

Регіональна політика і територіальний розвиток

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Determinants of regional and local development – their impact on socio-economic space

Processes of the expected spatial socio-economic changes arise as a result of rational planning and continuation of development at regional and local level. A three-tier division of the local self-government creates opportunities for engagement of community in the rational planning model and local resource management, as well as usage of production factors; for socio-economic growth and improvement in the quality of life of the residents. The aim of the article is to show the functional structure and role of local government units in formation of regional and local policy to increase economic growth, while maintaining the environmental protection requirements.
Keywords: region, regional and local policy, local self-government, economic potential.

Introduction. In comparison to Western countries, over the past twenty years Polish society has been trying a lot of catching up to do in terms of socio-economic development by implementation of social, political and economic reforms in the resurgent local self-governments. Both the development of the country and regions is determined by a well-managed and efficiently functioning local self-government at the level of the voivodeship, district and commune. Nowadays, the regional development in Poland is caused by the activities of three-level institutions: at the national level (parliament, government), at the European level (European Union) and at the regional level (commune, district, voivodeship).

The purpose of the local self-government reform in Poland was not only to establish and create independent local self-government units (communes, districts), but to create large empowered regions with a self-government system that are able to conduct their own social and economic development policy of the region. Currently, these units create and implement their own strategies for socio-economic development, taking into account the needs of society to raise their standard of living, especially in rural areas.

Local self-government in a regional layout. The territory and the region are the forms of terrestrial space, the main beneficiaries of which are residents, organizations and economic entities influencing the processes of the above space formation. This is precisely where various specific collisions take place with varying degrees of rationality, directions and needs, as well as with hierarchy of goals and values that they have to cooperate voluntarily [2]. Praxeological efficiency is determined by the compromise between the conflicting interests of different stakeholders [3].

Local self-government creates a specific whole in which certain cooperation takes place between partner organizations and, at the same time, the necessary relationships are developed between them and the residents, reinforcing actions for the increase in the social and economic determinants. Therefore, local self-governments and their units are the main inspiring, supporting and decisive link; and in many areas and situations they are the executive body, both in the commune and in the region.

The region is considered objectively and subjectively. The first definition is considered to be a unit of territorial and administrative division of the country, referred to as a voivodeship. However, in the second definition, it is an area with the appropriate economic and demographic potential with the natural resources, in which the intentional socio-economic processes are formed.

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According to J. Adamiak [1], an economic region is an organized system established to implement economic and social goals, knowingly fulfilling the functions and tasks resulting from it. The region is capable of independent determination, selection and modification of goals, as well as of increase in the degree of economic efficiency and organization.

The activities of the local self-government at the regional level should support the development of permanent, close and ad hoc connections, the most important links of the most important regional entities.

The functioning self-government units are a platform on which the citizen's authority is closer, and there are favorable conditions for undertaking of joint activities for the benefit of the community and development of the region. Considering the activities of the local self-government at three levels, the role of the provincial government is of special importance.

Referring to Zawadzka [11], in order to be able to solve their social and economic problems on their own, the voivodeships should be equipped with the necessary production potential, as well as with social and cultural infrastructure. They must constitute a well-functioning socio-economic region.

Podkarpackie is a medium-sized voivodeship. It has 2.1 million inhabitants (5.1% of the total population of the country) and occupies 5.7% of Poland's territory; it is located in the south-eastern region of the country, bordering with Ukraine and Slovakia. It has a low degree of urbanization (41%), and the urban population is concentrated in 51 cities, among which only Rzeszów belongs to a group of big cities (190 thousand inhabitants). Thus, it is an agro-industrial region with a definite predominance of rural population. In the southern (Carpathian) and eastern part of the region there are a lot of forests (above 40%); the population density is very low, especially in the districts belonging to eastern and southern borderlands.

In the central and north-western areas one can see concentration of the population and non-agricultural activities. Therefore, it is a region with a significant diversification of economic and demographic space, the economic activity of which is connected with the main center of economic growth – the city of Rzeszów and its surroundings, which are created by neighboring districts, as well as with the traditional industrial region associated with the western and northern districts (aviation industry and machine-metallurgy industry).

The eastern and southern areas of the Podkarpackie, in turn, use the features of peripherality, that is, low and very low population density with depopulation processes; high degree of forest coverage and dominance of agricultural activity. The above territories create attractive natural values (relief, flora and fauna) for professional management in tourism, leisure and recreation.

The role of local self-government in socio-economic development. The economic activity, both within the region and the commune, is spatially differentiated. They are business entities, which strive to achieve own goals, and it causes local development. This development concerns mainly local government communities, which in local dimension should stimulate its course and level.

Local development is a process of directional transformations in a commune or a district that is noticeable as a quantitative increase and a qualitative progress.

G. Gorzelak [4] interprets local development as a process in which local authorities get organized in order to stimulate economic activity and employment. In turn, B. Jałowiecki states that local development is based on the initiative and active participation of inhabitants living in specific territories and being the members of the local community [5]. A slightly different position is expressed by J. Parysek [9], who considers local development as an activity for the economic and social development of a given territorial unit, using its resources and taking into account the needs of its inhabitants. In general, it can be stated that the process of local development is a specific economic and social transformation of the local community.

Local development therefore has an integral dimension and can be defined in the following dimensions:

- socio-cultural dimension, as a process of demographic and social changes, as well as cultural changes,
- environmental dimension refers to changes in the natural environment and in the environment protection infrastructure,
- infratechnical dimension is considered as the development of infrastructure systems in the fields of transport, telecommunications, electrical power engineering, water supply and heating,
- spatial dimension defining new forms of spatial development and changes in the development [7].

Local development is affirmed by the following economic indicators:

- economic growth and employment,
- increase in well-being and living standards,
- technological growth and innovations
- restructuring and diversification of economic activities,
- development of social and technical infrastructure,
- improvement of the natural environment quality,
- development of services and social resources [6].

Local development is influenced by many factors that cause economic growth and the standard of living of residents, especially in rural areas. It is a deliberate and controlled process by the local self-government, implementing the stated objectives and tasks included in the local development strategy – these factors can be interpreted in two dimensions –traditional and modern one.

Table 1

Factors of local development

Factors of development	Traditional points of view	Modern points of view
Employment	The more companies, the more jobs	Companies that create high-quality jobs, adapting to the local community
Development basis	Development of the existing sectors of the economy	Construction of new institutions Construction of new institutions supporting economic activity
Advantages of localization	Comparative benefits based on physical assets	Comparative benefits based on the workplace quality
Knowledge resources	Staff knowledge and skills	Knowledge as a generator of socio-economic development

Source: [4, p. 28].

Thus, among the factors of local development in the commune one should distinguish: modern social and technical infrastructure, effective local government administration, a network of entities offering professional services for enterprises, educational level and skills of the local community, good business climate, as well as the condition and values of the natural environment.

The above factors have a certain value and may lead to a high efficiency in proper organized conditions. These conditions E. Nowińska [8] defines as determinants, or the determinants of local development. This development is determined by external conditions (organizational and financial support), as well as by internal ones (innovation, entrepreneurship, organizational efficiency). A very important factor adjusting effective local development is internal security, eliminating or limiting hazard severity scale that may occur while implementing development processes. That is why local government authorities conduct their own local policy stimulating and supporting economic development. An important element of the above activities is to stimulate the local community to accept and implement basic expectations in meeting

socio-educational needs, health care and social care, culture, sport and recreation, as well as in public safety. Hence, the intensity of social contacts is of great importance, especially, concerning human activities, such as work, housing, shopping, health, leisure; or intensity directed to the local resources of natural environment and the possibility of more rational development of the operating economic space.

In the modern era, it is not possible to create local development, without there is a possibility of the effective local self-government involvement.

Directions of socio-economic development in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. With regard to area, the Podkarpackie Voivodeship occupies the eleventh place among 16 provinces in the country; and its administrative structure consists of 21 rural districts and 4 urban districts (powiaty grodzkie in Polish) and 160 communes. This area is managed by the territorial self-government at the provincial level – the Marshal's Office; and at the local and communal level – by the local self-government.

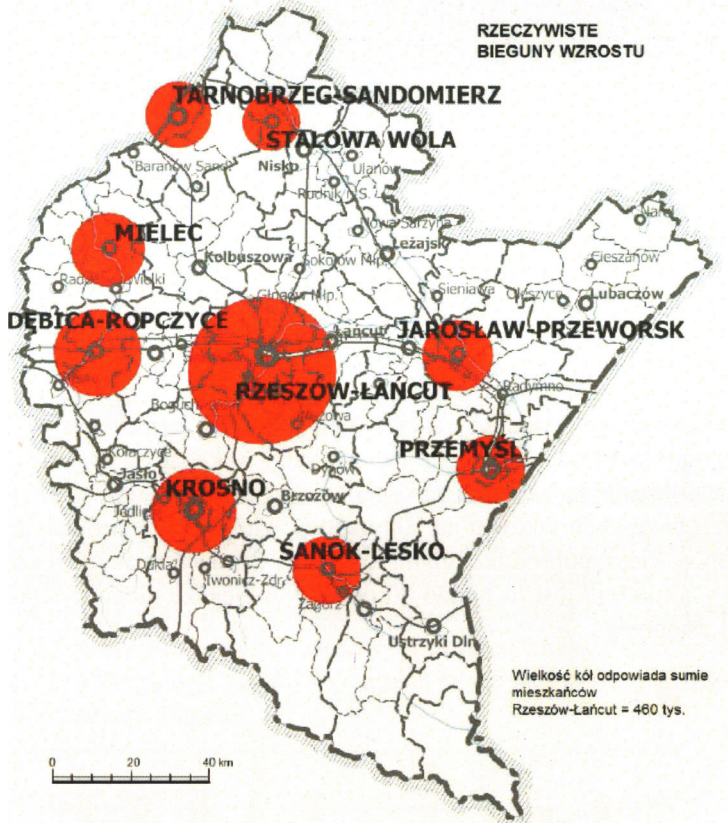
While appreciating natural conditions and current level of space development of the region, the Marshal's Office, as a central government institution of the province, started financing of further development in «Voivodeship Development Strategy – Podkarpackie 2020». The sources of financing are the following:

- European structural funds for the implementation of cohesion policy,
- public and private national funds, co-financing projects implemented with EU funds,
- funds from the European Agricultural Fund for rural development,
- funds from the so-called Norwegian Financial Mechanisms.

The total value of funds for the implementation of the Voivodeship Development Strategy until 2020 will amount to 6423,48 million euros.

The Voivodeship Development Strategy – Podkarpackie 2020 promotes the development of four main potentials:

1. The demographic and social potential puts a lot of emphasis on supporting human capital in the field of education, culture and health. This potential will be strengthened by investments in education, culture, sport and healthcare. Moreover, an additional measure will be to stimulate the community of the region due to engagement in public life and creation of conditions for regional integration. A very important objective in this case is improvement of quality of life of residents by improving communication accessibility and information technologies, increasing energy security, counteracting natural hazards and improving lifestyle in clean environment.
2. The economic potential tends to strengthen an innovative and competitive economy based on well-educated human resources and social capital. The priority here is in the industrial sector, which will be the key basis for promotion of innovation systems in the region. In comparison to other regions, this region creates investment attractiveness for internal and foreign capital due to low labor costs and high level of security. Special economic zones, qualified staff, as well as growing scientific and research potential are the formidable advantages here.
3. The potential of space promotes coordination of functional connections in the voivodeship, especially in the metropolitan region of Rzeszów, and 9 centers of economic growth, only two of them are located in the eastern part of the region. (Picture 1). The measures that are taken are based on strengthening of space potential through development of road and rail network, as well as the airport; revitalization of urban spaces and historic buildings, as well as a revival of degraded areas.
4. Natural and cultural potential will allow to eliminate problems concerning protection of environment and prevention of threats, as well as clean energy provision and monitoring progress towards sustainable development. In addition, it will improve the accessibility to culture and cultural heritage.



Picture 1. Actual growth poles in the Podkarpacie voivodeship

The above review indicates that the region can be a natural platform connecting individual problems and interests with the environment caused by human activity. Both, communities and regions are developed on the basis of plans, programs and strategies, which are defined by implementation, that is, by the appropriate process.

Therefore, the creation of strategies and their implementation is a specific process, i.e. a set of activities inspired and coordinated by the self-government authorities; which are assigned to the implementation by individual organs, organizations, institutions and teams, allowing to change the initial state of the finance sphere of the region. The above activities concern the environmental, spatial, social and economic spheres.

Along with the regional policy, a local policy is implemented with participation of the commune government. This local economic sector is becoming a basic object and goal of local development policy.

The above policy should focus on the full and effective implementation of local development factors. It should enable to create new jobs and reduce the scale of unemployment, as well as to manage effectively local resources. In addition, the commune authorities are obliged to create their space, mainly, to attract foreign investors and to promote the attractiveness of place of residence.

Work on the positive image of the unit allows to achieve a competitive advantage in the local self-government structure. Therefore, the policy of local social and economic development should be aimed at:

- ensuring a relative balance between social needs and preferences, functions and space management,

- elimination of contradictions and conflicts between economic entities,
- optimal use of the commune's resources (human, financial, infrastructural and ecological),
- constant monitoring of the commune's surroundings, looking for opportunities and avoiding threats to the development of the commune [7].

Therefore, the local development policy should be concentrated on strengthening the central entity, managing the economy in the local area, which is the self-government of the commune.

Conclusions. Local and regional development has achieved measurable effects in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. Transportation efficiency has increased significantly, as a result of modernization and construction of new road sections, including the A4 motorway, which together with the international road E40 and the double-track railway line No. 30 form a very important transport corridor, connecting western and eastern Europe. In addition, functional bypass roads were built in many cities.

In the central part of the voivodeship and in the west-northern regions, the electromechanical industry is the leading industry, including aviation industry; the steelmaking and chemical industries are also developed in the region. An important role in the process of industrialization and transport communication of the above-mentioned areas plays a permanently developed airport in Rzeszów.

The socio-economic development in the southern and eastern areas of the region was also stimulated by the activation of small and medium-sized business entities and by the increase of farms marketability. In addition, there has been a significant contribution of the rural settlement network to technical infrastructure, that is, to water supply and sewage network, as well as gas network; to social infrastructure – improvement of education system, health care, medical care and public safety.

These activities have a measurable impact on raising the standard of living of residents, especially in rural areas. Socio-economic growth in Podkarpackie region is a result of effective functioning of the local self-government at all levels, efficient economic policy, using own revenues, as well as EU funds and foreign capital.

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Рейман К., Федан Р. Детермінанти регіонального та місцевого розвитку: вплив на соціально-економічний простір.

Очікувані просторові соціально-економічні зміни відбуваються в результаті раціонального планування та підтримки розвитку на регіональному та місцевому рівнях. Тривимірний модель місцевого самоврядування створює можливості для залучення громади до раціонального планування та менеджменту місцевих ресурсів, а також використання факторів виробництва. Це сприяє соціально-економічному розвитку та покращенню якості життя населення. Метою статті є визначення ролі та функціональної структури органів місцевого самоврядування у процесах формування регіональної та місцевої політики для забезпечення економічного зростання при дотриманні стандартів захисту навколишнього середовища. У статті наведено методичні підходи до трактування поняття «місцевий розвиток» і виміри, у яких доцільно це поняття вивчати, а саме соціально-культурний, природоохоронний та інфраструктурний. Авторами наводяться показники ефективності місцевого розвитку, що включають зростання зайнятості та рівня життя, технологічний розвиток та інновації, реструктуризацію економічної діяльності, розвиток соціальної та технічної інфраструктури тощо. Проаналізовано фактори місцевого розвитку з позиції традиційного та більш сучасного підходу. Особлива увага у статті звертається на напрями активізації соціально-економічного зростання Підкарпатського воєводства в контексті місцевого розвитку. Зокрема, зазначається, що політика місцевого та соціального розвитку має бути зорієнтована на забезпечення відносного балансу між соціальними потребами, функціями та простором менеджменту, усунення протиріч і конфліктів між суб'єктами економічної діяльності, оптимальне використання ресурсів громади та постійний моніторинг середовища громади для пошуку можливостей та уникнення загрози її розвитку. Зроблено висновки про те, що соціально-економічне зростання Підкарпатського воєводства є результатом ефективного функціонування місцевого самоврядування на всіх рівнях, ефективної економічної політики, використання власних ресурсів і фондів ЄС та іноземного капіталу.

Ключові слова: регіон, регіональна та місцева політика, місцеве самоврядування, економічний потенціал.

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