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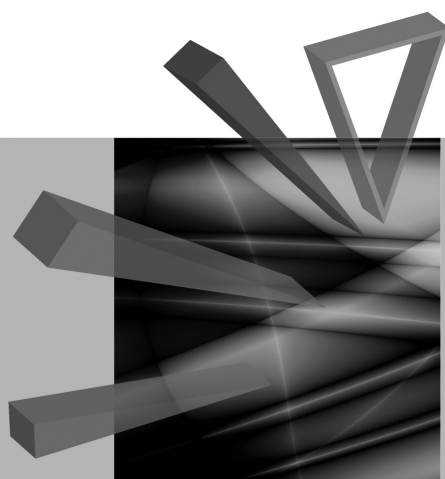
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DIVERSIFIED SPATIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD – A METROPOLIS AND A NATIONAL PARK

Summary: Metropolisation – the process related to the transformation of large cities and acquiring new qualities and skills by them – constitutes a challenge for a spatial economy. The parallel side effects of the economic processes performed by human beings have forced the global community to undertake global preventive and remedial activities resulting, among others, in the establishment of forms of area conservation. The paper presents an example of neighbourhood diversity in space, i.e. the close neighbourhood of a metropolis and a national park.

Keywords: space, protected area, metropolis.

1. Introduction

In the era of modern management models (among which a virtual organization is often listed), with faster and faster as well as more and more reliable ways of communication and data transmission, and the advancing popularity of teleworking and similar activities, it seems that the value of space has depreciated. Meanwhile, the status of space indispensability did not change, even with regard to the already mentioned virtual organizations which deal with rendering intellectual services. This is due to the fact that even though an organization's seat does not exist literally, its members do perform, in a physical sense, all the tasks assigned to them. Therefore, they have to find space in order to plug in their computers (or other devices necessary for communication) and this particular space – frequently the same as private home space – turns out to be an adequate place required for economic processes to occur. The growing ecological awareness, as well as the increasing requirements relating to life quality, result in the fact that the quality of environment inhabited by people became crucial in taking up decisions regarding not just the place of residence or spending free time, but also the location constituting the centre of the professional activities. Such perception of space turns it into a multidimensional power having due influence on economic processes. This is because “space and in fact an area represents [...] such a component of nature

which determines socio-economic development in both a quantitative and qualitative sense” [Mierzejewska 2010, p. 53].

The value of space is also supported by the fact that, regardless of how economic development is defined, it is always related to space and the two-way pressure occurring between economic processes and those present in ecosystems. Neighbours in a space turn out as an inevitable issue – it is the effect of permanent land management development.

The diversity of space and also the variability of its usage opportunities result in the fact that there exist certain perplexing neighbourhoods, e.g. a metropolis and the highest rank protected areas represented by national parks. In Poland such a situation occurs in two cases – the Wielkopolski National Park and the town of Poznań and also the Kampinoski National Park and the capital city of Warsaw. This paper presents an attempt to discuss the most important properties of a metropolis and of protected areas, i.e. national parks, and the mutual interactions between them and putting a particular emphasis on the economic growth context in a given area. With reference to the above, the due literature covering the discussed subject matter was analysed and information from the Kampinoski National Park was obtained.

2. Metropolis is the most advanced form of space organization

The phenomenon of metropolisation still constitutes a challenge for a spatial economy – it represents the process related to transformations in large cities and obtaining both new qualities and skills by them. The absence of just one formal definition of a metropolis may suggest that this is a new and still not fully recognized issue. Meanwhile a metropolis represents a form of space organization which has been known to mankind for a long time – A. Karwińska quotes the examples of Carthage, ancient Rome and Constantinople, centres which, in line with the scale of economic processes occurring in the past, played the role of metropolis ages ago [Karwińska 2008, p. 235]. The location of listed centres allows for an additional conclusion that they were functioning independently from the type of national culture.

Having in mind the traditional division of space components into zone elements, linear and spot, metropolis should be included in the latter group. The development of a metropolis follows a multidimensional process exceeding by far the borders of just one country – owing to which a metropolis is characterized by a certain degree of autonomy regarding both territorial and national authorities. A metropolis is such a specific formation that it is not at all obvious to equate a metropolis and – even a large – city. In professional literature this problem is discussed in, among others, the book edited by B. Jałowiecki given a symptomatic title “Is metropolis a city?” Just like there is also no unequivocal reply to the question already put forward, there is also no possibility to include space metropolisation among

clearly positive phenomena. M. Juchnicka and M. Proniewski emphasized the crucial aspect of a metropolis functioning, namely the negative influence on investment attractiveness characteristic for smaller settlements. The power – in the sense of intellectual potential, capacity for creating innovation, information transfer, quality of rendered services, social, cultural, political support characteristic for a metropolis – is totally incomparable to the power featuring in smaller, which does not mean small, settlement centres [Juchnicka, Proniewski 2009, pp. 14–16]. It is an unquestionable fact that a metropolis has great global significance, high quality and broadly understood potential, but also is in isolation from the surrounding region.

While discussing the phenomenon of metropolisation, social transformations have to be considered. A metropolis represents an environment in which a new social group was created, the, so-called, metropolitan class. The above mentioned collectivism is characterized by certain needs, ambitions and lifestyle featuring almost no resemblance to the traditional local community. The lack of attachment to any particular space is – according to the author – the most characteristic quality which manifests itself in the absence of local patriotism. Metropolitan class representatives, owing to their high qualifications and mobility related to it, are capable of functioning in any other metropolis in the world.

The establishment, development and current functioning of a metropolis is related to the process of economic development. The diversity and multitude of ways used to define economic growth results from both the evolution of ideas referring to the discussed problem and the need to adjust the definition of development to the economic reality in which such a definition will be used. It is important to differentiate specifically the two concepts, namely economic growth and development – “growth and development [...] are related to each other, however, they constitute different phenomena following different rules. Growth results in horizontal and quantitative expansion as well as the multiplication of the existing types of activity. Development refers to vertical or qualitative strengthening of systemic levels and/or structures” [Janikowski 2006, p. 19]. There is an unquestionable relation between a metropolis and economic growth – it is assumed that it transfers inhabitants and clients of a metropolis to the highest level of services provided by an urbanized area. However, the literature on the subject indicates problems of unsustainable metropolisation, the best example of which are large cities in the Third World [Karwińska 2008, p. 236].

3. Space protection and development vs. economic growth

The side effects of the economic processes conducted by human beings, forced the global community to undertake worldwide preventive and remedial activities focused on the natural environment. The global trend was reflected in changes and ongoing updates of legislation in force in particular countries. In Poland the

discussed issue is primarily regulated by the Environment Protection Act dated 27 April 2001 (Journal of Laws 2001, no. 62, item 627 with later amendments) and the Nature Protection Act dated 16 April 2004 (Journal of Laws 2004, no. 92, item 880 with later amendments). It has to be emphasized that both of the above legal acts are subject to ongoing modifications. While indicating legal acts which influence space protection in Poland, the Local Self-Government Act dated 8 March 1990 (Journal of Laws 2001, no. 142, item 627 with later amendments) has to be considered. From the perspective of space management, the most significant is the establishment of one of the nature protection forms listed in Art. 6 of the Nature Protection Act dated 16 April 2004. This regulation means reducing certain types of economic activities to be carried out in a given area. Among the listed forms, both national parks and Nature 2000 areas are of great importance. In spite of the fact that there have been established only 23 national parks in Poland, this represents a well-recognized form of nature protection. The network of Nature 2000 areas is an example of nature protection of international significance and also constitutes the confirmation of the need for broad cooperation in the discussed range.

The limitations related to spatial forms of nature protection may result in conflicts – including spatial – in particular when the society is not aware of the fact that the environment performs numerous services for the benefit of economic reality resulting from the natural processes occurring in it. An ecosystem provides indispensable goods for both life and the development of human beings as well as services of pollution absorption and nature regeneration. “Services may be preserved in time on condition that potential environment pollution, resulting from human activity [...], will not exceed the capacity ingrained in the environment for self-restoration” [Bernaciak 2009, p. 39].

The level of the inhabitants’ material status, the presence or absence of certain infrastructure in a given area as well as the opportunities offered by the natural environment, do influence the level of economic development and, in consequence, the interpretation and effect of the phenomena occurring in the sphere of broadly understood economic life – including also the assessment of the forms of area conservation. While discussing the problem of economic development, one should become aware of the discrepancies in assessing the same phenomena, e.g. “in Europe or in The United States a drought influences adversely the condition of backyard gardens. In poor countries a drought means the death of many people” [Begg, Fischer, Dornbusch 1999, p. 492]. The development characteristic for areas featuring a low national income per capita is limited by the specific attributes of such an area among which the following should be listed: unfavourable properties of human resources, insufficient natural resources, insufficient financial resources [Begg, Fischer, Dornbusch 1999, pp. 494–496].

The listed properties create an unfavourable synergy effect, i.e. they are mutually strengthening which augments their negative influence on the area they

refer to. One cannot expect that growth, in the context of the above characterized area, will be perceived in the same way as the development in the context of an area generating high national income values *per capita*.

Returning to the problem of spatial conflicts related to space oriented forms of nature protection, it has to be emphasized that they are inseparably connected with the conflict of time perspective accepted by economic life as a settlement period, and also the conflict of time perspective characteristic for ecosystems' development. It is of some concern, however, that certain representatives of economic science still – despite ecology oriented economic popularization – keep following the misconception that there is balance in nature [Michałowski 2009, p. 73]. In fact the environment keeps absorbing, up to a point, the results of human activity, which does not at all mean an indefinite occurrence of such regularity. The awareness of the multipath human influence on the environment represents the first stage for undertaking activities aimed at space protection. It is of importance to realize that the sole understanding of the need to protect space does not guarantee the acceptance of all activities focused on the discussed objective implementation – “when collective or individual interests are at stake indifference, resentment or even hostility towards such conservation occur” [Olaczek 2010, p. 9].

4. Warsaw – the metropolis located in the neighbourhood of the Kampinoski National Park

It is not possible to separate economic life space, or protected areas from the remaining part of the land area, however, the zones of particular activities can be distinguished. As already mentioned, the two national parks in Poland are located in the direct vicinity of the metropolis, i.e. Warsaw and Poznań. This confirms the fact that in practice situations occur in which the space covered by the highest rank of legal protection is situated in the neighbourhood of highly urbanized areas. Due to the fact that Warsaw is not just a metropolis, but at the same time the capital city, this case seems more interesting and therefore worthy of more detailed analysis.

The area of the studied objects indicates, that in regard to their territory, they are comparable. The area of Warsaw capital city amounts to 51,724 ha. the Kampinoski National Park (KNP) covers an area of 38,544 ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone, the area of which is almost equal to that of the Park. For clarification reasons it has to be added that 68 ha of the Park is taken up by an external Bison Breeding Centre in Smardzewice near Tomaszów Mazowiecki.

The Kampinoski National Park constitutes almost the borderline of Warsaw from the north-west side. The Park was established in 1959; therefore, it represents an area exerting a long-term influence on the spatial management not just of Warsaw, but also its neighbouring smaller locations. The urbanization pressure on both KNP and its buffer zone is a multipath one – the metropolis of Warsaw has

interests in the areas adjacent to Łomianki, Stare Babice, Leszno, and even as far as Kampinos. Smaller urban centres, i.e. Sochaczew and Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, also aim at extension and development which – according to KNP – could exert a negative influence on the protected area. The metropolis represents an entity which requires a communication infrastructure offering a high capacity in this matter and therefore KNP is exposed to the influence of numerous linear components, such as the complex of main roads surrounding the KNP area, as well as the railway line running from the park's western border. The communication needs are so extensive that there was a project prepared of a road running through Leszno in the direction of Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, so through the centre of the discussed protected area (!). The construction of the A2 highway may also not be regarded as neutral for the KNP¹ area owing to its direct vicinity of the Park.

The Kampinoski National Park provides, for the neighbouring metropolis, a service of immeasurable value, i.e. it supplies fresh air. The prevailing in the discussed area, west winds, blow in the air from the protected area towards the capital city. Such a role of the Park for the benefit of the capital also manifests itself in the provision of space for leisure. According to KNP estimations, the Park is annually visited by about 1 million people. Among the visitors the majority are Warsaw's inhabitants who, owing to their place of residence, are legally exempt from paying the admission fee to the KNP (art. 12, point 7 of Nature Protection Act dated 16 April 2004). Therefore, the KNP management decided to refrain from collecting any admission fees.

5. Final remarks

A protected area is radically different from a highly urbanized, densely populated and intensively managed one, typical for a metropolis – these entities do not compete with each other at the level of rendered services. The type of competition occurring between the Karkonoski National Park and the Warsaw metropolis focuses on land, which constitutes the object of competition. Such a situation results from their vicinity – the metropolis aims at capturing Park areas and its buffer zone, which function as a barrier for its spatial development.

The protected area recalls the mood of the past by offering an opportunity for an actual and real return to an old, almost original environment – it functions very well as both a place for passive and active leisure as well as meeting health oriented needs. Therefore it is important for the quality of metropolitan community life. A period of over half a century of the protected area and the metropolis (which at the same time is the country's capital) being neighbours, indicates that diametrically different areas may – if adequately managed – be placed adjacent to each other.

¹ Based on the analysis of Central Statistical Office maps of Kampinoski National Park prepared based on projects by B. Król and M. Skolimowska.

It is worth emphasizing that a national park and metropolis do have certain properties in common, i.e. independence from local authorities, international significance and planned land cultivation (conservation). The existing neighbourhood of both entities presented in this paper points to the fact that the ecological order, economic order and social order do not exclude one another. On the contrary, they are mutually supportive. The limited nature of resources indispensable for economic life development resulted, on the one hand, in changing management methods and, on the other, in a more and more restrictive space protection. Participants in economic life have to come to terms with this fact.

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ZRÓŻNICOWANE SĄSIEDZTWO W PRZESTRZENI – METROPOLIE I PARK NARODOWY

Streszczenie: Metropolizacja – proces związany z przekształcaniem wielkich miast i nabywaniem przez nie nowych cech i umiejętności – jest wyzwaniem dla gospodarki przestrzennej. Równoległe skutki uboczne prowadzonych przez człowieka procesów gospodarczych wymusiły na społeczności światowej podjęcie globalnych działań prewencyjno-naprawczych, których efektem jest m.in. tworzenie obszarowych form ochrony przyrody. W artykule ukazano przykład różnorodności sąsiedztwa w przestrzeni jakim jest sąsiedztwo metropolii oraz parku narodowego.

Słowa kluczowe: przestrzeń, obszar chroniony, metropolia.