

CORD 2015 – 5-th Conference on overcoming regional disparities, Tbilisi, 1-2 October 2015 – Role of the cities for regional development

Jacek Szlachta, Warsaw School of
Economics



This event is co-funded by the European Union.

State of art concerning territorial dimension of EU and Poland's policies in 2015

- Lisbon Treaty in force from November 2009 introduced third dimension of cohesion – territorial was added to economic and social
- Strategy Europe 2020 approved in 2010 and implemented as a foundation for all EU policies, also for cohesion policy
- Growing perception that territory matters for growth, employment, competitiveness, structural changes etc.
- Territorially diversified consequences of global economic crisis of 2008
- Growing territorial disparities as a consequence of deep economic crisis, weak areas much more vulnerable

Importance of involvement of international organisations, translating theories on policies

- European Union – recently changed name of appropriate DG on Regional and Urban Policy, implementation of territorially orientated instruments in 2014-2020 programming period (ITI and other), introduction of Territorial Impact Assessment
- OECD – new paradigm of regional development, many reports concerning urban policy of different countries and different metropolises
- World Bank – reports showing crucial role of cities for socio-economic development



Role of cities in socio-economic development of Poland – conclusions from OECD Urban Policy Review Poland report (1)

- Typical structure for such reports:
- Identification of urbanisation trends and challenges in Poland
- National policies for urban development in Poland
- Adapting governance for Urban Policy Agenda – assessment of current framework, encouraging co-ordination across governments, enhancing urban fiscal policy

Role of cities in socio-economic development of Poland – conclusions from OECD report (2) – National policies



- Current strategic framework
- Need for national urban development strategy
- Needs to better coordinate policies with strong urban impact (fostering competitiveness and socio-economic development of urban areas. Adapting to demographic change; increasing the economic potential of urban areas; addressing inequality and urban revitalisation; increasing competitiveness through environment quality and green growth; housing availability and affordability; greater coordination on land-use planning)

Role of cities in socio-economic development of Poland – conclusions from OECD report (3) – coordination

- Strengthening inter-municipal coordination within a functional urban area
- Strengthening inter-ministry coherence and integration within the central government
- Strengthening the intermediate levels of government

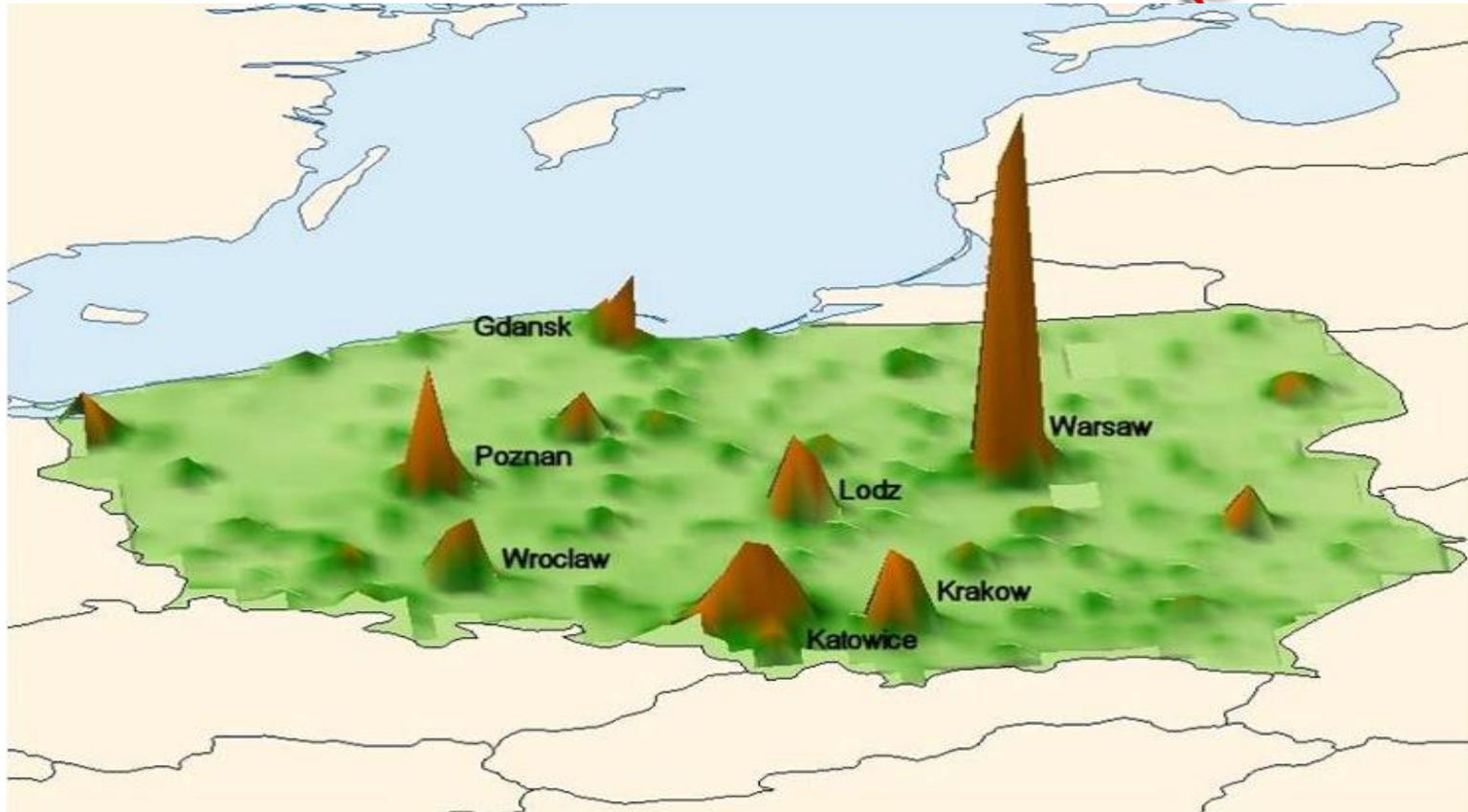
Role of cities in socio-economic development of Poland – conclusions from OECD report (4) – fiscal capacity

- Challenge of financing necessary infrastructure (land based finance, private sector funding)
- Encouraging business development through property tax reform
- Enhancing equity through better public service delivery in urban areas



GDP per km 2

The World Bank Reshaping Economic Geography, 2009



GDP per km2

The World Bank, Reshaping Economic Geography, 2009

What is the role of integrated territorial approach in shaping up Polish metropolis?

- ITI (Integrated Territorial Investment) implemented within EU cohesion policy in programming period 2014-2020 with set financial allocation, designed in Poland for regional capitals
- Thanks to EU there is very strong motivation to metropolitan area communities to develop cooperation between themselves and with different actors
- IT approach is generating strategic thinking in scale of whole metropolitan areas (core and suburban)
- IT approach helps to coordinate social, economic, spatial, environmental, revitalisation dimensions
- Expected result of such approach – complex set of valuable and high quality projects

What are the main requirements for building an effective system of cooperation of development activities at sub-regional level (metropolis)?

- Most of requirements on national level
- Implementation of legal regulations
- Implementation of efficient mechanism of multilevel governance (EU, central, regional, metropolitan and local levels)
- Solving issue of contradictions between regional and metropolitan levels
- Development of culture of cooperation between different actors and partners

Does such cooperation brings positive results for less developed areas?

- Strong impact of cooperation is limited to suburban metropolitan communities only
- Even the strongest metropolises hardly are influencing whole region (Warsaw – Mazovia, Wroclaw – Lower Silesia)
- Washing out impact of metropolises on weakest areas (assets are taken over)
- Conclusion – we need strong public policy – regional policy and territorial dimension of sectoral policies (regulations, organization, tools)

What are the roles played by the European Commission, the Government, regions, big urban centres, other partners? (1)

- Multilevel governance approach
- Leading role of EC in implementing territorial dimension as part of cohesion policy (framework, regulations, priorities etc.)
- Government plus other central level institutions are responsible for developing policies, legal framework etc.
- Regions – should prepare not only general development strategies but also strategy of regional urban policy

What are the roles played by the European Commission, the Government, regions, big urban centres, other partners? (2)

- Big urban centres – the strongest players generating most of projects, having strong impact on socio-economic development. Contradictions between central city and suburban communities
- Contradiction between regional governments and metropolises
- Importance of cooperation with: private business, non governmental organisations, local self-governments, academia, media

Thank you for your attention

j.szlachta90@upcpoczta.pl



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