

Influence of internal migrations on socio-economic development of Poland after 1989

The main goal of the project is to establish regularities in the field of internal migration in Poland in the years 1989-2020 on the basis of a unique matrix of registration of population, covering all registered population movements. This database contains 3.5 million records by 11 million events, including since 2012 data on the structure of migration by sex and age (broken down into 18 five-year groups). This unique database has been accumulated in cooperation with the Central Statistical Office and thanks to it, it is finally possible in Poland to examine more thorough migration processes throughout the country according to a uniform methodology in a long time frame.

Research would be the first in Poland on such a scale and in such spatial detail after 1989. Research results would finally break the cognitive impasse that characterizes the state of knowledge about internal migration in Poland. Despite many works on this subject, unfortunately there is still no comprehensive study that would answer key questions related not only to the recognition of directions and intensity of migration, but the place and role of contemporary migrations in Poland in theoretical concepts of such basic processes as urbanization or metropolisation. The weakness of the migration acquis (also the author's previous works) results from the fact that migration statistics in Poland are poor, it does not cover all displacements and until recently obtaining detailed flow matrices was either not possible or very expensive. Hence, at last, there is a fantastic opportunity to deepen research on internal migration in Poland after 1989.

The cognitive goal in the sense of understanding the processes is to gain new knowledge about the migration component in the development of various types of areas, including settlement centers. It is a natural extension and continuation of earlier migration research, conducted since the 1960s and 1970s, and inspired especially by Professor Kazimierz Dziewoński and his disciples. Therefore, the analysis is not "suspended in a vacuum", the background and starting point are numerous studies on migration, settlement systems and urbanization carried out in various geographical centers in Poland.

From a cognitive point of view, research has answer the question whether regularities and directions of population displacement can be seen, especially in relation to individual hierarchical levels of the settlement system. This is a very important problem, because it means not only the detection of regularity and the possible "inclusion" of observed processes in existing or building new hierarchical migration models, but also a certain predictability of migration processes. Particularly interesting seems to be the answer to the question whether the hierarchical model of population movements observed in previous decades (Dziewoński et al. 1981, Rykiel 1985) has been maintained or has given way to a more disaggregated structure, or focused around flows to the largest centers (metropolisation) from the smallest settlement units, bypassing intermediate stages (partial, random results could indicate this: Śleszyński 2018). Similarly, there is no research confirming or denying Poland's transition to the next stage of migration, i.e. the growing importance of inter-metropolitan or inter-city migrations (Korcelli 1997).

The methodological goal of the project tries to break various types of restrictions and propose new or improve existing research methods related to the delimitation of urban functional areas (Śleszyński 2013), functional classification of communes (Śleszyński and Komornicki 2016), or an indicator of migration attractiveness (Śleszyński 2018). Practical goals are related to the application of research in regional policy and spatial planning. The analyzes will provide the basis for a better understanding of the processes taking place, and thus for drawing more likely conclusions regarding regional development. As a result, it should be possible to use space more efficiently and in line with needs, taking into account existing and expected migration processes. Research results should also be used in demographic projections and projections. The issue of determining the role of migration in the processes of depopulation and urban sprawl is of particular importance here.