

Dualism in commune development in Poland in the context of policies and aspirations of local communities as well as external factors - compared to the chosen communities in EU

The project titled: ***Dualism in commune development in Poland in the context of policies and aspirations of local communities as well as external factors - compared to the chosen communities in EU*** attempts to address the issue of specific characteristics of development in the communes, where we can observe one of the dimensions of development dualism. It is an established tradition to divide the communes into poor and rich, active and passive, innovative and not innovative.

However, regardless of the prominent features of the communes they are subject to the same EU, country, and regional policies, expecting the same outcomes in all of the territorial units. It is often the case, that the local authorities and communities need external support in different areas than ones covered by the policies. The described project assumes that in order to better explain the development process in the territorial units it is necessary to study those aspirations of the local communities. We are convinced that the aspirations and determination enables the communes to develop despite the volatile external conditions (in the project we focus on Poland's accession to EU, and the economic crisis of 2008).

The project will attempt to answer the question of the essence of the development in different communes (36 case studies will be scrutinised in Poland along with their "twin" counter parts in the form of similar communes in EU). At the origin of our interest in the issue was a question, whether those communes which have remained among the poorest in Poland can be said to actually develop if their population is falling and aging? We conclude, that it is ill advised to use the traditional, the same for both big cities and small villages, measures of development.

The diversity of the communes development can stem from different types of dualism also investigated in other branches of science. In the project, we will try to select the communes in Poland, where a particular characteristic, one of the following pairs, is prominent: "prosperity - poverty", "activity - passivity", "innovation - imitation", "self-employment - contractual work", "core - periphery", "accessible space - inaccessible space". We plan to analyse more deeply the groups of 25 communes representing each characteristic above (constituting 1% of the communes in Poland). In those communes some specific processes are present, which should be in the centre of attention if we want to explain those differences, e.g. in terms of economic potential in Poland.

The project involves an array of statistical methods, but as a main source of information will serve the in-depth interviews and the surveys among the representatives of the communes. We will study both the aspirations and the approach to the development declared by the representatives of the "quadruple helix" which comprises: administration, business, scientific community and local community.

The implementation of a different understanding of dualism will inspire the further works on innovative, multidimensional, complementary, and complex approach to the understanding and studying developmental dualism of communes in Poland.

We hope to:

- spark a discussion on sensible, less unified approach to the diversification of space;
- contribute to a debate on the models of development;
- identify the mechanisms responsible for following or changing of a particular development path with regard to quadruple helix in "most distinctive" communes, exhibiting the particular dimension of development dualism.

We aspire to offer a constructive criticism of prevalent measures of development and to draw some conclusions encompassing the character of the communes by describing it through the statistical data and the perspective of the aspirations of the local communities.