

Dilemmas for regional development in the concepts seeking to develop Poland's spatial structure

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Dilemmas for regional development in the concepts seeking to develop Poland's spatial structure

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15 **Dilemmas for regional development in the concepts seeking to develop Poland's spatial**
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Abstract:

Post-War Poland has seen work done on three spatial development concepts. The first – from the late 1940s – had as its task the decentralisation of industry and the strengthening of regions whose development had been lagging behind. The second – drawn up in the 1970s – promoted the system of moderate polycentric concentration and a shifting of part of the country’s industrial potential to more weakly-developed areas. In turn, the third concept – from the 1990s – again concentrated on balancing regional development, albeit through the idea of priority being assigned to efficiency over equality. The aim of the present article has been to analyse the aforesaid three concepts as regards the approach taken to the evening out of regional development. The primary thesis here is that the concepts studied strived in their various different ways to reduce regional disparities, but never actually had the ideas they came up with put into effect properly.

Key words: Poland, spatial planning, physical development, spatial structure.

Jerzy Bański

1940 -

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1990 -

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L’aménagement du territoire confronté à un dilemme
à propos du développement de la structure spatiale polonaise.

Bański

La Pologne d’après-guerre a témoigné du développement de trois concepts d’aménagement du territoire. Le premier - qui date de la fin des années 1940 - a porté sur la décentralisation de l’industrie et le renforcement des régions en perte de vitesse. Le deuxième - qui a été développé aux années 1970 - a prôné un maillage polycentrique limité et un déplacement d’une part du potentiel industriel du pays à destination des zones défavorisées. Egalement, le troisième concept - qui date des années 1990 - a porté sur la notion d’équilibre régional, bien que ce soit à partir de l’idée que l’efficacité l’emporte sur l’égalité. Cet article cherche à analyser les trois concepts susmentionnés à l’égard de la façon d’aborder le rééquilibrage. La principale thèse est la suivante: les concepts étudiés ont cherché d’une manière ou d’une autre

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3 à réduire les écarts régionaux, alors qu'en réalité on n'a pas appliqué convenablement les
4 idées qui en ont découlé.
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8 Pologne / Planification régionale / Développement physique / Structure spatiale
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12 Dilemmas für die Regionalentwicklung bei den Konzepten zur Entwicklung der Raumstruktur
13 Polens
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16 Jerzy Bański
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19 Abstract:
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21 Im Polen wurde in der Nachkriegszeit an drei räumlichen Entwicklungskonzepten gearbeitet.
22 Das erste entstand gegen Ende der vierziger Jahre und hatte sich die Dezentralisierung der
23 Industrie sowie die Stärkung der in ihrer Entwicklung zurückgebliebenen Regionen zur
24 Aufgabe gemacht. Das zweite aus den siebziger Jahren förderte das System einer gemäßigten
25 polyzentrischen Konzentration und eine Verlagerung eines Teils des industriellen Potenzials
26 des Landes in schwächer entwickelte Gebiete. Das dritte Konzept aus den neunziger Jahren
27 wiederum konzentrierte sich erneut auf eine ausgewogene Regionalentwicklung, allerdings
28 über die Idee, der Effizienz eine höhere Priorität einzuräumen als der Gleichheit. In diesem
29 Artikel analysieren wir diese drei Konzepte hinsichtlich ihrer Ansätze zur gleichmäßigeren
30 Gestaltung der Regionalentwicklung. Die primäre These hierbei lautet, das mit jedem der
31 untersuchten Konzepte auf eigene Weise versucht wurde, die regionalen Disparitäten zu
32 verringern; allerdings wurde keine der hierbei entwickelten Ideen jemals tatsächlich richtig
33 umgesetzt.
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38 Key words:

39 Polen, Raumplanung, Physische Entwicklung, Raumstruktur
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41 Dilemas del desarrollo regional en cuanto a conceptos para desarrollar la estructura espacial
42 de Polonia
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45 Jerzy Bański
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48 Abstract:
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50 La posguerra de Polonia se ha caracterizado por un trabajo realizado en torno a tres conceptos
51 de desarrollo espacial. El primero, que tuvo lugar desde finales de la década de los cuarenta,
52 fue la tarea de descentralizar la industria y el fortalecimiento de las regiones cuyo desarrollo
53 había quedado rezagado. El segundo, redactado en los setenta, fomentó el sistema de
54 concentración policéntrica moderada y el traslado de una parte del potencial industrial del país
55 a zonas menos desarrolladas. Y el tercer concepto, desarrollado a partir de los noventa, se
56 centró de nuevo en equilibrar el desarrollo regional, aunque mediante la idea de dar prioridad
57 a la eficacia en detrimento de la igualdad. El objetivo del presente artículo ha sido analizar
58 estos tres conceptos mencionados con respecto al enfoque para igualar el desarrollo regional.
59 La tesis principal aquí radica en que los conceptos estudiados intentaron, mediante sus
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3 diferentes métodos, reducir las desigualdades regionales, no obstante en realidad las ideas que
4 se plantearon nunca se pusieron en práctica adecuadamente.
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7 Key words:

8 Polonia, Planificación espacial, Desarrollo físico, Estructura espacial
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10 JEL codes: O1; O18; O21; R1
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1. Introduction

Changes in Poland's political and economic system have combined with the country's accession to the EU to make the devising of new spatial development concepts a necessity. The choice of an appropriate strategy by which to develop the country's spatial structure is crucial for future generations, and for determination of Poland's place in Europe. In this process of selection, the major dilemma is – as often – to establish whether it is the priority of equality, or that of efficiency, which represents the best solution. If “efficiency” were to win out, then the decision would be to focus on the promotion of strong regions, thereby further enhancing spatial polarisation. On the other hand, if “equality” is chosen, the weaker regions are to be helped, with a view to inter-regional disparities being limited, in full awareness of the fact that what the strong regions are able to achieve will in this way be limited (Fig. 1).

According to the founders of the contemporary vision of the country's development, who have accepted the doctrine of polycentric concentration and diffusion, the reality of Polish life necessitates (and the need to seize a chance of escaping from civilisational backwardness dictates) that efficiency should be prioritised ahead of equality (*Koncepcja...1999*). In the view of proponents, it is necessary to come to terms with the market economy's natural tendency to generate polarised spatial development. The most direct route to obtaining more effective economic development is then perceived to lie in a focusing of socioeconomic activity in places most suitable for the location of capital. These include nodes, belts and zones of activity, entrepreneurship and innovation. With the help of the state, the latter are considered capable of driving wider diffusion of the said innovation, ultimately exerting an activating impact at the level of the spatial structure of the country as a whole.

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3 Fig. 1
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8 In studying inequalities in spatial development, we continue to take account of the core-
9 periphery theories whose theoretical foundations were first put in place by F. Ratzel (1896),
10 before gaining full development under J. Friedmann (1974). Cores are territorially arranged
11 subsystems in society, standing out in their marked capacity to generate innovation. The
12 peripheries are those regions outside the cores, whose development will nevertheless depend
13 on them. In the opinion of J. Friedmann, an appropriate shaping of the spatial structure may
14 simultaneously offer a chance to ease the core-periphery duality. Supporters of dependence
15 theory in turn claim that regions' poverty does not reflect their isolation and limited spatial
16 integration, but rather the asymmetry characterising relations with the economic system. Thus
17 the benefits of development for the core do not extend to the peripheral areas.
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31 The theory of poles of growth – above all linked with the name of F. Perroux (1955) –
32 also implies the existence of development-related inequalities. Poles of growth may be set
33 against the “critical zones” considered to lag behind (as in Bański 1999). In turn, the
34 classification of regions from L. Klaassen (1965) contrasts those of prosperity with areas of
35 poverty.
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43 Such issues of regional inequality have long been discussed and debated, a focus for a
44 certain dissatisfaction or even anger being the sheer durability of the phenomenon in question.
45 Proponents of the theory of equilibrium see existing differences in supply and demand for
46 capital and labour as sufficient in themselves to bring about a reduction in developmental
47 disparities between regions. Assuming that capital and labour are freely mobile between rich
48 regions (A) and poor ones (B), investment will begin to flow from A to B, while workforce
49 passes from B to A. In this way, inter-regional differences will in some way be evened out as
50 time goes by.
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3 In turn, in the view of advocates of the theory of cumulative causality, regional
4 disparities will only increase (as the benefits of a cheap labour force prove no match for the
5 overall benefits agglomerations have to offer). There will thus be a compensatory shift
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10 adjusting for the high labour costs in region A, while the outflow of workers from region B
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12 will limit the high costs of "outflow" to region A. Developmental disparities may therefore
13
14 intensify.

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17 A third solution is assumed by the theory of polarised development. The first stage in
18 the process of economic development is deemed to be an increase in regional disparities and a
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20 concentrating of capital in several core centres. However, as development continues, a point is
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22 reached at which centres of growth are saturated, and investors' interest in other parts of the
23
24 country begins to grow. This ultimately leads to a convergence of regional development. It is
25
26 this theory that current concepts for spatial organisation in Poland make reference to.
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32 The present article aims to analyse concepts for the spatial development of Poland, first
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34 and foremost as these have addressed the problem posed by a highly-disparate spatial
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36 structure in which regions of (at least) adequate development exist side by side with areas
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38 living in poverty, and in general located peripherally. It is the concepts emerging since World
39
40 War II that have been looked at in developing this article's primary thesis – which is that,
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42 notwithstanding a desire on the part of all the studied concepts to even out regional
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44 disparities, the practical activity actually pursued in line with them has left in place the
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46 marked imbalance whereby the country continues to be divided into rich and poor regions.
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51 The analyzed concepts (also referred to as plans or policies) are the basic documents
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53 formulating the state's key principles underpinning a national spatial management policy for
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55 the next dozen or so years. These concepts focus on policy, i.e. a deliberate effort to shape the
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57 national space in keeping with priorities of the country's developmental strategy. Also, they
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59 determine the relations between the government's and local authorities' spatial policy. These
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3 concepts cannot be treated as spatial planning documents, though they provide premises for
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5 drawing up projects comprising tasks carried out by the government within the framework of
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7 a national spatial management strategy.
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10 It should be also stressed that these concepts had different status and role in the spatial
11
12 policy of the country. A post-war concept was, for instance, a distinctly theoretical study not
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14 approved as an official governmental document and thus formed no basis for a national spatial
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16 management policy. Nevertheless, the study's premises were in many places congruent with
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18 the intentions of the then government. On the other hand, the concept being worked out in the
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20 1990s was published and accepted as an official governmental document laying down the
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22 principles of the country's spatial management policy.
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29 2. The vision of the period of Poland's reconstruction 30 31

32 In the century and a half over which Poland was subject to partitioning by neighbouring
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34 powers, the territories making up the country within its post-1945 borders were basically
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36 treated as peripheral. Under those circumstances, it is hard to envisage their having developed
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38 in any more planned way. Relatively speaking, it was the lands having been under the control
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40 of the Prussian Empire that progressed furthest in economic terms. The Austrian-controlled
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42 and Congress Kingdom (Russian-administered) parts were in a much worse position.
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46 It is very much on account of what happened during the Partitions that the Poland of
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48 today continues to be afflicted by marked regional disparities in terms of the economy, the
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50 level of civilisational development and quality of life.
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53 The years of Polish servitude and non-existence combined with the devastation of the
54
55 First World War to ensure that the state finally re-established in 1918 was in urgent need of
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57 costly investment. Yet any more planned approach to this in the inter-War years was
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59 hindered, not only by the aforementioned economic and civilisational polarisation of Poland,
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3 but also more generally by the economic crisis affecting the whole world in the late 1920s and
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5
6 early 1930s.

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8 Under these circumstances, what may be considered a rather impressive undertaking for
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10 the time was the construction of Poland's Central Industrial District, the goal being for
11
12 important branches of industry to become located in the central part of the country (far from
13
14 Germany), with economic activation stimulated in areas of "poverty". Seen in the context of
15
16 the subsequent history, the Central Industrial District is one of the most courageous planning
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18 measures ever implemented in Poland, though a second important undertaking was the
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20 construction of the port in Gdynia, as well as of the coal line that linking it with Upper Silesia.
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25 Ultimately, the Second World War made void the ambitious plans for Poland that might
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27 otherwise have been put into effect (war destroyed 65% of industrial plants, 35% of buildings,
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29 55% of power stations and power lines, and 45% of machinery and facilities).
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32 In the immediate aftermath of regained "independence" in 1945, Poland found itself
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34 beset with a number of urgent spatial planning tasks needing to be discharged. Thus 1946
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36 brought the establishment of the Central Office of Spatial Planning (*Główny Urząd*
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38 *Planowania Przestrzennego*), whose primary task was to prepare a long-term spatial plan for
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40 the country known as the Study for a National Plan (*Studium Planu Krajowego*). The main
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42 focuses here were on:
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45 – the designation of land to meet the needs of different economic functions
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47 (agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.) and for the establishment of nature reserves,
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51 – the distribution of the population and the network of the main urban centres,
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54 – the distribution of networks of technical infrastructure,
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57 – the division of the country into regions as a basis for dividing the state
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59 administratively (Toeplitz, 1978).
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3 The first phase of the *Study* involved work on the three subject areas of
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5 communications, industry and the settlement network. Urbanisation and industrialisation were
6
7 assumed to be “attracted” by traffic routes, above all concentrating at points where these
8
9 intersect. In connection with this, abstract transit directions across Poland were delineated,
10
11 these being linked up with points of entry on to Polish territory. The directions established in
12
13 this way and taking the form of belts were later made more precise through searches for
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15 existing or proposed transport routes. It was at the intersections between the most important of
16
17 these that the largest urban centres were found, while the crossings between the secondary
18
19 routes were locations for urban centres of regional significance. Appropriate economic
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21 (agricultural, forestry-related or tourist) functions were ascribed to areas lying between the
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23 belts.
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29 A second main theme of the work involved the locating of industry. When the
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31 distribution of the main centres of production was analysed, it became clear that these were
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33 excessively concentrated, with the effect that creative energy was draining out of weakly-
34
35 industrialised areas. For this reason, the *Study*'s authors were keen to advocate a more even
36
37 distribution of industry – something they considered achievable through a deconcentration of
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39 existing industrial districts and the founding of new centres with this kind of profile.
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43 Industry (especially heavy industry) was a basic factor behind economic development of
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45 the regions. Acknowledging the need to eliminate disparity in the level of development
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47 between different regions of Poland, the authors of the plan suggested creating new industrial
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49 centers. This was intended to stimulate economically the development of poorly industrialized
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51 areas, as well as attracting the population away from the overpopulated rural areas to urban
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53 centers.
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57 The third subject of the distribution of the settlement network was also being worked
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59 on. Christaller's theory was invoked as a model for a hierarchical system of urban centres that
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3 was devised. The latter was adapted to the real distribution of towns and cities, the emerging
4 settlement network being used to divide the country up into nodal regions (these in turn
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6 serving as a basis for a proposed administrative division).
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10 The second stage of the *Study* focused mainly on agriculture and industry, these being
11 transformed over three consecutive periods of reconstruction, industrialisation and
12 urbanisation. Thus, in the case of agriculture, the first two phases involved allocation of the
13 “excess” farming population to areas of land abandoned by the Germans, and subsequently to
14 industrial areas. The urbanisation phase in turn anticipated the shaping of an ever-greater
15 regional emphasis to agricultural output (Fig. 2). In the case of industry, the first phase
16 entailed renewed start-up in production centres that remained in existence after the War, as
17 well as the designation of non-industrialised areas. The second phase, in turn, involved the
18 deconcentration of industry, and the third its ultimate dispersion.
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31 In 1948, a wave of criticism of economic planning and of the concepts being
32 implemented by the Central Office of Spatial Planning broke out. As A. Jezierski and C.
33 Leszczynska (1997) state, the then Central Committee of the Polish Workers’ Party claimed
34 that planning made use of bourgeois methods of calculating national income, bringing about a
35 reduction within that of the role being played by state industry. However, the 1949 reform of
36 spatial planning brought an end to work on the Study for the National Plan. The Central
37 Planning Authority and Central Office of Spatial Planning were both closed down. Called into
38 being in their place was the State Economic Planning Commission (*Państwowa Komisja*
39 *Planowania Gospodarczego*), which implemented decisions taken by the Party’s Central
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Over the next twenty years, planning objectives were more likely to be pursued in
relation to divisions of the national economy than territorial ones. For this reason, objectives
and tasks devised as part of the *Study* could never be put properly into effect. The *Study* may

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3 be said to have been more theoretical than practical in character, pointing to the potential and
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5 high level of skill of planners, as well as shaping ways of proceeding for those who would
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7 implement future concepts.
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10 The authors of the plan, who suggested developing the new industrial centers in the
11 economically backward areas as well as a balanced settlement network, opted for prioritising
12 equality ahead of efficiency. Despite the fact that the plan was not officially put into effect, a
13 lot of its solutions were actually implemented. This concerns primarily deconcentration of
14 industry and 'the enriching' of the settlement network with new cities (for more information
15 see chapter 2).
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27 Fig. 2
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31 Post-War planning was no longer deemed to reflect interplay on the market, but rather
32 decisions taken at central level. These deployed the labour force, as well as determined what
33 would be produced and for whom, and where industry and all fundamental elements of
34 infrastructure would be located. Thus, unlike the market economies, communist countries
35 could ostensibly activate poorly-developed regions simply by locating new industrial
36 development there. However, the activation of regions was inflexibly equated with the
37 location and development there of (heavy) industry, as opposed to any other possible means.
38 Indeed, even the technical and social infrastructure that might have raised the effectiveness of
39 investment in plants was very much overlooked.
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52 According to K. Dziewoński and B. Malisz (1978), it was the wartime destruction that
53 made a radical makeover of Poland's spatial structure possible, the aims pursued being the
54 evening-out of inter-regional disparities and the decentralisation of industry. Alas, the
55 extremely pressing day-to-day needs of the country at that point made it necessary for
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3 production to be started up – and assets restored – however and wherever that was at all
4 possible. The regrettable side-effect of this was for the previously-existing spatial structure to
5
6 be largely reinstated. Thus, just several years after the War's end, the spatial structure of
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8 Poland was characterised by major divides in terms of both social and economic development.
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13 Basic elements in the state's spatial structure at that time were the network of
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15 communications linking the most important urban centres, as well as two main axes of
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17 industrial development (Fig. 3). Where the communication linkages were concerned, there
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19 was a very visible absence from the north of the country, as compared with a tendency
20
21 towards concentration in the centre. The two axes of industrial development referred to passed
22
23 through Upper Silesia, at that time the country's main pole of development. Thus, disparities
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25 centred first and foremost around a divide between the poor east and the better-invested-in
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27 west. There were also glaring disparities in the distribution of the main urban centres, these
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29 being concentrated in central and western parts of Poland.
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36 Fig. 3
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41 Later years enjoyed a rapid rate of industrial development and urban population (Figs.
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43 4, 5). The 1950-1955 Six-Year Plan assumed the development of heavy industry, but
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45 investment overstretch ensured a steady slowdown in the rate of investment, to the point
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47 where disquiet in society was even aroused. Nevertheless, new industrial centres did emerge
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49 in subsequent years, the result being a more even distribution of industry nationally, which is
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51 to say, a process of deconcentration.
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58 Fig. 4
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3 Fig. 5
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8 A result of these transformations was that the configuration of main elements to the
9 country's spatial structure gained several new medium-sized urban centres, which assumed
10 new functions as urbanisation progressed. Towns and cities came to be linked together by a
11 denser communications network, though the heaviest concentration continued to characterise
12 central Poland. While the intended, more even distribution of industrial plants was achieved to
13 some extent, Silesia remained the clear dominant where this branch of the national economy
14 was concerned. Nevertheless, a wider, more-highly-industrialised area did arise, this
15 occupying a large triangular-shaped area on the map of Poland (Fig. 6). All the major urban
16 agglomerations were to be found within this zone.
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32 Fig. 6
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36 3. The "Poland 2000" Visions 37 38

39 In the late 1950s, a discussion on the system and methods of spatial planning got
40 underway, the view that came to dominate being that planning should link up with a
41 prospective programme for the economic development of the country, and have a three-level
42 division into national, regional and local planning. The breakthrough here came with the
43 enactment of the 1961 Act on Spatial Planning, which set out the objectives and tasks of
44 spatial planning and physical development, as well as types of plan and the principles
45 underpinning their elaboration, and the competences to be conferred upon the bodies drawing
46 them up.
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58 However, by 1970, the consequences of years of flawed economic management were
59 inevitably making themselves felt, the general dissatisfaction within Polish society being
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3 sufficient to generate change within the governing elite (beginning of the “Edward Gierek
4 period”). This fed through into an amended national economic policy, under which outlays on
5 industry grew, and work commenced on the building of new factories funded by foreign
6 loans. The early 1970s were thus a period of the maximal dispersal of industrial investment,
7 leading to a narrowing of the developmental gap between regions.
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15 Work on a new national plan of spatial management was undertaken in 1971, and was
16 accompanied by renewed debate among scientists and planners (*Rozwój... 1971, Prognozy*
17 *rozwoju... 1971*). In 1974, the Governmental Praesidium adopted the preliminary draft of a
18 future plan for the country’s spatial organisation and physical development up to 1990 (*Plan...*
19 *1974*). The conceptual work here took in the settlement network, industry, agriculture,
20 environmental protection, etc. The most interesting forecasts concerned the development of
21 the settlement network, including the main urban settlements. Plans for the development of
22 urban agglomerations are noteworthy, their realistic predictions referring to a national
23 population of 38 million by 2000, employment of 17% of the professionally active population
24 in agriculture and forestry, the automation and computerisation of output, and enhanced
25 concentration and urbanisation in the spatial structure, with simultaneous deconcentration
26 phenomena in agglomerations (Leszczycki, Eberhardt and Heřman, 1971).
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44 In the view of the authors, what were at that time being created within spatio-economic
45 structures were integrated settlement complexes in the form of large cities in which
46 development potential was accumulating, while strong interlinkages of a social and economic
47 nature were making themselves felt along the main transport routes. Agglomerations were
48 gradually absorbing the small towns and villages in their vicinity. Thus, the primary skeleton
49 of the country’s spatio-economic structure was to be provided by a polycentric system of
50 nodes and belts, within which agglomerations were to serve as main nodes (Heřman and
51 Eberhardt, 1973).
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3 Overall, the concept indicates directions to the development of urban settlement
4 structure. However, some of its assumptions could not be complied with because of the
5 economic crisis, difficulties with the system of central economic planning and the ongoing
6 decline in the importance attached to large industrial plants. In the event, the sizes it
7 anticipated for urban-industrial agglomerations and central agglomerations were too large.
8 There was also a lack of proposals for strengthening the urban settlement system in the north
9 and east, i.e. those areas displaying marked disparities when set against the southern and
10 central regions. As B. Malisz (1984) stressed, the concept for the development of urban
11 agglomerations is characterised by a lack of faith in the effectiveness of spatial planning and,
12 although this is most probably realistic, it is not very desirable from the social point of view.
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16 Another concept concerning the transformation of the settlement network in the Plan
17 was that devised by B. Malisz (1978). Its main assumption was that innovation (as the basic
18 factor in economic development) progresses along certain belts or routes, since it is along
19 these that the best conditions for the development of industry exist. It is in turn at the points
20 where these intersect that we find the most favourable conditions for the establishment of
21 centres for the services. The development of towns and cities increases the significance of the
22 routes, and that in turn affords yet further opportunities for development. A second
23 assumption in turn holds that human progress is guided by the principle of least effort (i.e.
24 that attempts to achieve goals are made with the smallest possible inputs of energy and
25 labour). This means that the spatial structures created are permanent, and comprise linear,
26 point and zonal elements. The point (or nodal) elements join the linear (belt-like) elements in
27 forming the skeleton for the spatial structure. It is in the nodes and belts that intensive human
28 economic activity is concentrated.
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57 Discussion of the above concepts stimulated work on the Plan for the spatial
58 management of the country up to 1990 (*Plan przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju do*
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3 roku 1990). Its ambitious visions were verified by the then central authority, for the plan had
4
5 above all to take account of the assumption that Poland's economic development would be
6
7 dynamic. Ultimately, the aims regarding development of the settlement network found
8
9 themselves based around the "system of moderate polycentric concentration". Urban centres
10
11 were to develop at varying speeds, i.e. with slow growth of the agglomerations already
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13 developed, compared with intensive growth of developing agglomerations, potential
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15 agglomerations and centres of national significance. This measure was thus a favourable one
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17 from the point of view of the balancing of regional development.
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22 The *Plan* adopted a series of other provisions on socioeconomic life, the overall aim
23
24 being to limit the role of industry as the only factor in the development of regions, while at the
25
26 same time reinforcing the positions of agriculture and tourism. The main strategic objective
27
28 was to shift part of the industrial potential from the south of the country to northern and
29
30 eastern areas. Industry was to develop there, in smaller urban centres in particular. Where the
31
32 agricultural economy was concerned, the assumption was of a relatively even spatial
33
34 breakdown to the structure of the basic elements of agricultural output. There were very
35
36 ambitious intentions when it came to the development of the road network, first and foremost
37
38 the motorways. By 1990, there were to have been both north-south and east-west motorways,
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40 while the post-1990 period was to have focused on the construction of several new sections of
41
42 motorway not even considered in planning today (Fig. 7).
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48 It can be claimed that a priority of a balanced development of regions played a superior
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50 role in that plan. Indicative of that was especially the suggested system of a moderate
51
52 polycentric concentration favouring a large group of medium-sized cities that were to develop
53
54 dynamically. It was also congruent with the national administrative reform of 1975 that led to
55
56 replacing the three-level division (voivodship-poviat-commune) with two-level one
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58 (voivodship-commune) and to establishing the new 49 ones in place of the then existing 14
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3 voivodships (forming the regional centers of development on the basis of the urban
4 agglomerations and medium-sized cities). This was a clear indication of simplification and
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voivodships (forming the regional centers of development on the basis of the urban agglomerations and medium-sized cities). This was a clear indication of simplification and deconcentration of the system of administration. A great many economists were not convinced of the necessity to bring into existence such a great number of voivodships, a large portion of which were entities poorly developed socially and economically. These underdeveloped voivodships were unable to compete with well-developed entities based in powerful industrial centers or in large urban agglomerations. Subsequent administrative reform carried out in 1999 (at the same time a new concept of a national spatial management policy was accepted), was, to a large extent, a return to the earlier division (16 voivodships and the three-level administrative division) promoting again first and foremost major urban agglomerations.

Fig. 7

While the *Plan* did win the acceptance of the then political authorities, it was even so implemented to only a very limited degree. This reflected inherent internal weaknesses of the *Plan* itself, the “over-scaling” of its economic assumptions, criticism of the idea that agglomerations might develop excessively, the fact that large industrial developments were often sited in contravention of the *Plan*’s assumptions, incompetent decisionmaking at the centre and many other external factors.

As has been noted already, very large outlays went on the development of Polish industry, much of the money in question being targeted at regions in need of economic activation. Inevitably, the results were less dramatic than had been anticipated, first and foremost because of the stubborn persistence with the heavy industry option, as set against rather limited expenditure on means of consumption. While the solution of the huge industrial

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3 plant was turned to again and again, most of the weakly-developed areas into which these
4
5 were slotted lacked the necessary background conditions for such investments.
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8 Thus, once again, a concept for the country's spatial development prepared by a large
9
10 team of scientists and practitioners emerged as an "on paper" study, not more readily
11
12 "translatable" or applicable in practice. The scientific diagnosis of the state of management of
13
14 the country's spatial structure, together with a proposal as regards the solving of some of the
15
16 problems posed by excessive inter-regional disparities in development, never actually lived to
17
18 see the proper solutions implemented. The country was faced with an ever-deeper economic
19
20 crisis and an associated ongoing intensification of spatial polarisation. Relatively the best
21
22 economic situation was that facing the large urban agglomerations and industrial districts. In
23
24 contrast, there was an intensification of unfavourable population processes in the eastern
25
26 regions in which agriculture still prevailed (notably out-migrations and an ageing of the
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28 population remaining in the countryside).
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34 Introduced in 1975, a two-tier structure for field-based organs of authority and the state
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36 administration (voivodships and gminas) necessitated changes in the system of spatial
37
38 planning. The national spatial management plan represented an integral part of a prospective
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40 plan of socio-economic development, as well as serving as a basis for the drawing up of
41
42 lower-order plans (for macroregions, voivodships, towns and gminas).
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46 Further work done in the 1980s aimed to determine the premises that would underpin a
47
48 new national plan of spatial management. The political and economic situation at that stage
49
50 proved unfavourable to the dreaming up of far-reaching plans, hence the focus in published
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52 research results and expert opinions on criticism of the earlier planning activity and on the
53
54 search for new developmental pathways where spatial planning and regional studies were
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56 concerned (*Problemy polskiej przestrzeni* 1982, *Przestrzenna organizacja...*1981,
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58 *Przekształcenia miast...*1982, *Strategia uprzemysłowienia...*1982).
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6 4. A contemporary concept of spatial organisation
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9 The 1980s were thus a time of rather slow growth in industrial investment, ensuring
10 rather little change in the structure of Poland's spatial organisation. In contrast, the years from
11 1989 onwards saw a now-free Poland faced with a quite new political, social and economic
12 reality that required (and did indeed generate) a process of radical transformation that swept
13 through all the elements making up the state as a socioeconomic entity. A collapse of
14 industrial output was one of the less desirable results, reflecting a marked drop in society's
15 purchasing power, reduced demand for investment and supply goods, an influx of Western
16 products and a severing of some cooperative linkages (Wieloński 2005). Fortunately, the
17 decline in industrial output was not prolonged (see Fig. 5). It began to bottom out as early as
18 in 1992, though the nascent economic revival was mainly based around services and
19 commerce, the role played by industry in the national economy having declined irrevocably.
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35 Post 1989, the opening up of borders and great desire on the part of Poland to return to
36 the fold of Western European civilisation underpinned ever fuller incorporation within
37 continent-wide spatial structures. While the country's geopolitical location had never failed to
38 be a matter of significance, political intervention under the previous system had left Poland in
39 a less-than-ideal position as regards the physical development concepts, and one which it
40 would not necessarily have occupied had all other things been equal. Today, location is of
41 course one of the most important elements conditioning the development of Polish space.
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51 The process of (European) "Unionisation" (entailing adaptation, harmonisation and
52 approximation of Polish space to the conditions and parameters in force in the EU) resulted in
53 Polish space becoming European Community space (Kukliński 1997). Indeed, there has been
54 an important role to be played in this context, since the eastern part of Poland is at the same
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3 time an external frontier of the EU. This makes it a venue for cooperative cross-border
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5 ventures between Eastern Europe (i.e. the area beyond the borders) and the Union as a whole.
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8 A number of opportunities are thus afforded by Poland's location on the continental
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10 scale and regionally (i.e. in Europe in general and its Central and Eastern part in particular),
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12 even though this may also represent a source of conflict. Both the former and the latter follow
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14 from a location sandwiched between Germany as a major economic player in the world, and
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16 Russia - as a global (super) power.
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19 In the view of J. Kołodziejcki (1996), Poland has a beneficial geographical and
20
21 economic location, allowing it to serve as an important focus in the integrating space of
22
23 Central and Eastern Europe. Among other things, such a location facilitates the flow of
24
25 innovations, goods and persons, creating favourable conditions for the locating of enterprises
26
27 and for the inclusion of Poland's economy within European competitive space. It also opens
28
29 up potential where tourism and environment-related activities in Poland's natural space are
30
31 concerned.
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36 Polish space is thus treated as a keystone of Europe's integration processes, in both the
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38 vertical and horizontal configurations. Ongoing in the east-west direction is a process of
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40 integration involving the EU on the one hand and the Euro-Asiatic Commonwealth of
41
42 Independent States on the other, while in the north-south direction, Baltic Europe is
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44 proceeding to integrate with South-Eastern Europe (Kołodziejcki 1998).
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48 However, the impression continues to be that the north-south direction plays a less
49
50 important role in Poland than the east-west. For this reason, that "keystone" location between
51
52 Europe's Baltic Region and South-Eastern Europe (mainly Romania and Bulgaria) is better
53
54 treated as an idea – and opportunity, than as a fact – or existing strength. The Baltic Sea in the
55
56 north and mountainous areas in the south continue to present major barriers to all kinds of
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58 "movements" or "flows" in this direction. Moreover, the socioeconomic potential of the
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3 neighbours to the north and south is at best marginal when set against those of Russia plus
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5 Belarus and Ukraine in the east, as well as Germany and other states beyond in the west.
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8 Equally, the concepts for Europe's spatial development emerging in the late 1980s and
9
10 early 1990s did rather tend to place Poland on the periphery of any areas playing a more
11
12 major role in continent-wide social and economic development. In effect, this was just another
13
14 one of those post-Communist countries linked but weakly with EU space. This kind of
15
16 attitude is equally discernible in the so-called "European banana" or "Blue Star" concepts, or
17
18 indeed as regards the so-called "islands of innovation".
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22 While things have moved on, Poland's incorporation into the EU system as regards
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24 spatial structure has done little to change that peripherality of location. The eastern part of the
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26 country is a true margin of the European Union, resembling other marginal areas on the
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28 continent in lacking opportunities for dynamic development.
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32 The systemic transformation made it imperative to work on new legal solutions as
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34 regards planning and physical development. 1994 saw the adoption of a new Spatial Planning
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36 Act that took account of solutions widely accepted and applied in Europe (e.g. the principle of
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38 ownership protection). There was also a decentralisation of tasks as regards spatial planning,
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40 including far-reaching transfer thereof to municipal level.
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44 Poland post-1989 found itself in a new socioeconomic reality that required diagnosis
45
46 and a new look at its spatial structure. New research was thus taken up so that an up-to-date
47
48 document setting out state policy on spatial development and physical planning over the
49
50 upcoming 20 years might be drawn up. Work on the "*National Spatial Arrangement Policy*"
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52 (*Koncepcja polityki przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju*) was completed in 1999.
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55 As the *Policy* makes clear, the key dilemma for physical development policy in Poland
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57 continues to lie with its capacity to reconcile contradictory postulates involving
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59 competitiveness and efficiency on the one hand, equality and justice on the other. Nowhere,
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3 however, can be found clearly expressed opinion of the authors of the *Policy* about the choice
4 of a national spatial management policy. One may have an impression that a 'golden mean' is
5 being sought. The authors of the *Policy* focus on efficiency, if maintaining steadfastly that this
6 does not denote acceptance of further spatial polarisation. Equally, they are firm in their
7 conviction that their choice (of efficiency) is the absolutely necessary one to make in the face
8 of Polish *realia*, offering as it does the best chance of an escape from backwardness. The
9 attempt made to reconcile opposing standpoints on competitiveness and equality depends on a
10 fundamental principle that balanced development may engender efficiency. The concentration
11 of socioeconomic activity in places of the greatest economic potential offering most to
12 investors is to effect this balancing of development nationwide, over the longer time
13 perspective.
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29 The thrust to such thinking is conceptualised synthetically in the sustainable
30 development model (Fig. 8). To be distinguished within this are three main spatial elements,
31 i.e. potential poles of polarisation, potential belts of accelerated development and potential
32 zones of multifunctional development with a zone of accelerated development.
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39 The poles of polarisation are to be: the capital city metropolis (competing with Vienna,
40 Prague and Budapest, for example), the so-called Europolises (The Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot
41 Tri-City, Poznań, Kraków, Wrocław – and potentially also Szczecin, Łódź, Katowice, Lublin,
42 Białystok, Rzeszów and Toruń-Bydgoszcz) and the national, supraregional and regional
43 centres of the balancing of development. Through the process of international competition,
44 the potential poles of development will create ever stronger nodes of innovation anticipated to
45 have a nationwide impact.
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55 The potential belts of accelerated development lie along the international and national
56 systems of technical infrastructure, above all including the system of motorways and main
57 roads, as well as the rail lines. What is noteworthy here is the relatively even distribution of
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3 these belts across the country. Socioeconomic activity that is competitive on the European
4 scale will be concentrated in the zone of accelerated development. The model for the
5
6 balancing of development contained in the *National Spatial Arrangement Policy* is enriched
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8
9 by a further element in the form of the so-called Polish pole of development, taking in
10
11 Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław, Poznań and the Tri-City and emitting positive impulses into the
12
13 surrounding areas.
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17 The *National Spatial Arrangement Policy* has represented a basis upon which lower
18
19 tiers of administration have drawn up their own documents of a similar nature. Thus, the
20
21 regional assemblies (*sejmiki*) in the voivodships enact their voivodship development strategies
22
23 and physical development plans that should be in line with the *Policy*. In turn, the devising of
24
25 *Studies on the conditioning and directions to physical development* and of *Local physical*
26
27 *development plans* is a gmina-level matter.
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32 In line with its very generalised character, the voivodship physical development plan is
33
34 not actually a local legal act, and does not impinge upon the entitlements enjoyed by gminas.
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36 In turn, the *Local physical development plan* enacted by the gmina does stand out among all
37
38 the planning documents in constituting local law. Above all, it contains information as to the
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40 designations of given areas of land, and the principles and conditions underpinning the
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42 assignment of land to different use categories.
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46 In view of the brief period of time that has elapsed since drawing up the *Policy*, it is
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48 difficult to point out its practical meaning to spatial planning. Its acceptance occurred at the
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50 same time with implementation of the national administrative reform aiming to reintroduce
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52 large voivodships (on the basis of 49 voivodships, 16 new ones were formed). It may be
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54 pointed out that a priority of efficiency played here a crucial role. Thus, competitive and
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56 economically powerful agglomerations (now capitals of voivodships) were strengthened at the
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3 cost of regional growth centers which, as a result of this reform, lost a part of their
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5 administrative and economic functions.
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10 Fig. 8
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15 5. The impact of the concepts on the image of spatial structure 16 17

18 The contemporary image of the spatial structure of Poland results from multiple
19 processes as well as political, social and economic phenomena. The three concepts for spatial
20 organisation, considered here, contributed also to the formation of this image. In view of the
21 fact the the concepts arose in various periods of political and economic development of the
22 country, their objectives and challenges differed. Likewise, they had differentiated practical
23 significance in terms of shaping the structure of spatial organisation. It should be emphasised
24 that in the respective periods of preparation of all the three concepts a number of original
25 studies were elaborated, which constituted important contributions to the knowledge and
26 conceptual wealth of the domain of Polish spatial economy.
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39 From the first concept (Study for a National Plan, *Studium Planu Krajowego*) no official
40 planning document resulted, and so we can state that this concept had the nature of a
41 theoretical study (a vision of development), which did not turn into practice. The elaborates
42 worked out did not produce a consistent document, whose goals would have then be
43 implemented. Yet, the prerequisites formulated and the adopted methods of work exerted an
44 influence on the later planning undertakings. The fundamental challenges to this first concept
45 were:
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- 55 - deconcentration of industry,
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- 57 - development of the main elements of the infrastructure networks,
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- 59 - designation of the directions of development of the regions,
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3 - indication of the main directions of migrations.
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5 All of the objectives mentioned aimed at optimisation of the spatial structure of the
6 country and alleviation of the regional development differentials. Given that the work on this
7 concept was interrupted, it can hardly be assessed. A part of the proposals that it contained
8 were, however, being implemented in the following years.
9

10 The concept named “Poland 2000” had a different character and the methodology of its
11 preparation differed, as well. The output from the “intellectual storm” among the
12 representatives of academia and practice was constituted by the elaboration of a dozen or so
13 original concepts for the development of the spatial structure of the country, which made the
14 theoretical basis for the official document *Plan for the spatial management of the country up
15 to 1990 (Plan przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju do roku 1990)*. The ultimate referee
16 and editor of the document was the then state administration, subordinated to the Party, and so
17 this one turned out to be not a realistic, but a “wishful” elaborate. The most important
18 objectives, formulated in the document were:
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- 20 - the concept of the moderate polycentric concentration,
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22 - the differentiated rate of growth of urban centres,
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24 - deconcentration of industry, with emphasis on the development of small industrial
25 plants,
26
27 - development of modern transport network.
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30 Economic crisis of the country and deployment of large investment projects “outside of
31 plan” caused that the practical significance of the concept was limited. That is why the
32 differences in the levels of regional development, instead of getting smaller, deepened yet.
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34 The third of the concepts considered, the *National Spatial Arrangement Policy*
35 (*Koncepcja polityki przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju*) had a broader dimension, for it
36 referred, as well, to the position of Poland in Europe and the resulting thereof opportunities
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3 and threats. One of the dilemmas addressed in the document was to reconcile, on the one
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5 hand, competitiveness and efficiency, with, on the other hand, balanced regional
6
7 development. The authors of this concept, though, concentrate on the former. They consider
8
9 as the fundamental contemporary challenges the following ones:

- 12 - taking advantage of the "interface" position of Poland;
- 13
- 14 - development of infrastructure (mainly of roads),
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- 17 - development of agglomerations as the poles of polarization.
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20 These challenges clearly indicate the choice of efficiency ahead of equity. In this
21
22 connection one could hardly expect the process of balancing of the regional development to
23
24 take a proper course.

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27 When the contemporary spatial structure is analysed, several fundamental elements can
28
29 be distinguished, representing a particular kind of primary fabric for all the discussed
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31 planning studies. Included here first and foremost are the settlement network and the system
32
33 of main transport routes. Within the former, the most important role is played by the mature
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35 agglomerations (Warsaw, Poznań, Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Gdańsk and Katowice), as well
36
37 as the growing agglomerations (Bydgoszcz-Toruń, Szczecin, Białystok and Lublin). In turn,
38
39 the key features of the system of transport routes are the existing and planned motorways, as
40
41 well as the railway main lines.

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46 It is upon the foundation this basic fabric provides that the central and western parts of
47
48 Poland are forming up into a contiguous area of elevated developmental potential (Fig. 9).
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50 Within this are northern, central and southern areas of accelerated development that may be
51
52 deemed capable of drawing benefit (or less charitably "taking advantage" or even
53
54 "exploiting") other regions. They are a "magnet" attracting investment, capital and people,
55
56 their economic and social potential being sufficient to ensure competitive interaction in the
57
58 global market place, alongside other areas of Europe. In the future, they will enlarge – most
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3 probably as belts, and most especially as ones with an east-west orientation. The economic
4
5 position of such growth areas is strengthened by planned motorways, as well as the
6
7 redevelopment of national and international air links.
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10 The areas of elevated development potential are surrounded by others that may be
11
12 considered to be “benefited from” - or “taken advantage of/exploited”, to use stronger
13
14 language. In the main, these are within the economic peripheries of the country (Bański
15
16 2007). Their social potential is being sucked away – mainly by areas of accelerated
17
18 development. The whole post-War period has thus been associated with an outflow of the
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20 young, best-educated and most entrepreneurial to more favoured areas.
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24 In spite of several decades of struggle to reinforce the poorer regions economically, it
25
26 has not proved possible to dislodge the spatial polarisation existing across Poland. This is
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28 confirmed by data on own income to the budgets of gminas (local authorities), this first and
29
30 foremost comprising real-estate taxes, fares from means of transport and income tax from
31
32 natural and legal persons. Weakly-developed regions are characterised by a slower rate of
33
34 increase in own income per inhabitant. The voivodships of eastern Poland (Lubelskie,
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36 Podkarpackie, Podlaskie and Świętokrzyskie) are among the poorest regions anywhere in the
37
38 EU25, and are characterised by low own incomes to gmina budgets and relatively low rates of
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40 increase thereof.
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48 Tab. 1
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53 It is nevertheless thought of as important from the points of view of spatial planning and
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55 regional development strategies that support should be extended to areas of stagnation, whose
56
57 development should be strengthened by way of deft policymaking. The main elements in the
58
59 balancing of development in these areas should be the regional urban centres like Szczecin,
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3 Białystok, and Lublin plus Rzeszów. These are suited to a role in stimulating progress and
4
5 innovation because, as well as being administrative, service-related and commercial centres,
6
7 these cities are also home to leading academic institutions.
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10 An equally important role in any future balancing of development might be played by
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12 the belts of growth forming up along the Warsaw-Białystok-Suwałki, Warsaw-Lublin-
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14 Zamość, Białystok-Lublin-Rzeszów, Szczecin-Koszalin-Gdańsk and Szczecin-Legnica
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16 transport routes. The development of these belts will need to engage external resources, in
17
18 particular to allow their technical infrastructure to develop and to ensure that investment in
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20 innovation is forthcoming (Bański 2005). In addition, a good feature of the belts may be their
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22 participation in international commerce, providing that steps are taken to limit a possible
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24 "tunnel effect", whereby the routes come to serve as nothing more than passive conduits for
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26 transit traffic.
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34 Fig. 9
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39 6. Conclusions 40 41

42 Over the last 60 years, three fundamental concepts for the spatial development of
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44 Poland have been drawn up. The most far-sighted and bold of these arose in the immediate
45
46 aftermath of the Second World War, its primary objectives being to decentralise industry and
47
48 to reduce inter-regional disparities as regards development. Unfortunately, the requirement to
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50 rebuild even the most basic elements of the then spatial structure made it impossible to attain
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52 the kind of ambitious goals the concept engendered. Nevertheless, the outlined directions of
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54 activity were pursued and worked on to a greater or lesser extent over the entire post-War
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56 period.
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3 The 1970s boasted a wide range of different, more or less fully-developed concepts for
4 the country's spatial development. The discussions over these were the stimulus underpinning
5 the Plan for the Spatial Management of the Country to 1990 (*Plan przestrzennego*
6 *zagospodarowania kraju do 1990 r*). The adopted system of moderate polycentric
7 concentration and task of shifting part of the country's industrial potential from the south to
8 weakly-developed regions in the north and east both attest to the attempt that was being made
9 to even out the spatial structure. Unfortunately, the *Plan* proved over-optimistic in its
10 assumption of very dynamic economic development in Poland, falling prey to the then
11 ubiquitous propaganda of success. The later economic crisis again rendered implementation
12 of most of the proposed tasks impossible.

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27 The contemporary concept for the development of the country's spatial structure is in
28 turn founded upon the theory of polarised development. This assumes the gradual spread of
29 innovation and other developmental factors from areas of growth (dynamic development) into
30 what is broadly understood as "the periphery" (i.e. areas of stagnation or slow development),
31 the aim being for a convergence of regional development to be attained. However, in this
32 regard, Poland would only seem to be taking its first steps on a long road, in which the
33 consequences of areas being "sucked dry" are continuing to prevail over the more beneficial
34 effects envisaged as the process of "propagation" continues.

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46 The assumption behind all of these concepts is that developmental disproportions
47 between regions need to be evened out. Various methods of attaining that goal have been
48 devised. For example, the concept applying in the period of the country's post-War
49 reconstruction assumed a transfer of large investments in industry into the marginal areas, this
50 being thought likely to dynamise development. In turn, today's concepts advocate a balancing
51 of development by means of competition and the polarisation of socioeconomic activity in
52 selected nodes and developmental belts that gradually come to encompass ever larger areas.

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3 In the face of all this, the unfortunate truth is that the whole post-War period has seen
4 intensifying spatial polarisation, leading in extreme cases to the emergence of areas of
5 genuine poverty. While some of the tasks laid down in communist-era planning documents
6 were even completed, the fruits of those labours were not strong enough to tackle spatial
7 disparities existing across Poland. And - when all kinds of changes in the country's system of
8 administration at last became possible, along with changes in the socioeconomic structure and
9 a completely new global geopolitical situation in which Poland was now free to operate - no
10 new planning vision for the future of Poland appeared. It was almost as if concepts were
11 afraid to put into words the need for change in the new circumstances.
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27 Poland faces new and important challenges centering on the race to catch up with
28 Western Europe and be incorporated into the global economy. The new processes and
29 phenomena associated with those objectives are steadily changing the internal face of the
30 country. Among them are depopulation processes, the growth of metropolises, the search for
31 new energy sources and so on. The influx of a large wave of foreigners is to be expected in
32 the near future. These and other processes have combined to ensure that a start to work on a
33 new concept for spatial organisation has now been made at last. The theoretical prerequisites
34 and the first version of the document were elaborated at the Institute of Geography and Spatial
35 Organisation of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2008. After social consulting and
36 verification at the Ministry of Regional Development this document shall become the basis
37 for elaboration of the new *Concept for the spatial development of the country 2008-2033*.
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Tables

Table. 1. Own income to gmina (local authority) budgets in selected voivodships, expressed per inhabitant

Voivodship	1995 (PLN)	2000 (PLN)	2006 (PLN)	Change 1995-2006 (1995=100%)
Łódzkie	188	678	1151	614
Mazowieckie	305	1176	2167	711
Wielkopolskie	186	664	1167	626
Pomorskie	230	782	1462	636
Lubelskie	153	463	761	497
Podkarpackie	143	448	761	531
Podlaskie	150	471	885	589
Świętokrzyskie	152	481	791	519

Source: Central Statistical Office

Figures

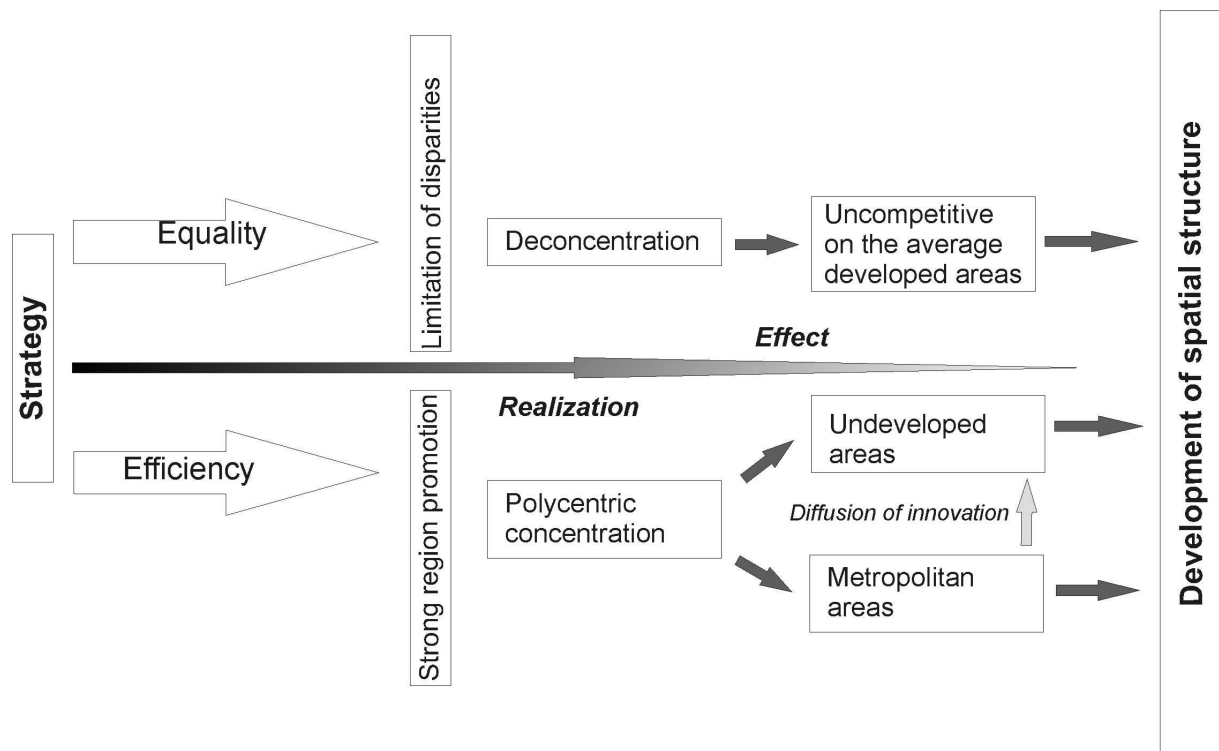


Fig. 1. The major dilemma of the strategy for the spatial management of the country – equality or efficiency?

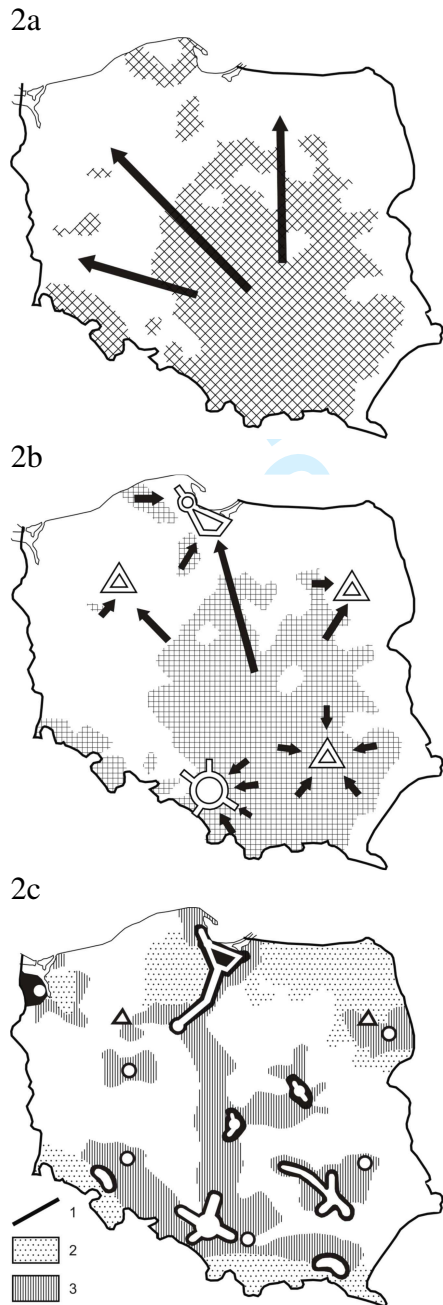


Fig. 2. Programme for development of agriculture in the Study for the National Plan

2a – period of reconstruction (allocation of the "excess" farming population to areas of land abandoned by the Germans), 2b – period of industrialization (allocation of the "excess" farming population to industrial areas), 2c – period of urbanization (division of territory into agricultural regions 1 – highest intensification, 2 – animal production, 3 – intensive agriculture)

Source: K. L. Toeplitz (1978)

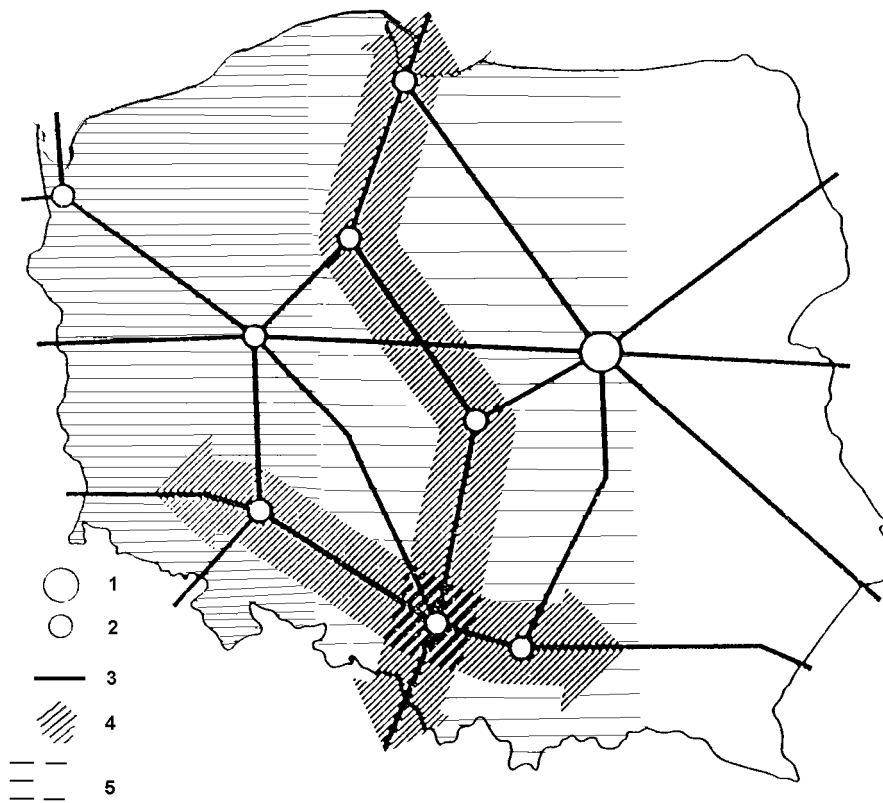


Fig.3. Scheme of the Poland's spatial structure in 1950

1 – the capital city, 2 – the largest urban centers, 3 – a network of main transportation links, 4 – main axes of industrial development, 5 – schematic graph of investment zones

Source: Dziewoński, Malisz (1978, p. 26)

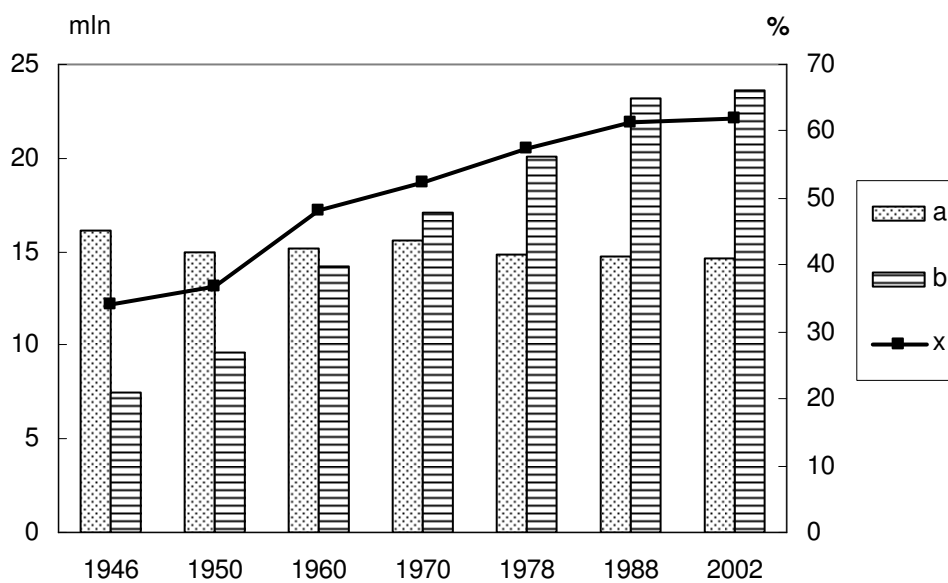


Fig. 4. The change in rural (a) and urban (b) population numbers and the percentage of urban population (x) in the years 1946-2002 (based on National Censuses)

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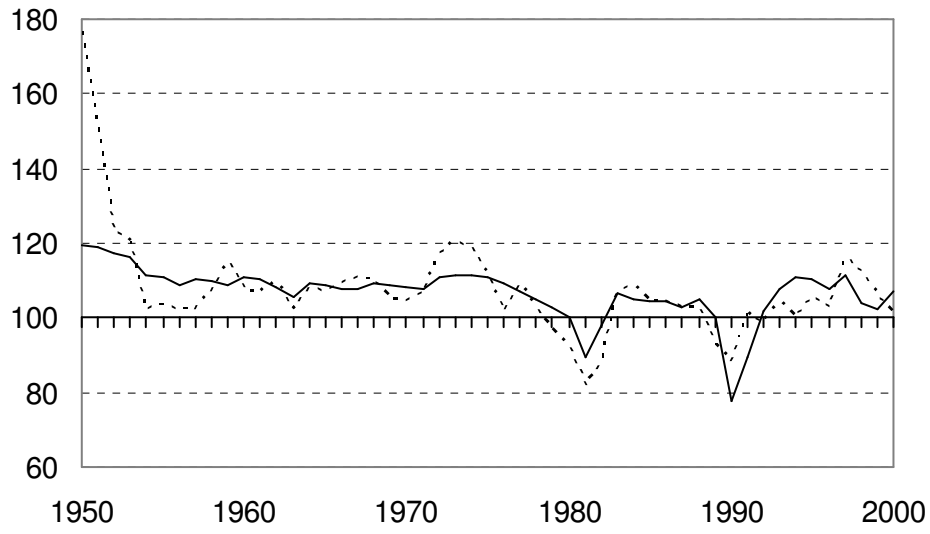


Fig. 5. Indices of gross output of industry and sold production of construction in the years 1950-2000 (current prices)

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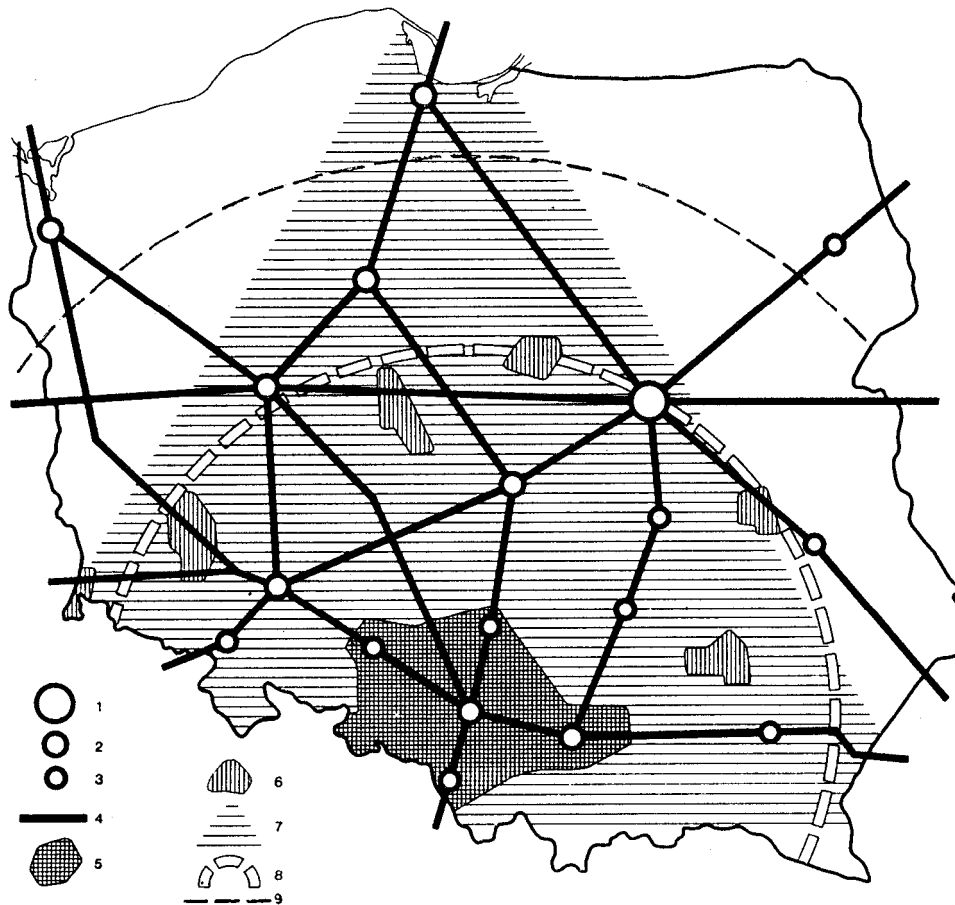


Fig. 6 Scheme of spatial structure of the country in 1970

1 – the capital city, 2 – key urban centers, 3 – medium-sized urban centers, 4 – main transportation links, 5 – southern industrial macro-region, 6 – new industrial districts, 7 – area of the country with higher level of industrialization, 8 – arc with a radius of 300 km from Katowice, 9 – range of effect of the new industrial districts

Source: Dziewoński, Malisz (1978), p. 32.

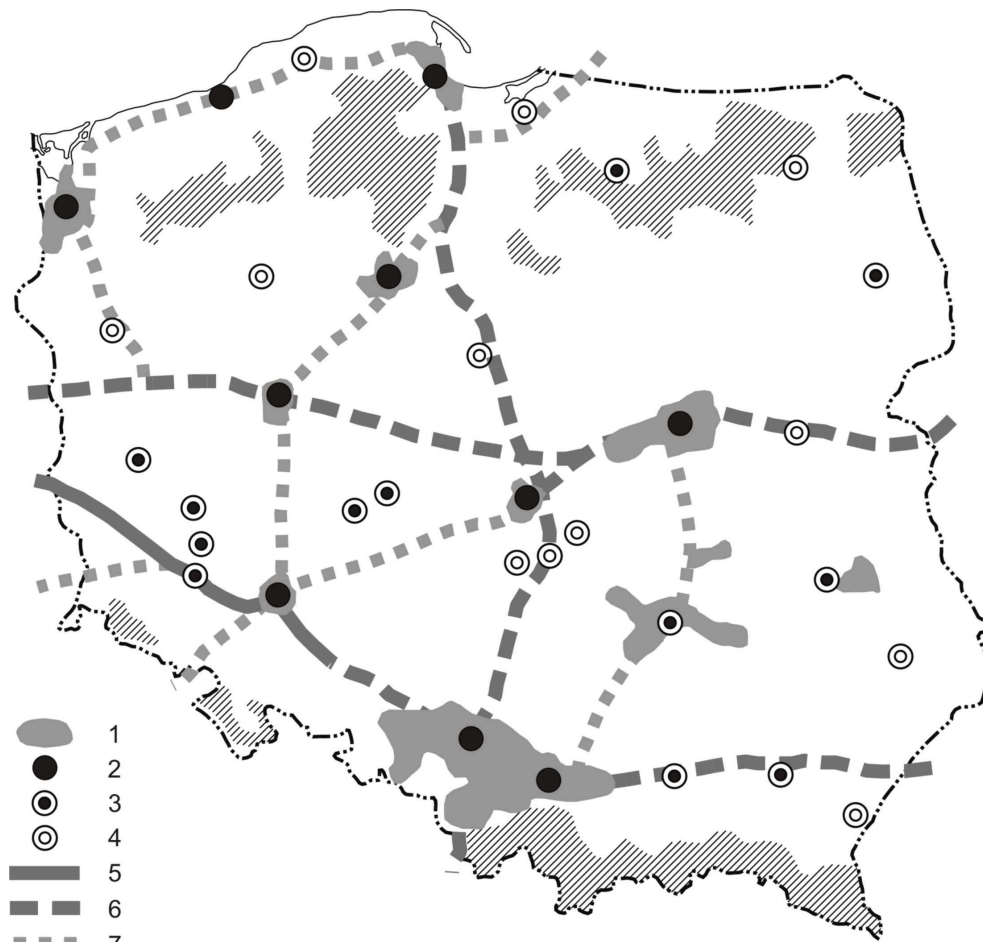


Fig. 7. The selected elements of the *Synthesis of the Project of Spatial Organization of the Country up to 1990*

1 – urbanized areas, 2 – developed agglomerations, 3 – potential agglomerations, 4 – growth centers, 5 – expressways, 6 – planned expressways up to 1990, 7 – planned expressways after 1990, 8 – areas of major significance for tourism and recreation

Source: author's own study on the basis of the *Plan ... 1974*)

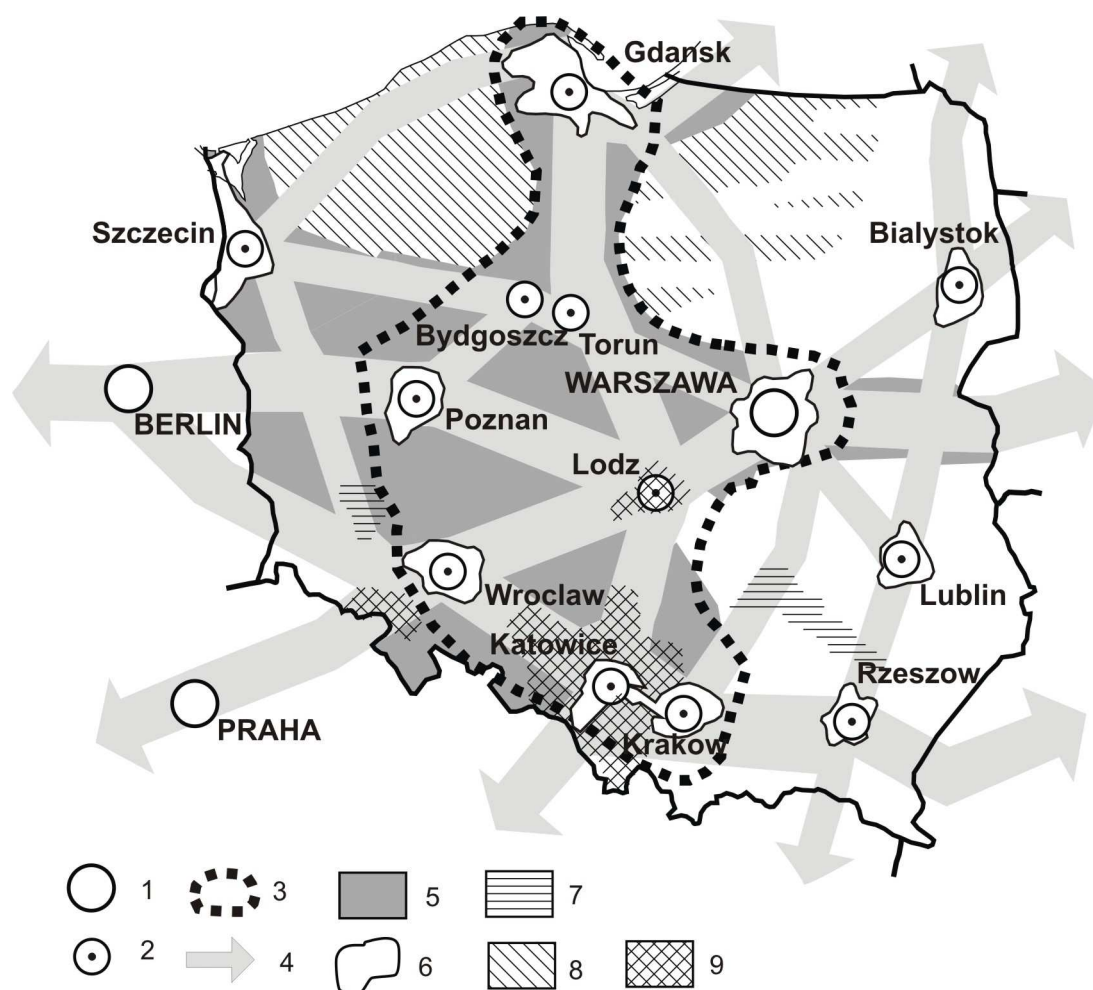
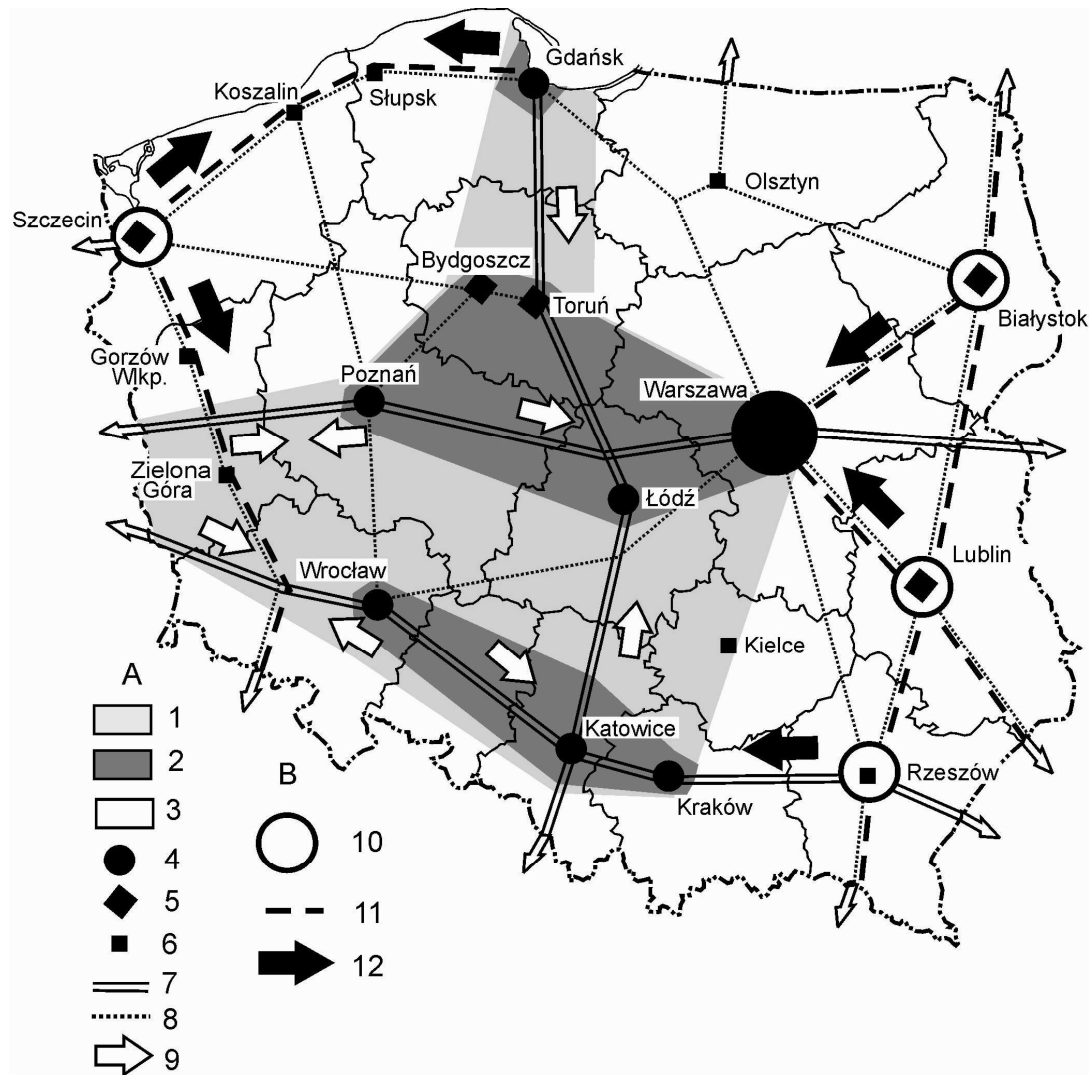


Fig. 8. Concept of the policy of the country's spatial organization. Scheme of a sustained development model

1 – the capital metropolises, 2 – European centers of polarization, - 3 – zone of accelerated economic concentration, 4 – potential belts of accelerated growth, 5 - zone of accelerated development, 6 - zone of sustained metropolization, 7 - zone of overcoming of the economic base crisis, 8 - zone of coming out of recession, 9 - zone of active restructuring

Source: study on the basis on *National Spatial Arrangement Policy*, (2001) p. 534



41 Fig. 9 Scheme of development of spatial structure in Poland

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43 A – outline of spatial structure: 1 – area of above average developmental potential, 2 – area of
44 accelerated growth, 3 – areas of stagnation, 4 – mature agglomerations, 5 – growing
45 agglomerations, 6 – most important regional centers, 7 – existing or planned expressways, 8 –
46 other important arterial roads or main lines, 9 – directions of economic links, B – elements
47 stimulating sustainability, 10 – growth stimulating centers, 11 – arterial roads or main lines of
48 top priority, 12 – the proposed directions of links

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51 Source: author's own study

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