the former fields have changed into natural herb fields, and the former pastures – into meadows. Also pastures are going into a mosaic of shrublands, herb and meadows according to the natural successional processes. It is questionable whether these at first negative trends will turn into advantage in the future from economic point of view.

In cultural perspective some opposite positive trends are observed – for conservation and development of the traditions and spiritual values. Despite the dearth material resources in the last years a limited reanimation of art activities in the villages is observed.

Basic Ways for Better Conservation of Natural and Cultural Inheritance

Regarding improved sustainability in the development, primarily it is necessary to define the role and responsibilities of state, business and NGO sector. It is in some extent accomplished through the established legal base, which regulate different interactions. Directly related to natural inheritance is the accepted in 1998 National Strategy for Conservation of the Biological Diversity by the Bulgarian government. With this corresponds many laws – for the Environmental Protection (1991), for the Protected Territories (1998), for the Arable Lands Protection (1996), for the Forest Protection (1997) etc., and the Ratification of Convention for Cooperation in Sustainable Use and Protection of River Danube (1999); Regional Development Law (1999). To this list of laws refer the cultural inheritance laws.

Unfortunately, the problems of coordination and collaboration between different authorities still exists, despite their good will concerning the utilization and protection of natural and cultural heritage. In spite of the well-built legal base, there are some serious practical problems, connected with the business activities in this field. Stakeholders are not interested enough towards perseverance of the natural inheritance especially in rural areas. The civic sector has a substantial role in development of social conscience and behaviour.

In rural areas however the ecological and cultural NGOs are quite a few if they exist in most cases they are too weak, as most of the NGOs in Bulgaria. Obviously the most important task at the moment is the education of the Bulgarian society. The notion “natural inheritance” is not popular enough in the rural areas. Now and in future the governmental responsibilities for protection of natural and cultural inheritance are most essential. Probably for the future generations the best way for environmental protection and improvement is tourism. The first results from the realization of the BARET programme "Bulgarian Trails" are good illustration for this.

References

- International Conventions for Conservation of Biological Diversity*, 1998.
- Geshev G., 1994, *Demografska ustoichivost na rajonite v Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 1.
- Ilieva M., 2001, *Some issues on the transformation of rural regions in Bulgaria*, Problemi na geografiata, 1-2.
- Madjarova S., 1999, *Selskite rajoni i miestoto im v teritorialnata struktura na stranata*, Ikonomika i upravlenie na selskoto stopanstvo, 6.
- Natzionalen plan za razvitiето na zemedeliето i selskite rajoni (2000 - 2006)*.
- Natzionalen plan za razvitiето na zemedeliето i selskite rajoni (2000 - 2006) po specialnata programa na ES za prisaediniavane v oblata na zemedeliето i selskite rajoni (SAPARD)*.

OCHRONA PRZYRODNICZEGO I KULTUROWEGO DZIEDZICTWA OBSZARÓW WIEJSKICH W BUŁGARII W OKRESIE TRANSFORMACJI

Streszczenie

Przemiany zachodzące na obszarach wiejskich w Bułgarii w ostatnich latach zmuszają do refleksji i postawienia pytania o potrzebę ochrony unikalnych walorów środowiska przyrodniczego oraz różnych dóbr materialnych, kulturowych i zachowania ich dla następnych pokoleń. Dotychczasowe uchwały i inne obowiązujące dokumenty nie stanowią wystarczającego zabezpieczenia i ochrony bardzo bogatego w swej różnorodności wiejskiego dziedzictwa Bułgarii.

W artykule dokonano próby klasyfikacji tego dziedzictwa według jego znaczenia. Wydzielono:

- dziedzictwo obszarów wiejskich Bułgarii o znaczeniu światowym
- dziedzictwo obszarów wiejskich Bułgarii o znaczeniu ponadnarodowym (europejskim i bałkańskim)
- dziedzictwo o znaczeniu narodowym
- dziedzictwo o znaczeniu regionalnym

Zachodzące negatywne tendencje w przestrzeni wiejskiej wymagają bardziej precyzyjnego i kategorycznego określenia dróg i sposobów zachowania przyrodniczego i kulturowego dziedzictwa obszarów wiejskich. Bardzo ważne w tym procesie jest współdziałanie pomiędzy sektorem państwowym, biznesem i społeczeństwem. Duże nadzieje wiązane są z programem przedakcesyjnym SAPARD, gdzie są przeznaczone specjalne środki na ochronę wiejskiego dziedzictwa.

RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM IN BULGARIA

Ivan Markov

Abstract: The paper deals with the nature of rural tourism and its significance as an alternative economic activity for development of rural areas in Bulgaria. The paper draws attention towards and points the resources for development of rural tourism in mountainous and semi mountainous regions of the country, in particular. It emphasizes that the development of tourism should become a long-term strategy as well as part of the policy of regions in the country.

Key words: rural tourism, economic activity in rural areas, recreation.

In the last decades of the twentieth century tourism has become one of the leading spheres of world economy. According to researches carried out by a number of international organizations (World Tourism Organization, International Labour Organization), the branch of tourism provides employment to over 100 million people as in many countries it is a chief source of income for the population. At the same time it is becoming a main factor in the regional development of territories which potentially have natural resources, for instance, sea tourism, mountain tourism, spa and recreational tourism, or territories with rich historical and cultural heritage. Parallel to the extension of the fixed objectives of travels, the so-called destinations, more and more tourists turn to unconventional forms of recreation mainly outdoors in a natural and in most cases unpretentious environment. A significant part of the manifestations of tourism, which are classified as being alternative, have existed for a long time and they precede the mass leisure tourism, as in some cases they are its additional elements.

Rural tourism is a special type of tourism. Its emergence and development come as a result of the urbanization processes, which have spread over highly developed countries, the drive of each tourist for return to nature as well as the alternative combination of acceptable price and a product.

In the 70s the rural tourism is affected by and reflects the changeable tourist demand. This comes as a result of the evolution, which the attitude towards recreation and the expectations from recreation itself undergoes. Individualism as an important psychological determinant of tourist demand is brought to the fore. All this leads to reflux from mass tourism. The tourists want to control the travel by themselves and an ultimate expression of this is the making of own route, renting a car, developing an individual programme etc. But still individual tourists are not a part of the mass flow of tourists, because they visit developed destinations; use the services of different travel agencies as well as the main elements of tourist infrastructure. Still the growing individualism combined with the features of the tourist product, which on its part is characterized not by a material element but rather by a

psychological and emotional experience, brings to the fore two categories of tourists according to a classification made by E. Cohen (1972):

- traveler-explorer – this category of tourists organizes their travels on their own; they strive to go out of the “beaten tourist track”. They need the facilities provided by accommodation; still the reason for their travel is the communication with local population, that is why, very frequently they speak its language.
- drifter – this type tries to avoid contact with tourists as well as the main elements of tourist infrastructure. They identify the local populace with whom they live and from whom they learn and acquire skills characteristic of that community.

Nature of rural tourism

To is a motivation to travel for rural tourism are the stay and rest in the country, enjoy nature. Offer the rural tourism on the market helps the development of rural territories. In most cases these are underdeveloped regions and this type of economic activity appears to be an alternative for development.

The European Union tries to support the tourism in underdeveloped regions, which have a potential for tourism. One of the aims for development of rural areas is the balanced development of agriculture as well as other agrarian activities. Including tourism they provide additional income to farmers and lead to rise in the price of land. Rural areas occupy 85% of the territory of this country and 1/3 of the population live there. Characteristic feature of these areas is the fact that in most cases the chief income of the population is linked with the farm, including the processing of food raw material.

Seeing from a methodological point of view, so far we have defined rural areas on the basis of the territory of a village, which encompasses also the territory outside the village and borders the territory of the land of the neighbouring village (Geshev, 1999). Several types of functional environment are included in the definition of agrarian environment: arable land; uncultivated land; suburban areas in agrarian environment (according the Regulations from 1979). When defining the rural areas a starting point is not the status of the towns and villages but their main functional characteristics. Therefore they can be defined as territories with developed agriculture the specialization of which corresponds to the available agro ecological potentials of the territory. In its nature the development of rural tourism is a planned use of natural resources, which can in due course lead to an economic revival of the territories. It should be borne in mind, however, that this could be done through integration with other economic activities. We support the claim that “Obviously the difficulty when defining rural tourism as a concept is in purely geographical sense and is connected with the influence of one of the main factors that give rise and locate the recreational activities, namely the territorial differentiation of public functions. Speaking from a historical point of view the influence of that factor has lead to the formation of territorial systems for the different kinds of labour, living and recreation and territorial, production, recreational and transport systems

for the communication among them. These formations are characterized by a correspondence between the functional content of their scope... tourist industry “engulfs” more and more territories to which under the influence of the abovementioned factors the public recreational and tourist function attaches and thus Territorial Systems for Tourism and Recreation (TSTR) are formed... The territorial concentration and differentiation help the specialization and integration of the recreational functions. Thus different types of TSTR are formed, for instance, a national tourist region, a sub-region and a micro-region. Different functional types of TSTR are sports, sightseeing, health and remedial tourism. The greater part of TSTR functions on the basis of natural and technical and purely technical geo-systems. The rapid growth of demand for recreation and its strong changeability as to the place, time and type of recreation lead to “going out” of TSTR of the recreational function and a process of diffusion into other functional environments is observed, for example, in forestry, agricultural environment, protected environment (nature reserve). Prominent features of tourist demand are: drive towards nature and sightseeing tours combined with acquiring physical strength and skills through active participation in activities which have been hitherto an object of passive observation. All that leads to an interference of the recreational function with functions characteristic of unconventional recreational environment such as the environment in the country, for instance. Unlike the diffusion of the recreational function, expressed mainly in the recreational use of resources from other functional environments the interference is characterized by a clear localizing role regarding resources, accommodation as well as the special service provided for tourists, that is, regarding the main elements of TSTR” (Popova, 1997).

A number of factors such as the necessity of a healthy way of life, protection of the environment, the search of additional sources of income stimulates new forms of tourism to be an alternative to mass tourism. The development of rural tourism in its nature is a planned use of natural resources, which in due course could bring about an economic revival of the territories. At the same time it should be borne in mind that this could be done through integration with other economic activities.

Main reason for drawing attention to the development of rural territories is the necessity to increase the economic efficiency of their use. With economic development there are, however, problems such as high level of unemployment, low incomes and low living standards, partly depopulation of the territories, lack of alternative economic activities. Significant part of the population inhabiting these territories would not leave them while others agree to return under certain circumstances. Tourism allows the introduction of mixed economy. Rural tourism can be most fully developed in harmony with nature. The interests of the local population should lead and the tourist product offered an outcome both of the use of the territory and initiative of the inhabitants. Key features of travel are sojourn and holiday making, getting familiar with and practicing various agricultural activities, for instance, breeding animals and growing plants, communication with the hosts and local populace, getting closer to authentic lifestyle and culture.

Rural tourism is defined to a great extent by the space in which it develops and the environment in which it is practised.

Development and organization of rural tourism in Bulgaria

Determinants of the development of rural tourism in this country are: preserved natural environment, available housing in rural areas, in most cases authentic one, Bulgarian hospitality, and the opportunity it offers to acquaint oneself with Bulgarian lifestyle, customs and traditions as well as handicrafts. Policy of regions as well as the will of the local authorities to support rural tourism is gaining more importance. There are considerable resources for recreation in Bulgaria, in rural areas, mountainous and semi mountainous regions, in particular. There are specific forms of recreation. "Still so far the mass use of villages for recreation practically means the use of the so-called "other homes" which are mostly cottages or villas used in the respective season, summer or winter. Unlike holiday villages where the resources for holidaymaking are mainly public or employer-owned with "other homes" we have privately owned or family houses. Moreover, holidaymaking is not the only reason to spend one's leisure time in the country... At any rate without necessarily being part of the specialized recreation network Bulgarian towns and villages, in their most part, perform recreational functions servicing tourists from outside and a number of "other homes" is concentrated in them" (Bachvarov, 1997). Mainly the owners themselves or their friends and relatives offer holidaymaking in "other homes".

"Actually the growth and development of "other homes" 70,2 % of which is in the country is the Bulgarian version of economical and cheap rural tourism. When it is said that rural tourism is underdeveloped in Bulgaria, it means that international rural tourism is hardly developed. Yet another thing to take into account is that rural tourism abroad is mainly internal. There has been but recently an adequate supply for the international tourist market, still it is not comparable to the internal flows of holidaymaking in the country. The difference between holidaymaking in this country and abroad is that in Bulgaria it is based mainly on "other homes" while in Western countries it is carried out under various forms, such as farms, lodging houses, camping sites situated in the countryside" (Bachvarov, 1997). Most of the weekend holidays are spent on the territories not far from big cities (suburban territories), "other homes" being a chief module (Fig.1). According to a number of researches carried out in 900-1100 villages there are potentials to develop tourism. These potentials, however, are not used enough. There are different causes for that. A survey on the population, which inhabits mountainous and semi mountainous regions draws the attention towards many obstacles for sustainable development of tourism.

Some of the obstacles come as a result of the state of the social infrastructure. Almost all mayors have to settle urgent matters regarding housing, medical service and commerce. Another obstacle is the activity of the cultural institutes, which at present do not function at all. Age structure of the population is yet another problem for the dominant age is that of

retired people. The level of training is low. About 54 % of the population have passed only elementary education or have not finished school at all. The attitude of each household towards offering tourist services obviously does not correspond to customer demand. Local populace is not used to offering tourist services. Moreover, to engage specialists when the number of tourists is limited is absolutely ineffective. When we talk about services we mean such services that allow tourists not only to contemplate the beautiful scenery as well as curious natural, historical, production, cultural and ethnographic environment, but also to take part in different activities from the cultural and spiritual life of the community. The largest share is given to households that could offer accommodation (53,06%); about one-third of the households under survey (30,61%) view the possibility of integration of tourist services with agricultural activities, or in other words, in addition to offering accommodation they would also offer natural food. 16,33% of the households express hesitant intentions, formulated rather crudely: acquaintance with country lifestyle, production environment and nature. The causes for such attitude can be found in the lack of information and organization in the development of rural tourism in the towns and villages under survey, on one side, and on the other, in the lack of resources and training in similar activity, as the former is of rather subjective nature (Malamova 1999).

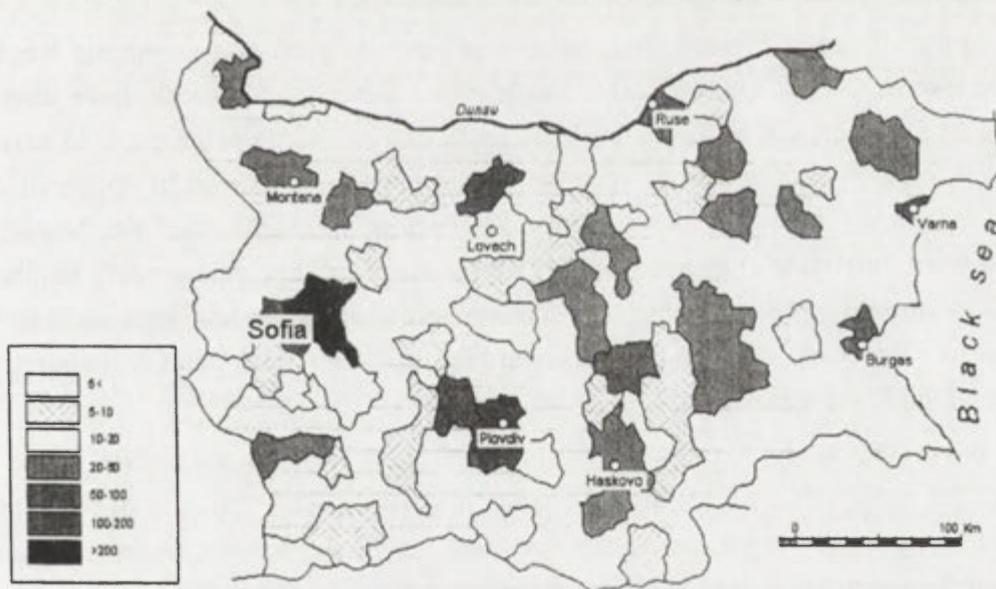


Fig. 1. Short-time recreation outside the settlements in 1987 – number of weekly participations by municipalities (th.) – assessment of Trade Union Central Council

The attempt to set up an organization for development of rural tourism is the establishment of BASET (Bulgarian Association for Rural and Eco Tourism). It is a non-government organization which at present on the basis of the enthusiastic nature and will of its managers and members is trying to define the role of the local authorities in the development of rural tourism, train the families how to welcome guests, make eco routes etc.

A successful attempt to develop rural tourism is the village of Momtchilovtzi in the district of Smolyan. The village of Momtchilovtzi is situated in the Western Rhodopes, 14 km north from the town of Smolyan and 80 km south from Plovdiv. The village is 1140 m above sea level, in a picturesque valley. The characteristic scenery of Momtchilovtzi offers a fine opportunity for development of rural tourism. The countryside is suitable for hiking, thus meeting the needs of the guest to move and walk outdoors, in magnificent nature. On the site near "The Momtchil Yunak" Chalet is perfect for preparing the famous "cheverme" thus granting the tourists the experience to taste lamb cooked according customs and traditions from the days of old. The sightseeing tour of mountain peaks and chapels acquaints the guests with the unique and curious history of the village and the surrounding area. In winter there are conditions for skiing.

The beginning of rural tourism in Momtchilovtzi is laid in 1992 when "medium of motivation" is created. From the very beginning the village of Momtchilovtzi is included as part of the tours offered by "Balkantourist". In due course the idea to set up an own business emerges. Taking into account the fact that there is a considerable living space in the village (70 m² per person) as well as space to build up new houses, the Municipality decides that the uninhabited houses can be leased. The entrepreneurship spirit of the local populace helps them to turn their houses into good hotels and restaurants.

In the village of Momtchilovtzi a hotel is a private guest-house with not less than two or three rooms, WC, a kitchen and a living room. Some of the hotels have also either a restaurant or a dining-room. There are 11 licensed houses. A campaign starts to advertise the product offered. A programme to promote this product is developed in cooperation with a French company. The policy of the hotel owners from the village and the Municipality is aimed towards attracting Bulgarian tourists with average income, encouraging family tourism as well as attracting foreign tourists by implementing animation activities such as: training how to carve wood and weave on a loom, acquiring skills in cookery and acquainting with the folklore of the Rhodopes region.

According to the owners of guest-houses, who are also specialists in the field of tourism, the significance of this tourist product is growing. The economy of the area and the adjacent territories revives. Concomitant activities, which also service tourism, are stimulated, for example, construction and building, souvenir making, trade etc. The infrastructure of the area is developing rapidly. The links with the so-called "outer world" are optimized – these are links with intermediary firms, foreign travel agencies and hotels. Local population and young people, in particular, acquire knowledge, experience and professional skills. The development of cultural life in the village is being stimulated as well. Example of this is the restoration of the local folk group and performance of local customs and traditions, which are indispensable elements of tourist activities.

Successful attempts to develop rural tourism have been made in the town of Byala Cherkva and the village of Kroushouna. Houses to meet the needs of the tourists are being rebuilt for that purpose. The means of living of the local populace is vine growing and cattle

breeding. BASET assists in sending tourists to these places, as some of them become regular visitors. They come from all over the world – Japan, USA, Western Europe. The guests are impressed by the hospitality of their hosts, the tasty food, animals, nature, customs and traditions.

A specific type of rural and eco tourism are the eco routes. And it is again BASET that assists in the implementation of the national programme “Bulgarian eco routes”. The underlying idea of this programme is to build a “national network” of places in the different parts of the country. The objective is to make this network working and efficient. The existence of 10 eco routes is a proof for a functioning national network.

The organization of the technical and social infrastructure of the towns and villages requires high costs. Considerable resources are needed to train the young specialists, carry out activities for environmental protection and advertising. It is necessary that the development of rural tourism is turned into a long-term strategy and becomes part of the regional development policy. The geographical location, the preserved nature, the customs and traditions as well as the authentic cottage all help concentrate this activity in the towns and villages of the country.

References

- Bachvarov M., 1997, *Recreational Functions of Towns and Villages*, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia Year-book, book 2, Geography, 88.
- Bachvarov M., Kazachka D., 1989, *Free and Recreational Time in Bulgaria-geographical aspects*, [in:] Klagenfurter Geogr. Schriften, 9, 15-19.
- Cohen E., 1972, *Toward a Sociology of International Tourism*, Social Research, 39, Community Groups and Reformed Local Government, Community Workers Co-operative, Dublin, 1990.
- Geshev G., 1999, *Problems of Regional Development and Policy of Regions in Republic of Bulgaria*, Sofia.
- Gilbert D., 1989, *Rural Tourism and Marketing in "Tourism and Management"*, March 1989, 39-50, transl. by ICO-TOUR.
- Malamova N., 1999, *Possibilities of the villages in the mountain and hilly areas for development of village tourism*, Economy and management of agriculture, XLIV, 1.
- Markov Iv., 2000, *Resources for Development of Rural Tourism in Yantra Valley Region*, International Conference 80th Anniversary of Varna University of Economics.
- Petrov P. et al., 1998, *Theoretical Basis of Creation and Implementation of National Programme "Bulgarian Eco Routes"*, 100th Anniversary of Geography as a Subject in St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, St. Kliment Ohridski University Press.
- Popova N., 1997, *Nature and Characteristics of Rural Tourism*, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia Year-book, book 2, Geography.
- Shishmanova M., 1996, *Rural Tourism and Regional Development in Economics*, Magazine, 3.

PODSTAWY ROZWOJU WIEJSKIEGO TURYZMU W BUŁGARI

Streszczenie

W ostatniej dekadzie dwudziestego wieku turystyka stała się jedną z istotniejszych dziedzin w gospodarce światowej. Równolegle do rozwoju tradycyjnych form podróżowania (turystyki), coraz więcej wyjazdów turystycznych zwraca się w kierunku niekonwencjonalnych form wypoczynku, głównie na wolnym powietrzu w naturalnym, niezagospodarowanym środowisku.

Turystyka wiejska jest specjalnym rodzajem turystyki. Unia Europejska stara się poprzez finansowanie wspierać turystykę w regionach słabiorozwiniętych. Jednym z kierunków rozwoju obszarów wiejskich jest równoczesny rozwój rolnictwa oraz innych działalności gospodarczych na tych terenach, włącznie z turysmem, w celu uzyskania dodatkowych dochodów. Rozwój wiejskiego turizmu jest z natury swojej, planowym użytkowaniem zasobów naturalnych, który może doprowadzić w konsekwencji do gospodarczej odnowy tych obszarów. Obszary z wiejską turystyką, z funkcją rekreacyjną włączone są w terytorialny system turystyki i rekreacji (TSTR) co umożliwia (powoduje) proces dyfuzji w inne kategorie środowiska przyrodniczego jak na przykład, w leśnictwo, środowisko rolnicze i ochronę środowiska.

Rozwój tak zwanych „drugich domów”, z których 70,2% znajduje się na obszarach wiejskich jest w Bułgarii przykładem rozwoju wiejskiego turizmu. Są jednakże pewne przeszkody takie jak słaba infrastruktura społeczna, brak fachowego personelu i ograniczone usługi.

Bułgarskie Stowarzyszenie Wiejskiego i Ekologicznego Turizmu (BASET) jest pozarządową organizacją próbującą uczytelnić i wyjaśnić rolę samorządu lokalnego w rozwoju turystyki na obszarach wiejskich. Przykładami uwieńczonego sukcesem działania na tym polu są wsie – Momtchilovtsi w rejonie Smoljan jak również wieś Kroushouna oraz miasto Bjala Čerkva w okręgu Veliko Tŕnovo.

THE TOURISM IN THE BULGARIAN SEASIDE VILLAGES

Nayden Apostolov

Abstract: In the article there is an analysis of the role of the tourism for the development of 26 villages along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. They are distributed in four typological groups. The villages – seaside resorts increase their population from 110% to 140%. Their inhabitants receive incomes from working in the tourism – business through accommodation and selling their own agricultural products. All this improves the public utilities and the life standard.

Key words: Bulgarian seaside villages, touristic functions, sea tourism.

Actuality of the problem and research purpose

The contemporary Bulgarian social-economical development defines more clear the leading role of tourism for reducing unemployment and accumulating income in foreign currency, which for the year 2000 reached 1.2 bln US dollars. The fundamental part of the lodging base (58%), the accommodation for the foreign tourists (82%) and income are realised on the Black Sea coast, and this determines the contemporary scientific interest in its specification and problems. But in practice however research interest is placed mostly on resorts like Albena, Golden Sands, Sunny Beach; the towns: Varna, Bourgas, Nesebar, while almost unexplored are the special features connected with tourism in the 22 villages located there.

This problem determines the aim of this report as follows: presentation of the specific geographical features and forms of tourism in the Bulgarian Black Sea villages with a view to reveal the basic problems and trends.

The geographical analysis of this scientific subject relates to explain: a) available tourist resources and conditions; b) localizing the villages in relation with cities and big resorts; c) transport, commercial and logistic networks; d) influence of tourism on village's development.

More numerous are the scientific publications in the 1970s, when the sea tourism reaches a base parameters – almost 200 000 beds and about 4 million visits. According to the authors the research works could be divided into groups:

- physico-geographical – for the beaches, climate in the seaside resorts, landscape, seaside relief – H. Tishkov (1972), V. Popov, K. Mishev (1974),
- geography of tourism – about the genesis, dynamics, structure and activity of the resorts, the seaside tourism as a part of the Bulgarian tourism, national monographs on tourism in

Bulgaria, among others the seaside M. Bachvarov (1977), Systema 'Otdych'..., (1979), M. Bachvarov, N. Apostolov (1982);

- economic geography or complex geographical materials for the whole Bulgarian sea shore. During this stage Geography serves specific needs of the national economy, for that reason the factors are outlined mainly for the economic branch of tourism – resources, labor, employment, tourist visits - Bulgarskoto Chernomorsko..., (1979), *Prirodnite resursi...*,(1980).

The next decade of the 1980s is dominated by general research works about the problems of the whole seaside region presenting its role in the Bulgarian tourism. The period after 1989 is characterizing the attention to ecological, privatisation and social problems. One of the most actual research is by M. Bachvarov (1998). – There is not much publications about the seaside tourism in the small towns and the seaside villages. According to him 18 villages have recreation functions, but with the predomination of the social tourism organized by syndicates, schools, factories. However in respect to quality the social tourism is behind the tourism in large resorts, which have also many problems with water supply, sewage, and public utilities.

Villages on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and the tourist development

The length of the Bulgarian coast is 378 km, from which 28% are beaches (Popov, Mishev,1974). There are located 15 independent villages touching water front, other 7 villages are in proximity up to 5 km from the coast but with transportation to the sea. After 1970 four villages have been incorporated as quarters of Varna and Bourgas, but in architectural sense they still have village appearance (Table 1).

Before the development of tourism these villages have had 2 basic economic functions: fishing – Galata, Synemoretz; and agricultural – Durankulak, Krapetz, Kraymorye. In agriculture dominated the vine, fruit - growing, while in the northern part - grain cultivation. Because of the lack of fresh water the market gardening is not developed.

After 1960 some of these villages supply the labour force for near industrial zones: Chernomoretz and Sarafovo supply Bourgas, Vinitza supply Varna with the help of commuting, while from the other villages there is a large migration. The emigration leads also to Varna and Bourgas, or on a smaller extend to Balchik, Kavarna, Pomorie. The absence of job vacancies other than agricultural is the reason for the rapid decrease in the number of inhabitants of the villages in the 1960s and 1970s. It can be seen that this process includes only the small peripheral villages at the northern part in Dobrudza between Balchik and the boundary with Romania, at the southern part – between Tzarevo and the boundary with Turkey, and also the central part region which is reached by the Balkan mountains. Many villages left population to under 200 inhabitants, what restricts their operating capacity, the population ages. There is also a new wave of migration between the young people. There fore

the development and future of Bozhuretz, Tyulenovo, Kamen briag, Emona, and other, are doomed to regression and gradually loss of the village's statut.

Table 1. Demographic development in the Bulgarian seaside villages

Villages	1934	1956	1985	1992	% alteration 1992/1985	Distance from the sea shore (km)
I. Coastal villages						
1.Krapetz	605	647	478	414	86,61	
2.Kamen briag	385	447	142	129	90,85	
3.Kranevo	382	465	728	819	112,50	
4.Shkorpilovtzi	398	500	681	695	102,06	
5.Emona	347	351	28	15	53,57	
6.St.Vlas	553	656	1 369	1 824	133,24	
7.Ravda	641	787	1 347	1 440	106,90	
8.Aheloy	582	891	2 052	2 228	108,58	
9.Chernomoretz	1 360	2 862	1 848	1 975	106,87	
10.Kiten	n.a.	427	537	751	139,85	
11.Lozenetz	348	477	398	441	110,80	
12.Varvara	290	408	241	227	94,19	
13.Sinemoretz	347	416	141	168	119,15	
14.Rezovo	422	350	73	79	108,22	
15.Tyulenovo	368	684	139	134	96,40	
II. Near the coast villages						
16. Durankulak	708	954	777	684	88,03	3
17.Ezeretz	550	603	233	199	85,41	3
18.St.Nikola	195	301	286	296	103,50	4
19.Bulgarevo	1 951	2 124	1 880	1 784	94,89	1
20.Bozhuretz	254	330	131	85	64,89	2
21.Topola	407	443	253	191	75,49	1
22.Bliznatzy	2 196	1 793	627	739	117,86	5
III. Former villages, present quarters						
23.Vinitza	n.a.	n.a.	2 782	3 520	126,53	2
24.Galata	n.a.	n.a.	1 870	2 253	120,48	
25.Kraymorye	382	614	784	n.a.	127,69	
26.Sarafovo	849	1 177	2 486	n.a.	211,21	

Source: *Prebrojavane na naselenieto i zhilishtnija fond*. Sofia, NSI, 1994

In contrast to them between Varna and Balchik at the northern seaside and between Kiten-Sozopol-Bourgas untill Mull of Emine two zones are formed with progressively developing villages – St.Vlas 133.2% increase in population, Kranevo – 112.5%, Kiten – 139.8%, Ravda, Aheloy. It is due to the successful change in the villages' functionality –



Fig. 1. Bulgarian Seaside Villages and Resort

fishing and agriculture with tourism. These villages are located in the favorable gravity zone of the big resorts – Albena (Kranevo), Golden Sands (Vinitza, Galata), Kamchia (Shkorpilovtzi), Sunny Beach (St.Vlas, Ravda, Aheloy) and Primorsko (Kiten, Lozenec). During the whole year or only during the summer season many villagers work in the resorts as stewards, waiters, maintenance staff, drivers and they have excellent income. In the 1970s and

1980s the private rooms accommodation were controlled in villages houses near the beaches, and this also used to bring a good income. Visible changes occurred in the outlooks and the activities. Almost all indicators for the public services exceed the average indexes for Bulgaria and the seaside villages located in the peripheral zone. This is the reason for the migration of people from the internal part of the country and distant from the seaside regions. After 1990s the families that accumulated financial resources in the past and acquired degree in speciality "Tourism" from the University of Economics – Varna, the Colleges of tourism in Bourgas and Varna, the schools in Pomorie and Varna move to the private hotel and restaurant businesses. This is most typical for St. Vlas, where the new village's houses (hotels) are 5-6 floors, with category 2-3 stars and may be the only modern village houses with modern elevators. A similar curious case is also Kiten – it is the only village in Bulgaria that has own trolleybus line to the near town Primorsko.

During the analyzed period 1960-2000 in the seaside villages can be found 2 more additional tourist functions. The first is the attendance by tourist to school camps (Ravda, Kranevo) and running the rest-stations owned by factories and public institutions. Because of the economic difficulties in the country however a great number of them are not operating now or are slowly transformed into private hotels. The transformation takes place via building new private villas and villa zones. Until 1989 the pieces of land for building villas have been distributed by the government to inhabitants of the near towns, and after that the pieces could be bought unrestricted by everybody and also foreigners through a man of straw. The number of the villas according to census from 1992 near Varna was 26 000, near Balchik 5 600, south from Bourgas – 6 000. The location and structure of the villa zones corresponds to the principles of: 1) closeness to the city or resort; 2) capacity and physico-chemical quality of the beach and the sea. The accurate economic evaluation however shows that the villa zones affect seaside villages slightly and only once.¹

Typology of the villages with tourist functions

The connection between the demography development of these 22 self-dependent villages and the level of their tourist function in simple estimation is shown in the table 2:

- a) Settled resorts –have moderate or large beaches with area 100-300 000 m² or are located close to a big resort, for example Kranevo is near Albena; St.Vlas, Ravda, Aheloi are near Sunny Beach, Kiten is near Primorsko. Only Shkorpilovtzi is weakly invested due to the incomplete development of the resort Kamchia. All of these 6 villages have favourable demography growth. They provide the optimal model of the Bulgarian seaside tourist village.
- b) Potential resorts - it is logical that their determination and hopes are seen in the future and cover the next 5-10 years. Resorts are located in the far southern region on the seaside

¹ The price of the land in the sea side villa zones vary and is from 5 to 20 times higher than the price inside the country. For example: in Pleven 1 ha costs 3000 DM, while in Varna 60 000 DM.

with the most clear waters, and the beaches are medium and large, from 10 to 50 000 m². Although those 3 villages show increase in population, the ratio is quite low and mainly from immigration from the towns. By this way is maintained the un-convenient age structure of population. The first private hotels have appeared here while more villas are owned by citizens from Sofia, Bourgas, Plovdiv.

- c) Source of labour force – they are located near a resort (St. Nikola near Russalka – 5 km, Bliznatzi near Kamchia – 5 km) or near an industrial center (Chernomoretz near Bourgas, and also the 4 villages that are not included in the typology that are nowadays urban districts in Varna and Bourgas). They have suitable transportation network for the labourers or dense buses routes, which facilitate commuting. The tourist development in Chernomoretz and quarter Kraimorie is embarrassed however because of the water pollution from the sea port “Otmanli” and oil refinery in Bourgas.
- d) Villages without developed tourist function – although their number is 9, they lose their population, which is the result of the lack of tourism and commuting to work. With a good tourist prospects could be Krapetz, Ezerec, Durankulak, as all have large beaches with area 100 000 m² and lagoon lakes, but currently they are not used. More distant and in some cases not warranted may be the destiny of Emona, where on sea shelf the scientist from IMIO – Varna have discovered a large sandy bank.

Table 2. Touristic demographic typology of the Bulgarian seaside villages

	Developed resorts	Potential resorts	Suppliers of employees	Villages without developed tourist function
Increasing villages >100%	Kranevo, Aheloy, Shkorpilovtzi, Ravda, St. Vlas, Kiten	Lozenetz, Rezovo, Sinemoretz	St. Nikola, Bliznatzi, Chernomoretz	
Stagnancy villages 90%÷100%		Varvara		Kamen briag, Tyulenovo, Bulgarevo
Decreasing villages <90%				Ezerec, Bozhuretz, Topola, Krapetz, Emona, Durankulak

Problems and trends in the tourist development of the Bulgarian seaside villages

Because of the limited size of this report some problems will be only marked, but they actually exist and could be analyzed in the next researches:

- insufficient public facilities, mainly in the small villages;
- shortage of fresh water in the summer months in the villages located in the far northern and southern regions;
- absence of investment interest on the side of big tourist companies TUI, Neckerman, ITS for the large beaches in Durankulak, Shkorpilovtzi, Krapetz;

- more than maximum possible use of the beaches capacity in St. Vlas, Kranevo, Kiten. These villages have reached the ultimate level of tourist development and they need restrictions introduced by municipal and control authorities (Pearce – 1995).
- building of the coastal highway “Black Sea” is suspended – only 9 km from Bourgas to Sarafovo and 10 km south from Varna the section is constructed.
- necessity to counteract the active landslides southern from Kranevo, near Galata, St.Vlas, etc.

On the background of the European and mainly Mediterranean tourism the development trends are outlined mainly to be concentrated on construction of average sized resorts with modern hotels of about 1-3 000 beds, with not many floors. Most suitable for this are Shkorpilovtzi, Durankulak. For the other peripheral seaside villages more suitable will be the model with small family hotels and accommodations in private houses and villas. The direction and time limits for the discussed above trends in a maximum degree will depend on the economic and legislative conditions adapted in Bulgaria.

References

- *** *Bulgarskoto Chernomorsko Krajbrezie*, 1979, Sofia, BAN.
- Bachvarov M., Apostolov N., 1982, *Geografia na turizma*, Varna.
- Bachvarov M., Manev B., Oreszkova P., 1977, *Geografska otzenka na turystyckeskite resursy i karakterni osobenosti na otdycha i turyzma v nasheto Juzhno Chernomorie*, Godysznik na SU, GGF, 2, Geografia.
- Bachvarov M., 1998, *Troubled sustainability: Bulgarian Seaside Natural Resorts*, Tourism Geographies, nr 2, p.192-203.
- Pearce D., 1995, *Tourism Today*, Harlow ‘Longman’.
- Popov V., Mishev K., 1974, *Geomorfologia na Bulgarskoto Chernomorsko Krajbrezie i szelf*, Sofia, BAN.
- *** *Prebrojavane na naselenieto i zilishtnija fond*, 1994, Sofia, NSI.
- *** *Prirodni resursi i selishtni sistemi na Varnenski okrag*, 1980, Varna, IUU "Dr P. Beron".
- *** *Systema "Otdych"*, *Edinen terytorijalno ustrojstven plan na NRB*, kniga 5, Sofia, KNIPITUGA, 1979.
- Tishkov H., 1972, *Klimatat na kurortite v Bulgaria*, Sofia, Nauka i izkustvo.

TURYSTYKA W MIEJSCOWOŚCIACH WIEJSKICH NA WYBRZEŻU BULGARSKIM

Streszczenie

Turystyka bułgarska dostarcza do budżetu 1,2 mld. dolarów, z czego 2/3 pochodzi z terenów wybrzeża czarnomorskiego. Głównymi ośrodkami turystycznymi są tu : Słoneczny Brzeg, Złote Piaski i Albena. Ostatnio wzrasta rola niektórych miejscowości wiejskich, posiadających wspaniałe tereny plażowe i czyste wody morskie jak np. Św.Włas, Rawda i Archełoj położonych w bliskości Słonecznego Brzegu, Kranewa w pobliżu Albeny i innych.

W artykule analizowany jest rozwój turystyki nadmorskiej właśnie we wsiach nadmorskich. Z ogólnej liczby tych wsi (26), 4 z nich wchłonięte zostały przez miasta i stanowią już dzielnice Warny i Burgas. Z pozostałych, 16 wsi położonych jest na samym brzegu morza a 6 w odległości do 5 km od brzegu. Mają one jednak dobre połączenie z głównymi ośrodkami miejskimi oraz dobrze rozwinięte funkcje turystyczne, co jest widoczne w intensywnym budownictwie niewielkich hoteli prywatnych i infrastruktury turystycznej, szczególnie we wsiach Św. Włas, Kiten i Kranewo. W ten sposób powstaje blisko położona wiejska strefa podmiejskich kompleksów wypoczynkowych. Charakteryzuje się ona gwałtownym rozwojem procesów demograficznych, w rezultacie których wzrosła liczba ludności jak wykazał ostatni spis ludności kraju od 110% do 140%.

Autor wydzielił 4 typy wsi:

1. Wsie uformowane już jako kurorty – Św. Włas, Kranewo, Kiten, Rawda
2. Wsie z perspektywą turystyczną – Emona, Durankułak, Synemorec
3. Wsie z wyjazdami ludności do pracy- Czernomorec, Byłgarewo
4. Wsie bez funkcji turystycznych- Ezerec, Kamen Briag, Rezowo

Przyszły rozwój wszystkich tych osiedli powinien opierać się głównie na rozwoju turystyki jako działu gospodarczego. Dla optymalizacji rozwoju turystycznego należy rozwiązać szereg problemów, takich jak: dokończenie budowy autostrady „ Czerno More”; budowa małych ośrodków nadmorskich z liczbą 1000-3000 łóżek w rejonie Kamcziji i wsi Emona; integracja bułgarskiego transportu z transportem Rumunii i Turcji.

AGRO-TOURISM IN RURAL AREAS ON THE BASIS OF THE KIELECCZYŻNA

Ewa Pałka

Abstract: Among all forms of tourism, agro-tourism is particularly consistent with the principles of sustainable development as it is based on the attractive natural environment and landscape. Agro-tourism goes very close to agriculture. At present it is one of the most popular ways of recreation and relax. The development of this activity brings farmers some new incomes and possibilities of getting other profits of social and cultural character. Such form of earning money is very popular among farmers in many countries, even the richest ones.

The main aim of this research was to describe the current stage and find the main factors effecting the development of agro-tourism in the Kielecczyżna region. In the work there were also undertook the problems of the trends of agro-tourism development in the rural areas.

Key words: agrotourism, agrotourist function, rural tourism, rural development, global system of protective areas.

Introduction

The paper is primarily intended to specify the conditions, actual situation and development trends of agro-tourism in the Kielecczyżna.

Agro-tourism is quite a new trend of the socio-economic life in Poland and there are only a few scientific publications presenting research done in this field. The scarcity of reports on agro-tourist farms and available lodging causes most problems; there are also doubts as to the credibility of existing estimates.

The source materials used to describe the subject were the data taken from rural registers of commune councils. Only data concerning individual farmers were taken into account, which was imposed by the very specific pattern of ownership forms. Also, very essential source materials were gathered on the basis of questionnaires carried out in commune councils and some farms. Detailed questionnaires were done in all agro-tourist farms in order to estimate the agro-tourist product [anything that tourists purchase, i.e.: transport services, lodging (bought separately or as a package) and the services, facilities, landscape qualities of which they take advantage].

The Kielecczyżna covers an area of 9211 square kilometres; there lives 1137.2 thousand people (2000 year), which is 2.9% of the total population of Poland (within the bounds of The Kielce province). The average population density of the area is 123.5 people per square kilometre. In the year 1999 about 42.2% of the working population was employed in agriculture. The index reaches its maximum values, above 70%, in south communes, where farming is very intensive, labour-consuming and has best development

prospects; the minimum values, less than 30%, are reported in those communes which are located close to urban areas and areas with well-developed industry and service sector. This concerns the communes of Sitkówka-Nowiny, Wąchock, Końskie and Miedziana Góra.

Tourists from various parts of Poland visit the Kielecczyzna region. There have already been some investments in the field of tourism (Mityk, 1993). Also, the region deserves to be popularised in consideration of its unique nature and rare anthropogenic and specialist qualities. Natural environment spatial diversity resulted in a diversified agricultural profile, which can be treated as a tourist attraction as far as agro-tourism is concerned. Additional factors that should prompt the development of agro-tourism are the following: natural environment relatively little transformed by man, large woodlands, nature rarities, mineral water springs, monuments of old-time industry and country and sacral architecture. The research area can also be regarded as a model one since various nature preservation forms cover as much as about 70% of the area, which adds to its natural environment attractiveness. Kielecczyzna is a region of many development trends; there co-exist communes of mainly agricultural profile together with those multifunctional ones (Stola, 1987).

The outline of agro-tourism development in Poland and in the Kielecczyzna region

Agro-tourism is an alternative form of rural tourism, including all types of stay in the countryside, i.e.: staying in hotels, pension houses, hostels, summer houses. Countryside tourism was flourishing in Poland in the 19th century. After the II World War, starting from 1957, countryside vacation based on private farmhouses got quite popular. Until the mid 1960s countryside vacation was the domain of mountain and sea regions. With time, it began to spread not only in well-known resort villages but also in those less-known ones, often attractive because of their nature, landscape and traditional farming. The expansion of room letting in the countryside started in the 1980s and has continued till the present day. However, the very custom of farmers offering lodging in their farmhouses has been named agro-tourism, following the western pattern, for only a couple of years.

Agro-tourism is tightly connected to farming and taking place in an operating farm that provides board and lodging, thus enabling tourists to visit the neighbouring countryside. One of the major attractions of agro-tourism is the breeding of animals and the growing of plants and crops which takes place in the farm. The socio-economic objectives of agro-tourism development are quite crucial. They are: stimulating the development of agro-tourist farms as well as local infrastructure and labour market, extending and modernising the countryside housing, selling the surplus of farm production, providing some extra income for farmers, impeding the emigration of young people who work in farming, providing the possibility of attractive leisure for people of limited means.

Rural tourism (primary term) also takes place in rural areas and is also an alternative form of tourism. The country policy and market demand support this trend. The great popularity of agro-tourism in West European countries, which influences the Polish holiday standards, the old traditions of countryside vacation in old-time resort villages as well as the recent difficult economic situation of farmers all contributed to the fact that agro-tourism found favourable conditions in Poland (Drzewiecki, 1995); yet, the present level of agro-tourism development is not satisfactory.

Agro-tourist regions in Poland (Drzewiecki, 1995) are concentrated in the traditional resort areas (the mazursko-suwalski region, Bory Tucholskie, Sudety, Podhale, Lubelszczyzna, Roztocze). The Polish agro-tourist standard is more and more similar to that of West-European countries and yet farmers do not usually offer anything but board and lodging. Also, the marketing lacks organisation and professional handling. More and more often farmers prepare specialist tourist offers, i.e.: seasonal offers, offers targeted at tourists of specified age, having specific interests or offers highlighting some leisure activities possible in the given area. Some farmers have already realised that it could be profitable to establish local or regional organisations, the examples of which can be found in the Kielecczyzna region as well.

A lot of farmers who have been successful in agro-tourism and realise that it can bring them farther profits want their offer to be truly professional. They regard agro-tourism as their permanent occupation and so they invest in their farm and in training related to tourist industry. More and more farmers involved in agro-tourism co-operate with travel agencies, tourist organisations and associations of communes, which facilitates booking and promotion.

All the activities presented above are related to the supply trends and the development of marketing and organisation, which are present in the West Europe countries (Wolf, Sitz, 1997). Therefore it can be concluded that Polish development trends resemble the western trends a lot.

Tourist attractiveness is a notion that integrates the elements contributing to the development of tourism activities. The tourist attractiveness of Kielecczyzna is not evaluated homogeneously. Lijewski and others (1992) count Kielecczyzna as one of the six major tourist regions of Poland - the upland of Little Poland. The valorisation of the research area (in commune scale) was carried out taking into account the level of usefulness of every commune for the purposes of tourism and leisure. While effecting the valorisation the method of J. Warszyńska (1970, 1971) and its modified form were employed. The natural environment features necessary for full and rational holiday leisure, together with non-environmental factors adding to the tourist value of the landscape, were accepted as the major criteria. The valorisation method consists in the evaluation of tourism attractiveness based on the precise values allocated to separate features.

The following features were distinguished:

1. Qualities of the natural environment (for leisure) (0-15 points), which have the following components: relief (0-5 points), surface waters (0-5 points), woodlands (0-5 points);

2. Specialist qualities (0-9 points): skiing, cycling, speleology (0-3 points), canoeing, sailing, angling (0-3 points), shooting and hunting, horse-riding, berry-and-mushroom-picking (0-3 points);
3. Tourist qualities (0-9 points): monuments (0-3 points), places of national remembrance (0-3 points), museums, heritage parks, local chambers, folklore (0-3 points);
4. Additional points (max. 6 points) for the following features of the research area: areas and sites under legal protection - national parks, landscape parks, sanctuaries, monuments of nature (up to 2 points), interesting places of supra-regional or national importance (up to 2 points), landscape peculiarities like caves, grottoes, viewpoints, rare flora and fauna species (up to 2 points), minus points in case of environmental pollution (exceeding the accepted limits) caused by industrial fluids and gases as well as surface waters pollution (up to -2 point).
5. Additional points for the simultaneous presence of outstandingly attractive forms of nature and landscape as well as places of high tourist attractiveness in the research area, which adds greatly to its tourist attractiveness.

The additional points were counted on the basis of the following formula:

$$R=3 \frac{1/5 \sum W_i + 1/3 \sum K_i}{2}$$

where:

- R - the simultaneous presence of nature and tourist qualities;
- W - the sum of points for leisure qualities, n=1,2,3;
- K - the sum of points for tourist qualities, n=1,2,3;
- i - the research commune.

Tourist attractiveness was defined as the sum of points indicating the intensification of three features: natural environment forms adding to the leisure qualities of the place (W), specialist qualities (S), tourist qualities (K), additional qualities (P), additional and minus points counted out of the specific features combination (p) and points for the simultaneous presence of leisure and tourist qualities marked as (R).

Tourist attractiveness was expressed in the following formula:

$$A = \sum W_i + \sum S_i + \sum K_i + \sum p_i + \sum R, \text{ where } n=1,2,3; k=1,2,3; m=1,2,3; j=1,2,3,4$$

In order to get the results of relative value the attractiveness index was constructed (WA):

$$WA = \frac{A}{A_{max}}$$

where: $A_{max} = 48$, $WA =$ from 0 to 1.

Also, sub-indexes were counted:

$W_w = W/W_{max}$; $W_s = S/S_{max}$; $W_k = K/K_{max}$; $W_p = P/P_{max}$,

where:

- W_w - index of leisure qualities, $W_{max}=15$;
- W_s - index of specialist qualities, $S_{max}=9$;
- W_k - index of tourist qualities, $K_{max}=9$;
- W_p - index of additional qualities, $P_{max}=6$.

While the valorisation was being done, the attractiveness indexes of every commune in the research area were counted. They showed some spatial diversity of the region attractiveness. There could be delimited some micro-regions of different tourist predisposition. The adopted research procedure allowed to delimit five micro-regions (groups of communes), each of them exhibiting a different tourist attractiveness index value.

The first group comprises regions of outstanding tourist attractiveness ($WA > 0.5$) and it includes the communes of the Świętokrzyskie mountains region and two communes located in the south of the province, namely Pińczów and Wiślica. The Świętokrzyskie mountains region has great leisure qualities and it is heavily forested and there is the Świętokrzyski National Park. In the communes of this region there are good conditions for qualified tourism; also, the large intensification of tourist qualities greatly increases their attractiveness. The second group comprises regions of high tourist attractiveness ($WA = 0.4-0.5$). It includes the communes of the north and central part of the region and bordering Kielce. The communes are those located in the north and east part of the province and those stretching from the north-west to the south-east (Włoszczowa, Nagłowice, Jędrzejów, Imielno, Nowy Korczyn, Sędziszów). They are areas of high specialist qualities but little natural environment diversity. The third group comprises regions of medium tourist attractiveness ($WA = 0.25-0.4$) and it includes communes (Oksa, Małogoszcz, Sobków, Morawica, Chmielnik, Pacanów, Raclawice, Miechów, Smyków, Mniów, Stąporków, Mirzec, Bałtów, Kunów, Pawłów, Bodzechów, Brody) which have only a few leisure qualities, they are scarcely forested and have monotonous relief pattern. The fourth and the fifth group are the regions of little attractiveness ($WA = 0.15-0.25$) and unattractive ($WA < 0.15$). They include the communes of the south-east and south part of the research area. The Sitkówka-Nowiny commune (located south of Kielce) is the centre of cement and lime industry, which makes it unattractive due to high level of natural environment degradation. The rest of the communes are those of typically agricultural profile, with little relief diversity and no tourist qualities.

The above does not mean that tourism develops only in communes of outstanding and high attractiveness but that they possess highest potential for tourist product. In those regions there can be developed various forms of tourism based on farmhouse lodging, but also on hostels, pension houses and little hotels and they can be the destination of tourist trips for groups staying in neighbouring communes.

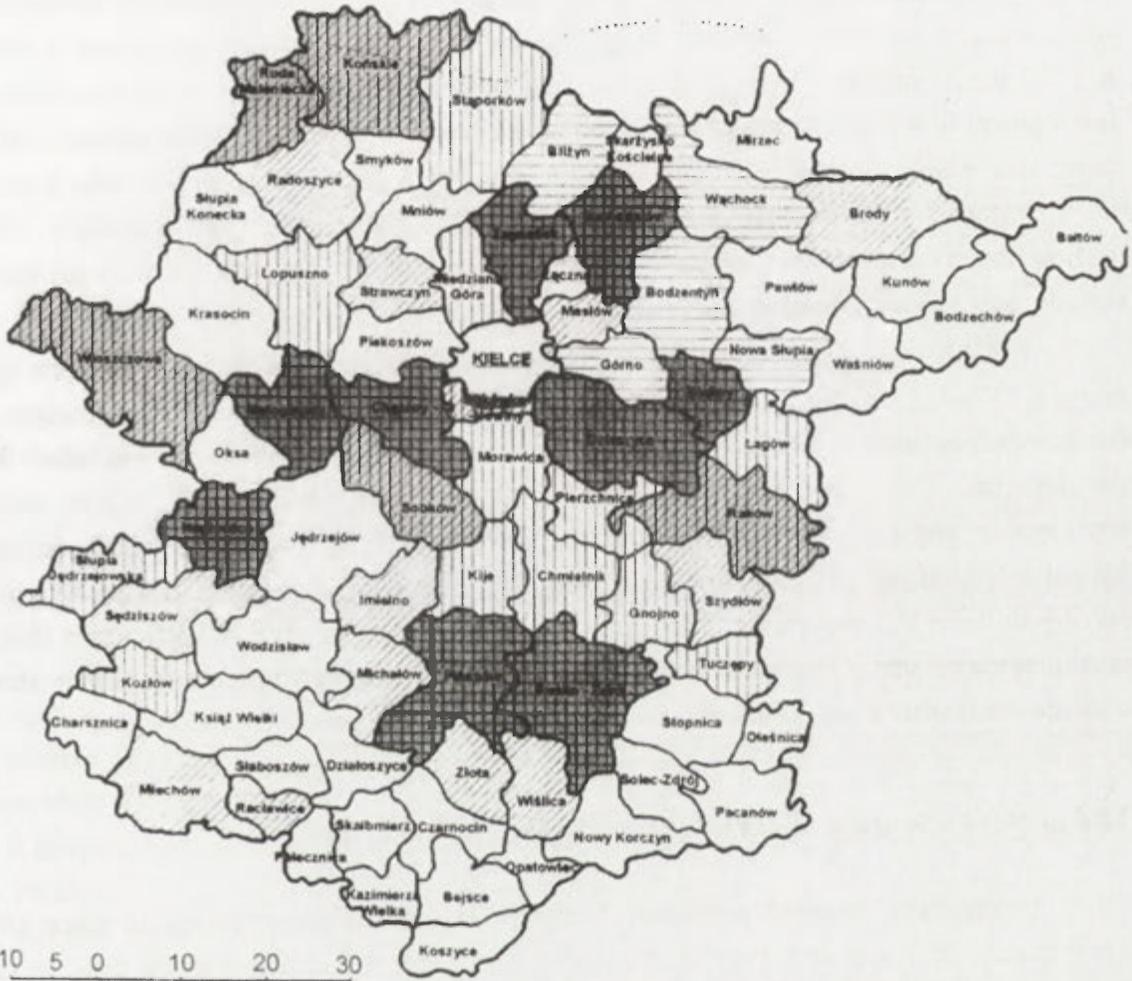
The delimitation of micro-regions of outstanding predisposition toward agro-tourism development

Because the object of the research is agro-tourism, it was found as important to make an attempt to delimit the extent of regions characterised by conditions that would be most favourable for agro-tourism development. In order to delimit such regions, a certain set of features was assumed to be sufficient to classify the conditions as favourable. It was assumed that the communes of greatest agro-tourism predisposition are those of greatest tourist attractiveness; they are those that are characterised by greatest value of the attractiveness index (>0.5) and have most favourable pattern of ground exploitation (the share of agricultural land in the commune area - up to 85%, the share of arable land in the agricultural land - up to 80%, the share of forested area in the total commune area - more than 10%; the evaluation of agro-ecological conditions: little-favourable or medium-favourable - up 70 points). It was also assumed that communes with one of the features having high values and the other - medium values are to a lesser degree, but still sufficiently, predisposed to the development of agro-tourism.

The communes most predisposed to agro-tourism are grouped in the central part of the province and in the region of the Świętokrzyskie mountains. Three distinct regions can be clearly distinguished (Fig. 1):

1. the Świętokrzyskie mountains region (the communes of outstanding tourist predisposition: Zagnańsk, Suchedniów, Daleszyce, Bieliny and the commune of high predisposition: Raków);
2. the west region (the communes of outstanding predisposition: Nagłowice, Małogoszcz, Chęciny and the communes of high predisposition: Sobków and Włoszczowa);
3. the south region (the communes of outstanding predisposition: Pińczów and Busko-Zdrój)

The interpretation of the results in the context of agro-tourism development prospects is not yet straightforward. The regions delimited are only potentially best for agro-tourism. The exploitation of the potential, as experience shows, varies and depends on many social and political factors, including the openness of local communities to all sorts of novelties, the initiative and skills of countrymen, the policy most of all local authorities of districts and communes. Indeed, it is generally true that agro-tourism develops dynamically in the communes most predisposed toward it (Nagłowice, Małogoszcz, Chęciny, Busko-Zdrój, Wąchock). Still, in the outstandingly predisposed toward tourism development communes of Zagnańsk and Pińczów and also in the highly predisposed communes of Włoszczowa, Sobków, Końskie, Ruda Maleniecka the number of agro-tourist farms is far from satisfactory. On the other hand, significant development of agro-tourism is reported in the commune of Chmielnik, which was not classified as attractive for tourism. This stems straightforwardly from the above mentioned social factors. The local authorities and the community of Chmielnik take the initiative in creating and promoting their own agro-tourist product. The commune of Chmielnik renders medium values (the attractiveness index of 0.37), but yet, it belongs to the group of communes characterised by a very favourable



-  The communes with the best predisposition considering most favourable pattern of ground exploitation
-  The communes with the best predisposition considering the greatest tourist attractiveness
-  The communes with the average attractiveness or in the absence of one favourable pattern of ground exploitation
-  The communes with the best predisposition to the development of agro-tourism
-  The communes with the great predisposition to the development of agro-tourism

pattern of ground exploitation. It is worth mentioning that all the agro-tourist farms are located in one village - Śladków Mały. Thus, the development of agro-tourism is determined by local factors and the initiative of local community and the support of local authorities are most essential. Various actions are taken in order to increase the quality of agro-tourist services, i.e.: fish-ponds are changed into pools surrounded by beach areas (functioning as ice rinks in winter), leisure facilities are installed, sports equipment is rented. In 1997 the European Union fund PHARE allocated 500 000 PLN for the agro-tourism development in the communes of Nagłowice and Chmielnik. The funds were granted to those communes which came up with best agro-tourism development programmes, which proves the importance of well-organised marketing activity. The example of Chmielnik allows to draw the conclusion that the development of agro-tourism depends not only on natural environment and infrastructure but also on local initiative.

The whole of Kielecczyzna region is in no way predisposed to live only upon agro-tourism. While making a development prognosis in the field of agro-tourism all the communes located south of the Charsznica-Oleśnica line should be excluded from the scheme. They are typical agriculture-oriented areas, lacking favourable natural environment and places of tourist interest. There are only a few places which could be attractive for tourism (Wiślica, Raclawice) and they can be the destination of trips for groups staying in their neighbourhood. The agriculture of the area, in spite of difficulties (hidden unemployment, small farms) has some features of free-market agriculture and it should undergo the restructuring aimed to meet the European standards.

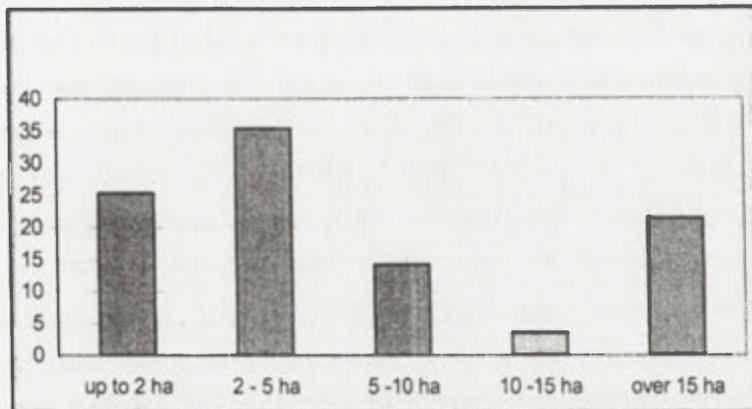
The present situation of agro-tourism in the Kielcczyzna

Farms have rendered agro-tourist services in the Kielecczyzna region since 1993. Their number increases each year and the agro-tourist product is enriched all the time. In 1999 there were 93 such farms. More than 60% of these farms are already well-established on the market and the services they render are not only board and lodging. They present richer tourist offers and their owners are able to plan an attractive and diversified holiday. There are also agro-tourist farms (37,1%) which are not fully developed; they are just starting with agro-tourism or have rendered agro-tourist services since recently.

The size of examined agro-tourist farms varies a lot (Fig. 2). The major part (60%) are farms of maximum 5 hectares, with the farms of more than 2 hectares being more common (35%) than the farms of less than 2 hectares (25%). There are also bigger farms (40%) and among them there exist quite many 15-hectare and bigger farms).

There is also some diversity when the maximum number of tourists being able to rest in each agro-tourist farm is examined. The most common farms are those which are able to receive from 5 to 10 tourists at one time (60.7% of all farms). 25% of farms can receive more than 10 people at one time. Only 14.3% of all farms are so small that they can accept up to 5 people. The farmers have different preferences as to the kind of people they would like

to receive. They would most of all welcome families with children (43.3%) but 40% of farmers are prepared to accept all sorts of tourists. The greater part of farms (57.8%) is prepared to render tourist services only in the summer season. The owners of farms that have functioned for a long time and are well-developed (42.8%) could receive different tourist groups all the year long.



Source: The author's study

Fig. 2. The size pattern of agro-tourist farms in 1998

There is also some diversity when the maximum number of tourists being able to rest in each agro-tourist farm is examined. The most common farms are those which are able to receive from 5 to 10 tourists at one time (60.7% of all farms). 25% of farms can receive more than 10 people at one time. Only 14.3% of all farms are so small that they can accept up to 5 people. The farmers have different preferences as to the kind of people they would like to receive. They would most of all welcome families with children (43.3%) but 40% of farmers are prepared to accept all sorts of tourists. The greater part of farms (57.8%) is prepared to render tourist services only in the summer season. The owners of farms that have functioned for a long time and are well-developed (42.8%) could receive different tourist groups all the year long.

Agro-tourist farms show quite a diversity in their location. 37% of all of them are located in the most attractive region of Świętokrzyskie mountains. There are farms which were the first ones to get involved in agro-tourism, even if the name itself was not used at the very beginning of their activity. The agro-tourist farms are most frequent in the communes of Górnó, Bodzentyn, Wąchock, Chęciny and Masłów. In the region of Święta Katarzyna there appeared the first agro-tourist farms of the Kielecczyzna. This was a consequence of the outstanding tourist attractiveness of this region (the attractiveness index of above 0.4). The agricultural pattern of the region was a very specific one too. The natural environment there didn't support agriculture development (wjpp¹ less than 60 points) and the size pattern of farms hindered the profitability of production. There was a big share

¹ wjpp – indicator 57 quality of agricultural productivity space.

of people who commuted to work (the phenomenon of double occupation). Therefore, the farmers of this region were the first ones to understand tourism and see the possibility of getting profit from it. It can be assumed that in case of the Kielecczyzna region the most important factors that supported agro-tourism development at its early stages were tourist attractiveness of the region and agriculture-unfavourable economic situation.

The second region of agro-tourism concentration is the Nagłowice-Oksa area in the west part of the Kielecczyzna. There exist quite a lot of farms that are fully developed and prepared for receiving tourists, and the local countrymen are constantly working to improve and enrich their tourist offer. The third region of agro-tourism concentration is in the communes of Chmielnik and Szydłów. This region has a great potential in consideration of its leisure qualities and professional attitude of the local farmers who co-operate with travel agencies and associations promoting agro-tourism.

The greatest number of agro-tourist farms is located in the communes of Chmielnik, Nagłowice, Szydłów and also the greatest number of new agro-tourist farms appears there each year. There, the factors that supported agro-tourism development were: the funds gathered, the initiative of farmers, the aid of the local authorities, the readiness to co-operate and follow the good example of others.

Definitely, the majority of agro-tourist farms is found in communes where the share of agricultural land in the total areas is medium or little and the natural environment conditions are little favourable or unfavourable for agriculture development.

The communes of the Świętokrzyskie mountains region and those of the central part of the province are best predisposed to agro-tourism. The rest of the area does not have such strong predisposition. Strong agro-tourism sector can be created in the communes that are highly predisposed to such type of activity. The research results indicate that even if some communes have better natural potential for agro-tourism than the rest, there are many social and other factors that have an impact on whether and how many agro-tourist farms are created and on their performance on the market.

It can be assumed that agro-tourism found favourable development conditions in Kielecczyzna, which is proved every year by the rising number of agro-tourist farms and tourists received by them. The communes that were classified as predisposed to agro-tourism in the years 1996-1997 and yet didn't have any agro-tourist farms at the time have changed greatly since then and in the years 1998-1999 they developed agro-tourist services. This concerns the communes of Daleszyce, Suchedniów, Pińczów, Złota. Also, every season brings the growth in demand for agro-tourist services. The predicted trends have proved to be correct.

Agro-tourism develops best if individual farmers establish farm associations (which, additionally, supports marketing). As Kmita and Strzembicki (1996) observed, establishing farm associations results in the agro-tourist product being richer and its advertising being more effective. This can be proved by actual examples found in the village Śladków Mały, commune of Chmielnik. In 1996 there were only three agro-tourist farms; at present,

there are eighteen of them. The co-ordinators of PHARE fund, which was created under the auspices of the European Union, named Śladków the model village of the country and intend to create the agro-tourism centre for Poland there. There also exist ecological farms in the Kielecczyzna region and they can provide ecological food to meet the demands of the tourists. Therefore, it is advisable to combine those two types of activity. Agro-tourism and ecological agriculture in the Kielecczyzna region have great development prospects and they can help to improve the economic situation of the countryside.

The possibilities of agro-tourism development in the Kielecczyzna region

Owing to richness of agro-tourist offer, which was confirmed by the research, an attempt was made to put the examined farms into classes of higher homogeneity, exhibiting similar distinguishing features. The agro-tourist offer was the subject of careful research and study. Then, all the features characteristic of the agro-tourist offer were examined in order to find those that are most crucial and could be used to group the farms in classes. The choice of the features was preceded by the study of questionnaires filled in by 100 chosen-at-random people. The questionnaires concerned the significance of tourist offer characteristics. They allowed to choose those features that were most important for an average man choosing the holiday place and to arrange them according to the level of their importance. That helped to avoid subjective and accidental choice of the distinguishing features.

The accepted research procedure and questionnaires' results allowed to classify the features of agro-tourist service in the following thematic groups (Pałka, 2000). The first group are features describing housing conditions in the place of stay. They include the number of rooms, the number of beds and the average number of beds per one room in an agro-tourist farmhouse. The second group are features related to the sanitary conditions in the place where tourists are lodged. There two features were distinguished: separate bathroom available or bathroom shared with the hosts. The third group are features of the board offered in the place of stay, namely: board provided by the hosts, separate kitchen available or kitchen shared with the hosts. Still another set of features dealt with characteristics of the surrounding areas. They included distance from the forest, distance from the water, distance from the angling site and distance from the horse-riding areas.

The next stage of research was the ranging of the above mentioned features. The attempt to standardise them allowed to specify synthetic indexes for each group and typical of all farms.

Thanks to the computer technology used, each entity being the subject of research was presented in three-dimensional form, more features were taken into consideration and more exact result were obtained. This was aimed at delimiting representative classes of farms. The centre, representing medium values, was delimited for every group of entities ranged in space. Then, in each group the medium distance from the centre was counted for each

entity. The assumption was that the less the distance from the centre is, the less the differences between features of the given entity and the medium features are. So, the closer to the centre the entities are located, the more typical of their class features they exhibit. The above procedure led to the attempt of delimiting farm classes of similar values of the features, namely classes that would be most homogenous and characterised by least distances between entities. The distances in space were counted according to the formula of Euclidean distance and the entities were put in groups on the grounds of the method of medium value inside the group. Such a procedure allowed to distinguish, out of the total number of farms, those farms that are characterised by significant internal homogeneity. In order to have the possibility of optimal choice of classification degree, the classification procedure was carried out several times, each time with a different number of classes (from 3 to 8). The analysis of the results showed the option of five classes to be the most appropriate one. The classes vary with regard to the number of entities they contain.

The first class are the farms with most attractive surroundings; it comprises the entities exhibiting medium values of housing conditions index (SWM), highest (much above the average) values of surroundings index (SWO), high values of board index (SWW) and lowest values of sanitary conditions index (SWS).

The second class are the farms with best sanitary conditions; it comprises the entities exhibiting medium values of SWM, low values of SWO, medium values of SWW and highest values of SWS.

The third class are the farms with best board offer; it comprises the entities exhibiting lowest (much below the average) values of SWM and SWO, highest values of SWW and also high values of SWS.

The fourth class are the farms with highest quality of tourist infrastructure: lodging and board; it comprises the entities exhibiting maximal values of SWM, low values of SWO, highest values of SWW and SWS.

The last, fifth class are the farms with best lodging possibilities; it comprises entities exhibiting maximal values of SWM, low values of SWO, lowest values of SWW and high values of SWS.

The distinguished classes are of different sizes. The largest class (the second class) numbers 26 farms; the farms included there offer medium housing conditions and board, best sanitary conditions and have quite unattractive surroundings. The farms are located in the communes of Chmielnik, Nagłowice, Bodzentyn, Górnio, Wąchock, Gnojno, Małogoszcz, Chęciny, Szydłów, Suchedniów and Kunów. Those areas can be characterised by low population density, medium or little usable floor area per one person, very low or low quality of agriculture productive possibilities index (less than 60 points, max value of this index 125 points), medium or high share of agricultural lands in the total area (more than 50%) and high share of farms of 1-2 and 2-5 hectares.

The second largest class numbers 12 farms (the fifth class); those farms offer relatively best housing conditions, very good sanitary conditions; they have little attractive surroundings and worst board offer. They are located in the communes of Nagłowice, Szydłów, Chmielnik, Gnojno, Górnio and Łopuszno. The areas of those communes are characterised by low population density, medium or high average usable floor area per one person (16-20 m²), high share (55-75%) of agricultural land in the total area and high share of farms of 2-5 and 5-10 hectares.

The third largest class - 20% of the total number (the fourth class) are farms of highest values of the analysed features; the major difference between this and the previously described class is the board offered. The farms of the third class exhibit highest values of SWM, SWW, SWS. Only the qualities of surroundings are classified as little attractive in this class. The farms in question are located in the communes of Chmielnik, Szydłów, Chęciny, Suchedniów, and so in the areas with unfavourable for agriculture growth natural environment conditions (less than 50 points), high share of agricultural land in the total area and diversified size pattern of farms.

There are four farms located in the communes of Wąchock, Nagłowice, Busko-Zdrój that offer best board, good sanitary conditions and yet worst lodging possibilities and least favourable surroundings, and therefore cannot be included in any of the classes (the third class). It should be noted that there also is one farm in the Pawłów commune that is very much unlike the rest of farms of the area; the farm offers very attractive surroundings but very poor sanitary conditions and therefore is not classified too (the first class).

The attempt to classify the whole of agro-tourist farms in the Kielecczyzna region shows that the agro-tourist offer is not homogenous as for its surroundings attractiveness, housing and sanitary conditions and board. Significant differences in the size of classes and little diversity within each class proves that and suggests what necessary actions should be undertaken in order to improve the offer and make it meet the demands of the tourists (according to the rule that demand governs supply).

Taking into account the classification of agro-tourist farms in the Kielecczyzna region, - the following tasks were indicated as necessary:

- In the region of Świetokrzyskie mountains, in order to improve the tourist offer, better board services should be provided and the attractiveness of the closest surroundings should be increased by i.e.: planing leisure activities for tourists (i.e.: preparing offers targeted at different age groups).
- In the commune of Nagłowice special attention should be paid to the board, which is evaluated as worst in the offer.
- In the commune of Chmielnik (the Śładków village) people planning the development of agro-tourism should make their leisure activities offer more attractive. Housing and sanitary conditions are evaluated as good or very good there. The same refers to the commune of Szydłów.

- In the areas that cannot receive many tourists there should be created little pension houses and agro-tourism farms in order to increase the lodging possibilities.

The agro-tourism development in the Kielecczyzna region requires various activities. The most crucial ones are the following:

- professional offer and services;
- marketing among the prospective customers and service sector;
- intensification of training schemes (mainly in the field of marketing) among those rendering the services and their customers, tourism managers and agents;
- the appropriate organisation and managing of information and promotion activities;
- establishing tourism-oriented organisations, openness to commune associations and agreements;
- the aid of central and local authorities.

The extent of agro-tourism development in the Kielecczyzna region that took place in the past several years caused various changes, stemming not only from environmental and economic factors but also from the rise of initiative among local communities and the influence of market rules. The study of such issues would require research belonging to different fields of science. It would be also advisable to conduct a similar research after the period needed to establish some strategy of multifunctional development of rural areas, mainly agriculture, in Poland, especially in the Kielecczyzna region. The research could help to verify the conclusions of the present paper.

References

- Drzewiecki M., 1995, *Agroturystyka*, I W „Świadectwa”, Bydgoszcz, p.167.
- Kmita E., Strzembicki L., 1996, *Regionalne organizacje agroturystyczne w Polsce [w:] Regionalne aspekty agroturystyki w Polsce*, Centrum Doradztwa i Edukacji w Rolnictwie, Kraków, 57-70.
- Lijewski T., Mikułowski B., Wyrzykowski J., 1998, *Geografia turystyki Polski*, PWN, Warszawa, 340.
- Mityk J., 1993, *Tereny rekreacyjne w rejonie Kielc*, WSP, Kielce, 218.
- Pałka E., 2000, Uwarunkowania i kierunki rozwoju agroturystyki na Kielecczyźnie, IGiPZ PAN Warszawa, (maszynopis), 127.
- Stola W., 1987, *Klasyfikacja funkcjonalna obszarów wiejskich Polski (Próba metodyczna)*, IGiPZ PAN, Ossolineum, 166.
- Warszyńska J., 1970, *Waloryzacja miejscowości z punktu widzenia atrakcyjności turystycznej (zarys metody)*, Zeszyty Naukowe UJ, Prace Geograficzne, z. 27, Kraków, 112.
- Warszyńska J., 1971, *Waloryzacja miejscowości powiatu żywieckiego z punktu widzenia atrakcyjności turystycznej*, Folia Geographica Oeconomica, vol. IV, 143.
- Wolf J., Sitz E., 1997, *Tourismus Mangement und Marketing*, Miverlang, 274.

AGROTURYSTYKA NA OBSZARACH WIEJSKICH NA PRZYKŁADZIE KIELECCZYZNY

Streszczenie

Kielecczyzna obejmuje obszar 9211 km² i jest zamieszkiwana przez 1137,2 tys. osób (2,9% ludności Polski). Jest to obszar odwiedzany przez turystów z różnych części Polski. Badany obszar charakteryzuje duże przestrzenne zróżnicowanie stopnia atrakcyjności turystycznej. Obok gmin szczególnie atrakcyjnych turystycznie występują obszary nieatrakcyjne dla turystów.

Gminy o największych predyspozycjach do rozwoju agroturystyki (ze względu na atrakcyjność turystyczną i najkorzystniejsze cechy użytkowania ziemi) grupują się przede wszystkim w środkowej części województwa oraz w regionie Gór Świętokrzyskich.

Gospodarstwa rolne świadczą usługi agroturystyczne na Kielecczyźnie od 1993 r. Corocznie zwiększa się ich liczba, a produkt agroturystyczny jest stale uzupełniany. Ponad 60% ogółu gospodarstw jest już dobrze ukształtowanych na rynku i nie ogranicza się tylko do udzielania noclegu i wyżywienia. Proponują one bogatsze oferty programowe, a ich właściciele są w stanie zorganizować i urozmaicić pobyt turystom. Gospodarstwa agroturystyczne zlokalizowane są w sposób przestrzennie zróżnicowany. W najbardziej atrakcyjnym turystycznie regionie Gór Świętokrzyskich zlokalizowanych jest 37% ogółu gospodarstw. Zdecydowana większość gospodarstw agroturystycznych występuje w gminach, gdzie udział użytków rolnych w ogólnej powierzchni jest mały lub średni, warunki przyrodnicze rozwoju rolnictwa mało lub średniokorzystne. Agroturystyka trafiła na Kielecczyźnie na podatny grunt, o czym świadczy coroczny przyrost liczby takich gospodarstw i turystów. Ponadto w każdym sezonie turystycznym można stwierdzić zwiększający się popyt na oferowane przez rolników usługi.

Dokonana próba klasyfikacji ogółu gospodarstw agroturystycznych Kielecczyzny wykazała duże zróżnicowanie oferty w zakresie walorów otoczenia, możliwości mieszkaniowych, wyżywieniowych jak i warunków sanitarnych panujących w gospodarstwach. Dość znaczne różnice w liczebności klas gospodarstw i nieznaczne zróżnicowanie w obrębie każdej z nich świadczy o zróżnicowaniu i daje wytyczne co do niezbędnych działań w celu jej ulepszenia i dopasowania do oczekiwań turystów (zasada podporządkowania podaży popytowi).

Authors:

Apostolov Nayden

University of Economics-Varna, Dep. Tourism Economics,
Bul. Kniaz Boris I, 77, Varna 9002, Bulgaria
e-mail:n.apostolov@mail.com

Biczkowski Mirosław

Instytut Geografii
Uniwersytet im. M. Kopernika,
ul. Danielewskiego 6; 87-100 Toruń
e-mail: leskoz@geo.uni.torun.pl

Falkowski Jan

Instytut Geografii
Uniwersytet im. M. Kopernika,
ul. Danielewskiego 6; 87-100 Toruń
e-mail: jan.falkowski@geo.uni.torun.pl

Gałczyńska Bożena

Instytut Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania
im. Stanisława Leszczyckiego PAN,
ul. Twarda 51/55; 00-818 Warszawa
e-mail: b.galcz@twarda.pan.pl

Iliev Iliya

Sofia University „St. Cl. Okhridski”
Shipchensky prohod 69a; Sofia 1574, Bulgaria
e-mail: iliev@fnpp-uni-sofia.bg

Ilieva Margarita

Institute of Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
G. Bonchev str. bl. 3; Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
e-mail: milieva@geophys.bas.bg

Ivanov Emil

Bulgarian Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism (BARET),
G. Bonchev str. bl.3, Ap. 320; Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
e-mail: baret@aster.net

Jasiulewicz Michał

Politechnika Koszalińska,
ul. Raławicka 15-17; 75-620 Koszalin
e-mail:rs@tu.koszalin.pl

Kiselkova Alexandra

Bulgarian Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism (BARET),
G. Bonchev str. bl.3, Ap.320; Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
e-mail: baret@aster.net

Kulikowski Roman

Instytut Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania
im. Stanisława Leszczyckiego PAN,
ul. Twarda 51/55; 00-818 Warszawa
e-mail: r.kulik@twarda.pan.pl

Markov Ivan

St. Cyril and St. Methodius University
5003 Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria
e-mail: Markoninn@abv.bg, i.markov@uni-vt.bg

Mladenov Chavdar

Institute of Geography Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
G. Bonchev str. bl. 3; Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
e-mail: chmladenov@hotmail.com

Pałka Ewa

Instytut Geografii
Akademia Świętokrzyska,
ul. Świętokrzyska 15; 25-406 Kielce
e-mail: marjo@pn.kielce.pl

Petrov Petar

Institute of Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
G. Bonchev str. bl.3; Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
e-mail: baret@aster.net

Stola Władysława

Instytut Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania
im. Stanisława Leszczyckiego PAN,
ul. Twarda 51/55; 00-818 Warszawa
e-mail: igipzpan@twarda.pan.pl

Informacje dla autorów i czytelników

„DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA” – ukazuje się w standardowym nakładzie 200 egzemplarzy.

Sprzedaż publikacji IGiPZ PAN prowadzą księgarnie:

– DHN, ul. Twarda 51/55, 00-818 Warszawa, tel. 69 78 835,
czynna od poniedziałku do piątku w godz. od 9 do 17.

– Główna Księgarnia Naukowa im. Bolesława Prusa, Krakowskie Przedmieście 7,
00-068 Warszawa, tel. 826 18 35.

Wymagania techniczne stawiane pracom składanym do druku w serii „DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA”

Tekst i tabele należy przygotować na dyskietce (3,5” Microdisks) w programie WORD 7.0, podpisy pod ryciny w języku polskim i angielskim powinny być umieszczone w oddzielnym pliku, ryciny (opracowane komputerowo lub na kalce) w postaci czystorysów gotowych do druku.

Do każdej pracy w języku polskim należy dołączyć streszczenie angielskie (1-2 strony) oraz abstrakt (3-6 zdań) i słowa kluczowe (3-4), również w języku angielskim.

DOKUMENTACJA GEOGRAFICZNA

1999

14. JANUSZ PASZYŃSKI, KRYSZYNA MIARA, JÓZEF SKOCZEK – Wymiana energii między atmosferą a podłożem jako podstawa kartowania topoklimatycznego.

2000

15. PIOTR EBERHARDT – Przemieszczenia ludności na terytorium Polski spowodowane II wojną światową.
16. TERESA KOZŁOWSKA-SZCZĘSNA – Stan badań klimatu i bioklimatu uzdrowisk polskich.
17. EWA NOWOSIELSKA – Sektor usług w Aglomeracji Warszawskiej 1992-1997: przemiany strukturalne i tendencje rozwoju.
18. TEOFIL LJEWSKI – Problemy zagospodarowania przestrzennego Polski w świetle przebudowy infrastruktury komunikacyjnej.
19. JAN MAREK MATUSZKIEWICZ, EWA ROO-ZIELIŃSKA (red.) – Międzywale Wisły jako swoisty układ przyrodniczy (odcinek Pilica-Narew).
20. BOŻENA GAŁCZYŃSKA, ROMAN KULIKOWSKI – Wieś i rolnictwo strefy podmiejskiej Warszawy. Zróżnicowania przestrzenne i procesy transformacji.
21. MARIUSZ KOWALSKI, PRZEMYSŁAW ŚLESZYŃSKI – Uwarunkowania zachowań wyborczych w województwie śląskim.

2001

22. JERZY BAŃSKI – Stan i perspektywy rolnictwa na obszarach problemowych w Polsce.
23. MAGDALENA KUCHCIK (red.) – Współczesne badania topoklimatyczne.
24. TERESA KOZŁOWSKA-SZCZĘSNA, KRZYSZTOF BŁAŻEJCZYK, BARBARA KRAWCZYK – Bioklimat Krasnobrodu.

2002

25. ELŻBIETA BARBARA KOZUBEK – Zmiany użytkowania ziemi w regionie tarnobrzeskim pod wpływem uprzemysłowienia w latach 1937-1992 w świetle interpretacji map i obrazów satelitarnych.
26. KRZYSZTOF BŁAŻEJCZYK – Znaczenie czynników cyrkulacyjnych i lokalnych w kształtowaniu klimatu i bioklimatu aglomeracji warszawskiej.

PL- ISSN 0012-5032
ISBN 83-87954-36-5

<http://rcin.org.pl>