

Prof. Daniela Szymańska

Dr Beata Hołowiecka

Department of Urban and Regional Development, Faculty of Earth Sciences

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Poland, dani@umk.pl

The changes in the functional urban region in the new socio-economic conditions in Poland. The case of Toruń.

Los cambios funcionales en las regions urbanas en las nuevas condiciones socioeconomicas. El caso de Toruń

(in :) Procesos, transformaciones y construction de la ciudad en la era del capitalismo global (eds.)

Czerny M. Lombardo J.D, 2007, Universidad nacional de General Sarmiento, pp. 191-211

Introduction

The deep socio-economic transformation and the introduction of a free economic market in Poland after 1989 implemented tremendous changes both on the economic and social plane. The changing economy resulted in the adjustment of employment structures, which meant liquidation of numerous industrial plants, introducing new technologies and mass redundancies, especially in the industry. Hence, political system transformation and free market competition caused on one hand de-industrialization and on the other the expansion of the services sector. In those circumstances some of the towns have created their influence range, for some it has been an opportunity to expand their territories, others have limited them. Thus an essential research task is to analyse changes in the functional urban regions in the current socio-economic conditions in Poland. For scientific reasons the town of Toruń has been chosen, as a historically formed town, 209,000 citizens (2003), in Kujawsko-Pomorkie Voivodeship (in Poland, administrative regions of the 1st order). A town which due to the transforming and restructuring has diminished in its industrial function; however, has increased its higher level of servicing functions, such as higher education, 40 thousand of students at Nicolaus Copernicus University, tourism and banking. The location which typify Toruń in the short distance: 40 km from Bydgoszcz (373,000 citizens - 2003), and 56km from Włocławek (121,000 citizens - 2003), has impact on form its functional urban region.

The aim of the following article is an attempt to show the current conditions influence on the functions of Toruń's urban region and which of the formerly shaped socio-economic connections have been reconfigured. Thus it is essential to investigate whether the present

