

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

Dynamic increase of urban populations and expansion of urban space connected with it, brings multifaceted consequences (both – positive and negative). Topicality of these problems results from their urgent need due to pollution of urban environment, ecological crisis, global warming, non-renewable resources consumption, excessive waste production, and the others. It is indicated that developing urbanization, consumerism and globalization are to blame for that total danger. The issues are widely discussed by scientists, politicians, media representatives, world leaders, lay and clergy, gathering during global summits to achieve consent in achieving ecological balance. The problem is important and current, particularly in the context of intense pressure on natural environment and life quality of city inhabitants.

Therefore, the objective of this research project is: to define the level of cities in Poland ecologization, basing on selected elements of water and wastewater management, waste management, air quality, renewable energy sources and green area surfaces.

The analysis refers to all urban powiat, with particular attention focused on big cities, over 100 thousand inhabitants. Moreover, the research results will be compared with the indicators for Poland and selected European cities. Time range subjected to research project concerns the section from 1989 to 2014.

Due to the goal and the project range, it is assumed that: Polish cities, like the whole Poland has reported improvement in: water and wastewater management, waste management, air quality, renewable energy sources and increase of green area, related – on the one hand – with social-economic country development and infrastructure modernization, on the other hand – with pro-ecological policy of EU, both in legal, administrative-organizational and financial sense, but also technological-technical meaning; level, directions and dynamics of changes of Polish cities ecologization do not run equally for all subjects: quicker and more intensely for big cities, slower for smaller towns, what results from bigger social-demographical and economic potential of big cities; Polish cities, comparing to EU cities are characterized by lower ecologization level, resulted from weaker financial condition of Polish cities, small pro-ecological load of their town development strategies, relatively low level of ecological awareness and insufficient legal and administrative-organizational regulations.

In order to evaluate city ecologization, selected characteristics and variables of sustainable development, referring to pro-ecological aspects will be used.

Selected variables will be transformed to unify their character. Their standardization will depend on their negative or positive impact on ecologization process, therefore the analyzed variables will be stimulants or destimulants of ecologization process. Next step will refer to working out an indicator of city ecologization.

This project is demonstrating innovative elements to present knowledge of city ecologization, connecting several aspects of city ecologization, indicating potentials of endogenous sources and it puts stress on the role of local authorities and communities in stimulating pro-ecological activities in their local environments. Pioneering nature of the project is in defining ecologization level on the grounds of complex ecologization indicator, worked out of all components fusion (water and wastewater management, waste management, air quality, renewable energy sources and green areas).

Particular results of the project completion, important for the subject knowledge deepening include: operationalization of the concept of city ecologization (choosing measurable indicators), creating measuring standards for city ecologization, showing regional diversification of ecologization process, related to social-economic conditions and comparing Polish cities ecologization with selected European cities.

In practice, the research results can be a tool in creating pro-ecological policy in cities, improving competences of local governments representatives and ecological awareness of city inhabitants and economic entities.