

RURAL-URBAN KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER – MODELS OF INTERDEPENDENCIES

Knowledge and its use are inseparable elements of human life. Regardless of the place of residence, type of economic activity or economic system, man benefits from the knowledge accumulated over time and uses it to achieve the desired goals. Nowadays, knowledge and its practical application are becoming increasingly important as the ability to create and absorb knowledge is a major factor in economic development, including its spatial dimension. Knowledge is an attribute of the inhabitants of a given region and is identified with the overall information that its people and institutions possess, including the ability to use it. The role of knowledge in the countryside, as in any other territory, is considerable. It may be an important factor influencing the transformation and processes taking place in rural areas. However, the conversion of knowledge into economic resources in rural areas is often impeded by the lack of formal competences of its inhabitants.

The main objective of this project is to develop models of interdependencies in rural-urban knowledge transfer, in particular between migrants and non-migrants (or "newcomers" and "oldtimers").

The four specific objectives to achieve the main aim are:

- the identification and diagnosis of groups of newcomers and the forms of their migration to the countryside;
- to define the categories and types of knowledge to be transferred;
- the identification of dominant directions and intensity of knowledge transfer;
- to determine the consequences of knowledge transfer for both groups and for the countryside.

The essence of the project is the importance of interactions between residents moving to the countryside (temporarily or permanently) and the local community. Different categories of people migrate to the countryside and different categories of people live in the countryside. However, the common feature of migrations is the **contact between two different social groups and the reconfiguration of social space**. Newcomers, usually having different life experiences, role models and competences, may constitute new and different sources of knowledge from those existing in the countryside. At the same time, a local community with its own competencies, together with an excellent knowledge of local conditions, customs and specifics, can also be an important source of knowledge for people inflowing to the countryside.

The project therefore assumes the possibility of **four model knowledge transfer situations**, but these are simplified, basic and hypothetical patterns and the research also assumes the analysis of relations going beyond the below model situations:

- one-way relations 1 "oldtimers → newcomers";
- one-way relations 2 "newcomers → oldtimers";
- two-way relations (mutual exchange of knowledge);
- no relations.

The research will be carried out in villages not included in 58 currently delimited Functional Urban Areas in Poland. This restriction is aimed at eliminating areas under strong suburbanization pressure.

The proposed studies will be theoretical, cognitive and application oriented. The theoretical objective is primarily related to the description and spatial execution of the typology of possible interactions in the knowledge transfer between oldtimers and newcomers. The results of the empirical research will bring cognitive value in terms of identification of places and forms in which newcomers settle in rural areas, identify the intensity and direction of the dominant knowledge transfer and map the categories and types of this knowledge. Attention will also be given to practical implications, by identifying the consequences of ongoing knowledge transfer interactions for newcomers and oldtimers.

The study plans to adopt a **multiple, case-study research design**, with a minimum of 20 local settings (villages) being investigated. Data collection will follow a mixed-method approach.

The planned outcome of the research is the submission of **several articles to international journals** (included in the 'Web of Sciences' and Scopus databases), to popularize and discuss research results at international and national conferences and on social media (including Academia, Research Gate, and on Facebook).