

The presented research focuses on residential multilocality (also known as multilocal living) in Poland and its impact on sustainable spatial management. The topic investigated results from the observation of changes that occur in the spatial behaviour of the population and in the ways of living. They stem from a changing lifestyle and work style, accompanied by the development of telecommunications technologies and faster means of transport, but are also closely related to the reduction in the number of affordable housing, rising costs of living in cities, and a spatially concentrated labour market. Nowadays, our spatial behaviour is additionally modified by the Covid 19 pandemic. Residential multilocality is understood as the alternating or simultaneous implementation of intentions in two or more places of residence. It is a specific spatial-temporal organization that mediates between the needs of various spheres of life (usually work and leisure) and the needs resulting from relationships with other people (usually families), which cannot be satisfactorily satisfied in one place. How is the multilocality perspective different from the former residential studies? This approach can help avoid the idea of a static and closed network and instead emphasize movement flow and new interrelationships between spaces.

From the perspective of geographical studies, the concept of multilocality is an important and complementary research approach. Modern research based solely on statistics on permanent residence does not provide a full picture of the functioning of residents in space. Including the concept of multilocal living arrangements in the research creates an opportunity to understand where people temporarily live during the year, their rhythm and duration of stay, their relationship with the environment and community, or their impact on services both in the presence and absence. This knowledge seems to be of great importance for local authorities to be able to adequately respond to changing demands over time, for example, for social and health services, energy production, waste, and transport, and to seek innovative ways of sustainable spatial management. Moreover, research on multilocality can help in understanding spatial inequalities in access to goods and services (e.g. transport or digital exclusion) and social factors of exclusion (e.g. gender). In addition, it offers an alternative perspective for research into urbanization and rural depopulation. It assumes that there are no simple rural-city relations, but a diversified network of connections integrating the inhabitants of both spaces. Research that focuses on residential multilocality is carried out in European countries but has not been undertaken more broadly in Poland. This project tries to fill this gap.

The first aim of the project is to assess the advancement of the phenomenon of multilocal living and the socio-spatial effects related to residential multilocality. The second goal is to identify how the problem of residential multilocality is perceived by local authorities representatives. The aim is also to evaluate empirical research methods and propose the most appropriate approach for Polish research. The practical goal is to identify the tools available to municipalities to respond to the phenomenon of residential multilocality.

The proposed project assumes an exploratory approach and openness to successively acquired data. To achieve the set goals, I will analyse the information obtained in two ways: 1. from multilocal residents (based on surveys and geobiographical interviews); 2. from of the communes that will be selected for the study (based on statistical and spatial data, including geolocation data, data from 'sharing platforms', interviews with experts and my own field research). The proposed research assumes the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods.

In the first place, the project will bring results in the cognitive dimension. It will allow 1. to deepen the knowledge about the types and spatial patterns of behaviour of multilocal residents, which take into account changes over time and mutual relations between places of residence; 2. understanding the socio-spatial effects of multilocalities on municipalities and the factors contributing to or constraining residential multilocality. In addition, we will learn how local authorities react to this phenomenon and whether there are tools that allow municipalities to respond to the challenges related to temporary residence of inhabitants. The project leads to the proposition of initial solutions consistent with the principles of sustainable development, dynamically adapting to the changing demand for services over time.

The results will be developed and made available in the form of two articles and one chapter of the book and at scientific conferences and conferences organized by representatives of local authorities.