

## **Culture-led development of small cities in Poland**

It is widely accepted that cultural sector and creative sector contribute to the socio-economic revival of cities, change their images, form a specific *creative milieu*, generate new jobs, and organize urban space. Cities around the World implement the strategies of development based on the culture and the creative sector. However, previous studies concerning the significance of the cultural and creative sectors in the urban development have focused on the largest cities, small cities have not been the subject of a wider research so far. In the subject literature more and more comments have appeared that **small cities can and should be the important part of creative economy** but in the different sense than large cities. There is pointed out a need to reinforce the importance of cultural and creative activities in small cities.

In order to assess the opportunities of small cities for culture-led development, to elaborate the new strategies of development, to implement new factors which can initiate required effects in this field, first, it is necessary to conduct in-depth and comprehensive research on the proposed problem.

The main challenges are as follows:

- recognition of factors and mechanisms which have contributed to a success or a failure in the implementation of the culture to the development of small city;
- analysis of a process/processes observed in a city:
  - o determining their paths and dynamics,
  - o investigating their possible directions of changes,
  - o proposing new methodological solutions – how to search?
- generalizing research results – finding common problems and similarities in order to:
  - o formulating universal methodological assumptions,
  - o elaborating substantial solutions helpful in decision making at the administrative, institutional level.

The project aims at **analyzing the role of the cultural and creative sectors in the development of small cities** in Poland.

The following hypothesis will be veriflicated: investments in **the cultural and creative sectors** can be important support for general development of small cities in Poland.

Research should deliver the answer for the question if there is a possibility to implementation of the R. Florida's concept referring to the role of creative cities in the context of smaller cities.

Planned research reflects a research trend describing the significance of the cultural and creative sector for the development of contemporary cities. Analysis of the impact of the cultural and creative sectors for general urban development can also be useful in determining the directions of development of small cities by local government.