
MAZOVIA QUO VADIS? THE PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

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ABSTRACT

The article is an introduction to the international experts panel, that took place during the conference “World – Europe – Poland: the Future of the Mazovia Region” organized in May 27-28, 2009. Main questions and problems that the panelists were focused on are presented. Possible approaches to the Mazovia Region development, as the region functioning within the system of European Union regions, are outlined. There are also three trajectories of this region development suggested for research: trajectory of OECD, World Bank, and transnational corporations. An issue of development dynamics of regions like Mazovia was raised. It was suggested to look at the Mazovia Region as a classical region experiencing dual mode development. The concept of diagnosis of the Mazovia Region transformation in the period of 1990 – 2010 is proposed and the question about the impact of the global crisis on the Mazovia Region development conditions is raised. In the prospective dimension development scenarios for the Mazovia Region for the period of 2010 – 2030 are proposed to discuss. In the last part of the article remarks on internal and external factors that impact development processes are presented.

Mazovia¹ Quo Vadis? is an holistic, dynamic and teleological question. The Panel should try to find the proper methodological framework how to answer questions of this type. Some elements of this framework are presented in the contributions [Kukliński 2009]² prepared by the Regio Futures Programme developed under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Regional Development. We are however interested in a grand panorama of global experiences in this field.

The panel of eminent international experts *Mazovia Quo Vadis?* is organized in the framework of a brainstorming conference initiated and implemented by the Regional Self Government of the Region of Mazovia (Mazowieckie Voivodeship) Hotel Victoria Warsaw May 27-28, 2009.

The hosts of the panel and the conference will sent to you a comprehensive set of materials analyzing the past and the future of Mazovia.

This Introductory paper is prepared in order to start a trajectory of the Pre-Conference discussion and a network of thinking leading to the **preparation of a grand study *Mazovia Quo Vadis? Experiences and prospects of the years 1990-2030***³. In the very initial stage of our

¹ The most important part of the Mazovian Region is the Metropolitan Area of Warsaw.

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³ The *Mazovia Quo Vadis?* Study should test the framework of the Corpo-Regio Programme as proposed by Antoni Kukliński compare [Kukliński, Pawłowski 2005; Strzelecki 1999]. Please see also the place of Mazovia in the European System of Regions [Jakubowska et al. 2007; OECD 2008a, 45]. Please see the transformation of Mazovia [Kukliński, Skuza 2003, 367; 2006, 261].

discussion let us concentrate our attention around the following questions and problems:

- I. Mazovia in the system of regions of the European Union.
- II. Mazovia as an element of the global scene.
- III. The Regional dynamics of Mazovia.
- IV. Mazovia as an classical example of a dual Region.
- V. The diagnosis of the transformation of Mazovia in the years 1990-2010.
- VI. Mazovia in the dramatic years of the great global crisis 2008-2012.
- VII. The scenarios of the development of Mazovia in the years 2010-2030.
- VIII. The development of Mazovia as an object of endogenic and exogenic strategic reflexion.

This is only a preliminary list of questions which may emerge in our Panel discussion
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Mazovia in the system of regions of the European Union

In the volume *The future of European Regions* [Jakubowska et al. 2007] we find an Appendix – characteristics of European NUTS 2 regions. The Mazovian Office for Regional Planning is preparing an updated version of this Appendix with a particular attention to the place of Mazovia in this system. In the next stages we will develop an innovative typology of European Regions which will add some new cognitive dimensions in relation to the conventional approaches of the European Commission and OECD.

The Eurostat is concentrating its attention only in the field of structural information, this means in our field the landscape of regional structures in Europe. The huge domain of interregional flows of persons, commodities, capital, knowledge, innovation and information is almost non existent in Eurostat and in the statistical information published at the national level.

Europe is however not only a system of structural regions, it is also a system of nodal regions. This route of enquiring will be outlined in the presentation of Andrzej Wierzbicki, who will introduce some reflexions and materials related to Mazovia as an nodal region.

Mazovia as an element of the global scene

There are three trajectories to see Mazovia as an actor of the global scene.

- a) The trajectory of OECD
- b) The trajectory of the World Bank
- c) The trajectory of the transnational corporations.

The Trajectory of the OECD

We have a splendid publication of OECD competitive cities in the global economy [OECD2006] which is an useful source to see the global framework in the comparative evaluation of the performance of the Warsaw Metropolitan Region.

An important dimension of the OECD trajectory is the Territorial Review [OECD 2008b] of Poland where we find the presentation of the performance of Polish Regions including Mazovia (mazowieckie).

The trajectory of the World Bank

The best geopolitical and geophilosophical background to see the Mazovian Region in a global perspective is the World Bank Development Report 2009 and especially the chapter Reshaping Economic Geography [World 2008]. Mazovia has no choice, it must be an actor of the global scene of the XXI century. The World Bank Report is the best presentation of this scene.

The transnational corporations

In 2005 I have proposed to establish a Corpo-Regio Programme – A Programme of Strategic Partnership of Corporations and Regions [Corpo-Regio 2005]. Now we have an excellent opportunity to test the concept of Corpo-Regio in the evaluation of diagnostic and prospective experiences of Mazovia. The presence of TNC on the territory of Warsaw and Mazovia is very strong. We can prepare a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of this presence. The Panel could present some methodological suggestions in this field [Jakubowska et al. 2007, 482].

Mazovia is an element of the global scene. In this context we can formulate a dramatic question – how Mazovia will survive the great global crisis 2008-2012?

The Regional dynamics of Mazovia.

Only dynamic regions will be successful actors of the global scene of the XXI century. In the Panel we need some reflexion concerning regional dynamism and regional dynamics [Świtalski 2007]. How to analyze the processes and structures which are creating or destroying the dynamics of a region. Mazovia as a possible example?

We need a lot of knowledge, imagination and moral courage to present a comprehensive and honest diagnosis and prospective judgment in this field.

Is it possible for the members of the Panel to support the thesis that the drama of dynamism (dynamic development) is the crucial drama of Mazovia of the XXI century. If you reject this thesis please formulate an alternative thesis, expressing the crucial drama of Mazovia of the XXI century.

Mazovia is a classical example of a dual Region

Mazovia is a deeply differentiated region. These differences have the quality of long duration and systemic interaction changing the set of differences into a developmental

gap separating the experiences of the Metropolitan Area of Warsaw and the eastern part of the Mazovian Region. **We can say, that inside the Mazovian Region we discover a center periphery gap** [Amoroso 2008]. In more mild terms this phenomenon is described in the following sentence of the Strategy [Strategy 2006, 13, 17]. „Contrary to the generally speaking favorable situation of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship a spatial differentiation of the development process is a serious problem“. This strategy is presenting on strategic answer „A realistic scenario for the cohesive Mazovia“. This strategy is a very great challenge for the Region of Mazovia. We have to remember that in some opinions in the performance of the Metropolitan Regions we observe a trend of growing intermetropolitan cooperation in the global scale and a diminishing trend of mutual relationship linking the metropolitan region and the surrounding non metropolitan area (compare the contributions of Grzegorz Gorzelak). **If this observation is realistic, then the „cohesive Mazovia“ policies will face a very difficult environment.** The comment of the Members of the Panel will be highly appreciated both in theoretical and pragmatic dimensions.

The diagnosis of the transformation of Mazovia in the years 1990-2010

The opus, The glory and misery of the transformation of Mazovia is not yet written. **Mazovia and especially Warsaw was an very important element of the succes of the great transformation of Poland at the turn of the XX and XXI century** [Kukliński 2001]. Mazovia has emerged as the leading Polish Region in economic, political, social and cultural dimensions. This means not that Poland is a monocentric country dominated by Mazovia. Poland is an example of a polycentric country where the leading region is *primus inter pares*. Mazovia and especially Warsaw was very successful in the processes of adaptation to the changing European and global scene.

Mazovia is functioning well in the structures of the European Union. This means not that we are forgetting the misery of the transformation of Poland including Mazovia and Warsaw. The most important part of this misery is the strong deficiency of long term strategic polices and the deficiency of long term comprehensive innovation and science polices [Kukliński 2007].

We should also mention the deficiency of the processes which would transform the Polish society into a future oriented society able to function successfully facing the dramatic change of the global scene of the XXI century.

Polonia Restituta of the years 1990-2010 was able only partially to use the chances created by God and History. Too much social, political and cultural energy was spent in the field of short term thinking and problems too little in the field to create the knowledge based economy and society of the future.

Mazovia in the dramatic years of the great global crisis 2008-2012

It is an open question, how the global crisis of the years 2008-2012 will transform the map of the European Union, how the power of the crisis will be expressed in the more and less

developed regions, in the regions of the European center and in the regions of the European periphery.

The question is related also to the fate of Polish Regions and especially to the fate of Mazovia. **How to outline the chances of Mazovia to survive the crisis in relatively good shape. To what extent the crisis will change the relative position of Mazovia in Poland and in the European Union.** Can we expect that the map of strong and weak regions in Europe Anno Domini 2015 will be deeply changed in relation to the map Anno Domini 2008.

The scenarios of the development of Mazovia in the years 2010-2030

The present crisis should not destroy our ability to see the scenarios of the Future. We should read once more the document: „The Development strategy [Strategy 2006] for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship” and answer the question if the present global crisis is only a temporal disturbance of the path of development of Mazovia or if the present crisis is a total destruction of this path. I am convinced that we should not be overwhelmed by the pessimistic vision and support the prospective thesis, that the basic assumptions of the Development Strategy of Mazovia will survive the time of crisis and will be implemented in the Future.

The members of the Panels are invited to express their judgment concerning the validity of the Document „Development strategy for the Mazowieckie Voivodeship (The Region of Mazovia)”

The development of Mazovia as an object of endogenic and exogenic strategic reflexion

Mazovia is an object of exogenic strategic reflexion of the European Union, OECD and of the Polish Governance acting in most cases via the Ministry of Regional Development. This exogenic reflexion is creating the external framework for the developmental strategies of Mazovia. In this external framework Mazovia is an element of the Polish system of regions, of the system of regions of European Union, and the system of regions of OECD. However the development of Mazovia is deeply embedded in the internal structures of the Regions represented by the Self Government of Mazovia [Strategy 2006].

This Self Government is a source of endogenic strategic reflexion documented inter alia in the already quoted „Development Strategy for Mazovia” [Regional 2007, 478].

Our Panel will create a bridge linking this strategy, with the Regio-Futures Programme promoted by the Ministry for Regional Development. The integration of the exogenic and endogenic strategic reflexion can be seen as a source of new innovative approaches in the interpretation of the Future of Mazovia. This is the most general let us say the philosophical mission of our Panel.

Conclusion

We hope that the Panel *Mazovia Quo Vadis?* will be a really brainstorming Panel⁴. **This Panel will be a test of our ability of creative thinking about the historical experiences and prospects for the Future of Mazovia as a dynamic element of the Polish, European and Global Space.** „Now the judgment is yours Ladies and Gentleman.”

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⁴ In the panel and in the Post Conference publication we will concentrate our attention around the methodology and theory of the question *Mazovia Quo Vadis?* in a comparative framework of the broader questions *Europa Quo Vadis?* and *Mundus Quo Vadis?* For a general futurological background for the panel *Mazovia Quo Vadis?* please see [Kukliński, Pawłowski 2008; World 2008].

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STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł jest wprowadzeniem do panelu międzynarodowych ekspertów, jaki odbył się w czasie konferencji *Świat – Europa – Polska. Przyszłość Mazowsza*, zorganizowanej w Warszawie w dniach 27-28 maja 2009 roku. Przedstawiono w nim główne pytania i problemy, które dyskutowali uczestnicy panelu. W artykule zarysowano możliwe podejścia do rozwoju Mazowsza jako regionu funkcjonującego w systemie regionów Unii Europejskiej. Zarysowano także problematykę umiejscowienia Mazowsza na scenie globalnej według perspektywy OECD, Banku Światowego i transnarodowych korporacji. W artykule zasygnalizowana została kwestia dynamiki rozwoju regionów takich jak Mazowsze. Mazowsze zostało także przedstawione do dyskusji jako klasyczny region o dualnym rozwoju. W artykule zaproponowana została również koncepcja przeprowadzenia diagnozy transformacji Mazowsza w latach 1990-2010 oraz postawione zostało pytanie o wpływ globalnego kryzysu na rozwój Mazowsza. W warstwie prospektywnej przedstawiona do dyskusji została kwestia scenariuszy rozwojowych Mazowsza w latach 2010-2030. W końcowej części znalazły się uwagi na temat wpływu czynników o charakterze endogenicznym i egzogenicznym na rozwój Mazowsza.

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