

---

# The Most Attractive Opportunities for the Mazovian Region

---

Andrzej Karpiński

---

## ABSTRACT

The article is a short evaluation of the "Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030. Mazovia as on Innovative Region". Five priority's areas as promising opportunities for the future of the region are discussed.

---

After becoming acquainted with the study "Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030. Mazovia as on Innovative Region" I can state that the suggested directions of development and reconstruction of the Mazovian region for the future are in my view proper and the most prospective. Among other reasons, this stems from the fact, that these proposals correspond with the global trends in the world economy.

In this situation my proposal focuses not on a suggestion of changes or supplements to the text but improvement of precision and to make it easier to put into practice.

From this point of view the strongest emphasis should be placed on specific features of society, the geopolitical location and socio-economic structure of the region. In these areas it is the easiest to find comparative superiority over partners on the domestic and foreign market.

On the basis this assumption, 5 areas require the most attention in the region.

1. The most attractive opportunity for the Mazovian region is the exceptionally high, and in fact the highest in the country, concentration in the region of science institutions and R&D services. Over 58% of the personnel working in this field on a national scale are employed in the Mazovian region. It is the greatest specific feature of the region and its best advantage.

This potential can be further developed and better used than in the past 25 years. In this first direction 3 undertakings should be taken into account.

The first – considering setting up a new technical university in Warsaw. It should be focused not only on teaching and theoretical issues but primarily on putting into practical operation the most up to date and latest technologies. It should emulate the American experience, based on the model of the US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The second – considering the proposal put forward by the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, M. Kleiber, to set up a Science and Technology Park within the Warsaw area.

The third – considering the possibility of radically expanding the system of grants (scholarships) partially financed by the Mazovian self-government, for studies of high practical significance for the region.

However, the use of science and innovation for the development of the region to a maximum possible level requires the most up to date productive base in industry. This is the fundamental condition for use of the technology and innovation on an industrial scale, it is of specific importance for the region because the most profound “backward restructuring” among all 16 Polish voivodships took place in Mazovia in the last 25 years. This means that the share of most modern industries is shrinking instead of increasing and is therefore one of the most disadvantageous features of the last 25 years in the region. It can be related to lack of control over transformation of industry itself and areas where industry has been located. Therefore, creation of the latest industrial capacity in the region should be the most important regional priority. Otherwise, the main area of economy in the region would be an intermediary activity in the turnover of goods which were produced in other regions or imported. This is disadvantageous position in the event of a crisis or deterioration in the business cycle.

2. The second opportunity is to increase the level of specialization in industrial activity. In the past the beginning of such a process commenced with a complex approach to the production of tractors. Now, after transformation, the region has no specialization and shows lack of a “brand” which could determine the role of the region in the national industrial production and on the foreign markets. There are several assumptions that the area where it would be possible to create such specialization might prove to be in the high technology industries.
3. The third potential area of opportunity for the region is connected with the size of the region. The Mazovian region is the largest among 16 Polish voivodships in terms of both area and population. This gives it the scope for more complex and self-contained strategy and policy than in the other voivodships. This is one of the specific features of the region. The other is that the region comprises the most ex-provincial capitals that existed in the framework of the former territorial reform. Therefore, if this advantage is to be utilized more integration is necessary with the sub-regions and with local centers. It makes the reconstruction of formerly existing links between these centers both essential and urgent. It wouldn't be possible without the reconstruction of mass /commuter/ transportation, which existed in the past. I realize that it is more of a capital-intensive investment but it is necessary nevertheless.
4. The fourth opportunity open to the region is closer integration with the European Infrastructure. The specifics of the region is Mazovia's location on the intersection of the intra-European infrastructure. It requires the construction of our part of the high-speed Paris – Moscow railway line and of the Warsaw-Moscow motorway. It would allow to reduce the motor-car transit east – west. But it would be a very expensive capital outlay and possible only in very favourable conditions.
5. The fifth opportunity for the region is to introduce a more conscious and active immigration policy. Here, Warsaw, a great European capital, which has metropolitan attractions has a great advantage. This is specific to the region. It opens up the possibility to create the type of jobs which would attract ex-pats (people who are prepared to leave their home

country to gain better employment conditions) and for other representatives of the creative profession on one hand and for the elderly, not professionally active population on the other.

To sum up, one can state that the further we proceed in the above-mentioned directions, the better the chances for the region's success.

---

**Najlepsze propozycje rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego w świetle Strategii rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego do 2030 roku.**

**STRESZCZENIE**

Artykuł jest krótką oceną *Strategii rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego do 2030 roku. Innowacyjne Mazowsze*. Przedstawiono w nim uwagi na temat 5 priorytetowych obszarów działań, które można uznać za szanse dla Mazowsza na przyszłość.

---

---

**prof. dr hab. Andrzej Karpiński**, *For many years member, then scientific secretary and Deputy Chairman of the Forecasting Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences „Poland 2000 Plus”, the author of several books on economic policies and studies on the future development / wieloletni członek, później sekretarz naukowy i zastępca przewodniczącego Prognoz Polskiej Akademii Nauk „Polska 200 plus”, autor wielu książek na tematy polityki gospodarczej i przemysłowej oraz studiów nad przyszłością.*