

---

## FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

---

The latest volume of the *MAZOVIA Regional Studies* journal contains articles focused on development programming and planning as well as development management at different levels, from local through regional to global. The themes of the articles are within the broad field of public policies. This volume has been prepared in English in order to reach a broader audience, which we want to provide with information on regional development related issues seen from the Polish perspective. We want to present current problems and dilemmas of development and inform readers about interesting research activities and publications.

Presentation of this volume during the *2015 Open Days* in Brussels is intended to be an invitation directed to researchers, experts, representatives of local and regional authorities, planners and other stakeholders from all over Europe to publish the results of their research, to share their achievements or to present plans and concepts concerning general or specific problems related to regional development.

*MAZOVIA Regional Studies* is published by the Mazovian Office for Regional Planning (MORP). MORP conducts studies on the development of the region of Mazovia, prepares key planning documents including the region's development strategy and spatial development plan, cooperates with research institutions, is involved in international research programs, and cooperates with other planning offices in Europe, among others, from regions of Amsterdam, Helsinki, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Stuttgart, Stockholm and Sofia. MORP is also a member of the METREX. We publish *MAZOVIA Regional Studies* with the intention of making the journal a platform for discussion and exchange of experience both for practitioners and those who deal with the theory of spatial and economic planning.

Each volume of *MAZOVIA Regional Studies* is divided into 3 parts: *Analysis and studies*, *Self-government* and *Miscellaneous*. Topics and the format of articles and other materials to be published in different parts are described on the website [mazowszestudiaregionalne.pl](http://mazowszestudiaregionalne.pl).

The opening article of this volume by Zbigniew Strzelecki is a discussion of regional policy in Poland in the years 2004-2013. In addition to theoretical considerations it contains a description of the circumstances of this policy, its evaluation and perspectives for the future. The European dimension of regional development appears in an article by Roman Szul, which addresses the phenomenon of regionalism as a form of integration in the context of the European Union development. Subsequent articles in this part concern the phenomenon of urban sprawl in the metropolitan area of Warsaw (Tomasz Sławiński, Maciej Sulmicki), the issue of leadership in building a civil society and participatory democracy and the role of women in these processes (Paulina Legutko-Kobus, Ewa Jastrzębska), as well as the impact of the information civilization on the labor market in Poland (Andrzej Karpinski). The second part of the volume – *Self-government* – includes articles devoted to the Mazovia region devel-

opment strategy. The first article presents the region's development policy in the context of other strategic documents, setting out the conditions and assumptions of development policy (Adam Struzik). In the article by Elżbieta Kozubek the reader will find a concise description of the regional development strategy: the conceptual vision of the development, structure, goals and ways to achieve them. Evaluation of the development strategy is presented in the next two articles. Krzysztof Opolski and Sylwia Marciszewska present critical reflections on the content of the strategy and possible development scenarios that determine the achievement of the goals formulated in the strategy. Andrzej Karpinski points out in his article opportunities, the use of which is crucial for the development of the region. This part of the volume also contains an article with a brief description of experience related to the research project "Development Trends of Mazovia Region" (DTMR), its results and how they were used in programming and planning the development of the region. The third part of the volume begins with two articles on very important and current topics. The first one is the division of the region into NUTS units; the second topic is a financial compensation mechanism, the use of which has led the Mazovia region to the brink of bankruptcy, limiting its potential for growth (two articles by Krzysztof Kacperski). Michał Hackiewicz in the subsequent article describes the changes in the aviation market, focusing on the analysis of changes in development policy of airports, which, in order to increase their competitiveness, are increasing the range of functions offered. Book reviews are presented at the end of volume two. The first review written by Elżbieta Mączyńska concerns a book on the sensitivity of Polish regions to the challenges of the modern global economy. This exceptionally interesting book presents the impact of external development conditions on the formulation of regional development policy in Poland. In the second book review Mirosław Grochowski presents a book, which contains the results of studies on the assumptions and the process leading to identification of smart specialization in Polish regions.

In encouraging you to read this volume I also cordially invite you to cooperate with the Mazovian Office for Regional Planning in the creation of this journal, to make it a lively platform for the exchange of information, ideas and concepts for practitioners and planning theoreticians.

*Editor in Chief*  
*Professor Zbigniew Strzelecki*