

Description for the general public

One of the most important tasks of local government is the carefulness for the space – planning the space development, its management and rationalization of use. Taking care of space requires reconciliation of important interests of various user groups – residents, tourists, entrepreneurs, pedestrians, drivers, children, adults, the elderly, the disabled and others. One of the most important conflicts about space is the conflict between the need for its intensive use by human and the need to preserve natural resources – water, air, land, greenery, light and others. It is a conflict between economic growth and current consumption and the quality of life and the development of future generations.

The research that we have planned is aimed at identifying the factors that determine the choices made by local government between alternative ways of space using. Our project is unique because, using the interdisciplinary composition of the research team, we combine research tools for political science – knowledge about decision-making mechanisms in politics; research tools of economic sciences – statistical analyzes on changes in the levels of resources in which the analyzed territories are equipped; and research tools of geographic sciences – geographical information systems (GIS) and databases on changes in space management in Europe collected using satellite images.

This combination of disciplines and the composition of the research team allow us to refer the accumulated knowledge on the Polish space to knowledge about European space, which we will also collect during the research activities of this project. We compare the accumulated knowledge about changes in the space of Europe with the knowledge of changes in the space of the United States, because the adviser in the research team of this project is a person undertaking similar research for the space of selected states of North America.

As a result, we will answer the question of how to change local government systems in Europe so that officials and politicians are willing to make decisions that favor sustainable territorial development.