

Studies on the spatial-functional structure of a town on the example of Brodnica

Summary

A market economy has been restored to Poland since 1989. It is expected that it will liberate local socio-economic initiatives. Small towns will gradually regain market grounds for existence through imparting dynamism to the growth of the operation of servicing the surrounding area. At present, it seems that a particularly advantageous starting position has been gained by those small towns which, after world war II, acquired strong industrial processing plants of various kinds, often based on local resources; they are also carrying out privatisation quickly, especially of services, thus are bringing dynamism to the growth of the operation of servicing the surrounding area more quickly. Industrial operation, as regards its physical dimensions, will become more stable, and its proportion should decrease relatively; on the other hand, growth of the operation of services should be expected, and its proportion should increase relatively quickly. In the case of this group of small towns, particularly rapid growth can be expected in the nearest future because they are capable of rendering old development factors more dynamic, and at the same time of gaining modern ones. However, this requires the appropriate pro-development strategy to be chosen.

Today this problem represents an intellectual challenge, both for the elite and local communities, and for science. Which road for future development to choose? The goal of mutual efforts should be to discover socio-economic reserves existing in small towns, and then to define the conditions, possibilities and methods of activating them in the long term. The appropriate choice of the directions of future development and of the strategies for executing it is today a priority for the majority of small towns in Poland. The prosperity of local communities depends on this choice and execution, as does the fact whether, within the next generation, we will reduce the shocking disproportion in the conditions of life in comparison with those of communities from developed countries. The first step to achieve this is to make a diagnosis of the present state of the development of small towns, and of the factors which conditioned it. Only on the basis of such a diagnosis can the second stage be to make a prognosis of the choice of the most efficient directions of future development. Such a diagnosis should take into account the genesis of small towns, their historical transformations, location in the geographical environment, the state of the management and the structure of production, and the population and living conditions, all of which focuses on their functions hitherto. Only then can this base, together with knowledge acquired on the expected development tendencies (on

