

50th issue of the scientific journal “MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne”

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The scientific journal “MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne” (MAZOVIA Regional Studies – MSR) has been published since 2008 by the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw (MBPR), a unit of the Regional Government of Mazovia, making it the only scientific journal in Mazovia to be published by a local or regional government. 2024 is a special year for Mazovia, as it marks the 25th year of the regional government’s functioning.¹ In 2024, the Regional Government of Mazovia can also be proud of one more anniversary – the printing of the 50th issue of MSR.

MSR covers issues of key importance to the region, but also of relevance to all of Poland. Much space in the journal was devoted to attempts to divide Mazovia into two separate regions, articles were published on various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the functioning of society, and – more recently – on the war in Ukraine. For 17 years, scientists and specialists have been contributing articles about spatial planning and development, law and economics, regional development, ecology and the natural environment, as well as cultural identity and art. During those years, hundreds of articles and reviews have passed through the editorial staff, editors-in-chief have changed, the frequency of publications increased from 2 to 4 issues a year, the cover was refreshed, and the layout of the magazine and its website changed twice. MSR, though initially inconspicuous, eventually became a periodical recognized in the country, included in lists of scientific journals and indexed in databases of humanities and social sciences journals.

There are many stories to tell.

History

The first issue of the “MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne” journal was published at the end of 2008, but the idea itself was born a few years earlier. As Adam Struzik, the Marshal of the Mazovia Region, recalls in the foreword to the 25th issue of MSR, it was

¹ In 1998, the Polish Parliament implemented a reform of public administration, including the system of local and regional government, dividing the country into regions, counties and municipalities – independent of each other and of the national government. Thus, on January 1, 1999, the Mazovia Region was established as one of 16 new regions.

as early as 2005, during the 1st Mazovian Forum, that he pointed out the need for cooperation between the Mazovian regional government and the scientific community.² That's when the idea was born of publishing a magazine dedicated to disseminating the achievements of Mazovian scientists and dealing with issues related to Mazovia. The idea was implemented by prof. dr. hab. Zbigniew Strzelecki, the director of the MBPR. In the same year, the Management Board of the Mazovia Region decided to launch a scientific journal called "MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne" and commissioned its publication to the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw. On October 9, 2007, MSR was entered into the Register of newspapers and periodicals administered by the Warsaw-Praga District Court. Professor Zbigniew Strzelecki became the first editor-in-chief.



Fig. 1. Adam Struzik, the Marshal of Mazovia, holds a copy of MSR

Source: MBPR archive

Although MSR was foreseen from the start as a quarterly publication, for the first few years the magazine was published semi-annually; it was not until 2017 that the plan was implemented and since then 4 issues of MSR have been published every year.

The original version of the magazine is the paper edition (ISSN³ 1689-4774). The magazine is distributed free of charge among major scientific institutions throughout the country and in most libraries in Mazovia. The MBPR is also keeping up with the

² A. Struzik, 2018, *Słowo wstępne*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 25, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, p. 9.

³ ISSN – International Standard Serial Number – a unique eight-digit identifier of serial publications, both ones published on paper and online. The ISSN is based on the same premises as the ISBN identifier for books and the ISAN for audiovisual materials.

times – in 2015 it joined CrossRef - Publishers International Linking Association Inc. (PILA) and received a DOI number.⁴ Since then, every article published in MSR receives a unique digital object identifier, guaranteeing durability and ensuring a permanent link, regardless of changes in metadata or file location. All the issues of MSR, including those published before the implementation of DOI, are also available free of charge (as open access) on the journal's website: mazowszestudiaregionalne.pl.

Taking into account such online accessibility, the publisher is also considering a more sustainable model of distribution, i.e. a reduction in the number of printed copies.



Fig. 2. MSR covers, issues 1 to 14
Source: own work by MBPR

⁴ DOI – Digital Object Identifier – an identifier of electronic documents which, unlike URL identifiers, is permanently assigned to the document, regardless of its web address location. The MSR DOI number is: 10.21858/msr.

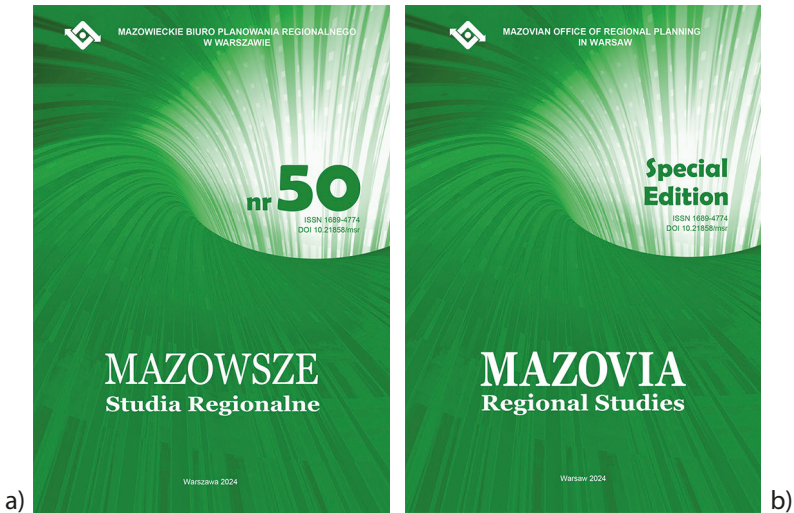


Fig. 3. MSR covers after the change of graphic layout: a) Polish edition, b) English edition

Source: own work by MBPR

The Editorial Board and Editorial Team

The Editorial Board of the “MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne” journal brings together outstanding minds from several research centers and universities in Poland and abroad. Its members include: prof. dr hab. Jacek Szlachta from the Warsaw School of Economics, prof. Lydia Coudroy de Lille from the Université de Lyon, prof. dr hab. Alina Maciejewska from the Warsaw University of Technology, prof. dr hab. Alojzy Z. Nowak – Rector of the University of Warsaw, dr hab. prof. Aleksandra Nowakowska from the University of Łódź, prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Opolski from the University of Warsaw, prof. dr hab. Joachim Osiński from the Warsaw School of Economics, dr Hendrik Pieter Ritzema, Assistant Professor from the Dutch Wageningen University, ks. prof. dr hab. Henryk Skorowski from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, prof. dr hab. Paweł Swianiewicz from the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, dr hab. Barbara Szulczewska, prof. SGGW, from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, dr hab. n. tech. Artur Zaguła from the Łódź University of Technology, prof. nadzw. dr hab. n. med. Mirosław Ząbek from the Centre of Medical Postgraduate Education.

The MSR Editorial Team is chaired by Marshal Adam Struzik – the originator of the magazine. The deputy chairman is dr Elżbieta Kozubek, Director of the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw which publishes MSR. Prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Opolski from University of Warsaw – serves as the editor-in-chief. Barbara Jaworska-Księżak is the editorial team’s long-time secretary, responsible for cooperation with authors and reviewers, as well as the editing and proofreading of texts.

Journal profile

MSR was established to promote the results of research on the development of Mazovia, conducted by Mazovian scientific centers and scientists from Mazovia. Initially, the thematic selection of materials was looser – a link between the author or topic and Mazovia was sufficient. Since 2014, the thematic profile of the journal has been aligned with that of its publisher which specializes in the fields of spatial planning and regional development. Thus, the materials published in MSR have focused on public policy, a discipline belonging to the field of social sciences, officially recognized in Poland since October 1, 2011. Despite the main part of the journal's title referring to MAZOVIA, the content is not limited to articles directly referring to the region. The journal is oriented towards studies and comparative analyses dealing with various aspects of both Mazovia and other parts of Poland. This is a consequence of the journal's subtitle: Regional Studies. The articles published include case studies intended to identify best practice, models of regional policy and research and development. They are thus relevant not just in terms of scientific theory, but also useful in practical implementation.

Each issue of MSR is divided into three sections: I. Analyses and Studies, II. Self-government and III. Miscellaneous. Section I presents studies, analyses and the results of research conducted by research institutions and academic centers; in section II are published analyses, studies and expert opinions prepared by local and regional government units or cooperating experts. Section III is devoted to current events, presenting the profiles of people distinguished for Mazovia and reviews of works devoted to socio-economic issues.

The texts published are mainly in Polish, with summaries in Polish and English. The early Polish issues included some articles in English, not translated into Polish. Since 2015, the most interesting articles from a given year are translated and published in an English-language issue⁵ and additionally presented during the annual European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels. Publications in English serve to promote Polish scientists abroad and increase the prestige of the journal, improving its score in scientific journal databases.

Initially, 3 Polish and 1 English issues were published per year. Since 2021, in addition to 4 issues in Polish, the English special edition "MAZOVIA Regional Studies" is published, with separate numbering from the standard Polish edition.⁶

Issues and authors

In addition to the most frequent topics of spatial planning and regional development, a significant part of the articles in MSR concerns legal issues, changes in legislation, ambiguity of definitions, special Polish regulations facilitating construction (*specustawy*) and their impact on spatial development, or the "Polish Order" (*Polski Ład*) reforms.

⁵ The relevant issues were: No. 17 in 2015, No. 22 in 2017, No. 26 in 2018, No. 30 in 2019 and No. 33 in 2020.

⁶ These have so far been published in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Researchers publishing in MSR were interested in the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the socio-economic situation. In what the editors called "the COVID-19 section" were published, for example, texts about the situation of seniors during the lockdowns, the social importance of urban greenery, support for tourism by local tourist organizations, and even papers on vaccinations. The issue of waste management in the Mazovia Region is often discussed. Articles on this subject included ones dealing with medical waste, installations and devices for waste processing, and an analysis of fees for municipal waste management in Warsaw. Eco-positivity is expressed in texts about not wasting food, producing hydrogen from biomass and waste, and protecting wetlands in Poland. Employees of the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw who are published in MSR are particularly interested in bicycle and air transport, the production of energy and cultural identity. The last topic also appears in other MSR articles, among which particularly worthy of notice is the series *Kurpiowszczyzna. Przekształcenia krajobrazu osadniczego do czasu przystąpienia Polski do Unii Europejskiej* [*Kurpiowszczyzna. Transformations of the settlement landscape until Poland's accession to the European Union*].⁷ The publisher of MSR also does not shy away from bold topics, such as "LGBT-free zones" and nuclear energy.

However, the range of issues is much wider. Texts were published about children's playgrounds and the tradition of allotment gardens in Warsaw, parks in Paris, the architecture of Mazovian interiors from the second half of the 20th century and the Powązki Military Cemetery, contemporary neuro-oncology, the legacy of Frederic Chopin, etc. The editorial staff themselves often mention the article *Piękno – geneza i funkcje* [*The genesis and functions of beauty*]⁸ or *KALOS KAGATHOS In Memoriam Wojciech Mikołaj Zabłocki 1930–2020*.⁹

It should be noted that in 2019, Zbigniew Cieszkowski, an employee of the MBPR, took second place in the 3rd edition of the Professor Ludwik Straszewicz Competition for the Best Article in the Field of Socio-economic Geography and Spatial Management, organized by the Faculty of Geographical Sciences of the University of Łódź. The title of the paper was *Renewable sources of electricity in the Mazovia region*.¹⁰

⁷ The series was published in issues 35–40.

⁸ J.A. Pala, 2020, *Piękno – geneza i funkcje*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 32, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, pp. 173–180.

⁹ I. Grys, 2021, *KALOS KAGATHOS In Memoriam Wojciech Mikołaj Zabłocki 1930–2020*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 36, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, pp. 150–164.

¹⁰ Z. Cieszkowski, 2018, *Renewable sources of electricity in the Mazovia region*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 26, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, pp. 61–87.

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Renewable sources of electricity in the Mazovia region

Zbigniew Cieszkowski

ABSTRACT

The article discusses the development of renewable sources of electricity in the Mazovia region. The analysis focuses on the 2007–2017 period, making use of an updated 2014 study by the Mazovian Office for Regional Planning – *Rozwoj energetyki opartej na źródłach odnawialnych w województwie mazowieckim – stan i ujęciu* [The development of renewable energy sources in Mazovia – achievements and challenges]. The analytical part of the paper is preceded by information on the identified assets of renewable energy sources (RES) in the region and which parts of Mazovia are best suited for the development thereof. The legal conditions of exploiting RES are briefly discussed along with the resulting spatial planning and organizational activities of the Regional Government of Mazovia and local (municipal) governments. Statistical data is analyzed, with particular focus on information obtained from the Polish Central Statistical Office (GUS) and energy companies. Finally, the production and use of energy in Mazovia is set against other Polish regions and the development of renewable sources of electricity is discussed in the context of RES connected to the national energy grid.

Key words: renewable energy sources (RES), RES potential, climate and energy policy, RES support, installed power, National Power System (KSE), wind power, biomass, biogas, hydropower, solar power, geothermal energy, prosumer

Introduction

The European Union's modern, multifaceted climate and energy policy has been implemented in member countries, resulting in an organized, institutionalized support for the development and use of renewable energy sources. Formally, the policy was the result of the adoption in December 2008 of various documents, agreements and legal acts named the "Climate and energy package". The key goal of the package is to achieve the 3x20 targets: a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), a 20% improvement in energy efficiency and a 20% share of EU energy from renewables. Poland, as a member of the EU since 2004, has taken an active part in implementing the European climate and energy policy through legal, spatial planning and organizational activities as well as investments – on the national, regional and local level.

In Poland, a system of support for renewable sources of electricity (RSE) based on a crucial legal act on energy [*Ustawa z dnia 10 kwietnia 1997 r. Prawo energetyczne*] was prepared in 2006–2010, resulting in a dynamic growth of RSE. In 2010–2012 the production of renewable energy was profitable due to national subventions in the form of "green certificates". Since 2013 the conditions have rapidly grown worse, as the system of support for RSE turned out to be overregulated: the rapid increase in production of electricity from wind and biomass resulted

Fig. 4. Title page of the article *Renewable sources of electricity in the Mazovia region* by Zbigniew Cieszkowski

Source: MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 2018, no. 26, p. 61

Ethics and quality

The authors of articles in MSR are obliged to comply with the ethical principles applicable in the scientific world. The publisher requires that the materials presented in the journal are prepared in a reliable, transparent and honest manner. The authors therefore need to disclose all people, companies, state institutions, etc. which contributed to the creation of the work. Compliance with the basic principles of scientific ethics is also ensured by implementing procedures serving to protect against unfair competition, including plagiarism. All works are checked through the plagiat.pl website in terms of their authenticity and originality.

The editorial team pays attention to the high quality of the journal content. Articles are qualified for publication on the basis of anonymous reviews – each submitted text is subjected to a double-blind review process, in which the author and reviewer do not know each other's identities. Materials that do not receive the reviewer's approval or are not corrected in accordance with his comments cannot be published.

It is worth noting that the editorial office cooperates with reviewers from several dozen research institutions and universities throughout Poland. Such a wide representation of academic centers improves the journal's scores in databases, as well as its prestige.

Scientific scoring and indexation in databases

Since 2012, "MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne" has been included in the List of scientific journals kept by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, starting with a score of 2 points. Since 2023, it is included in the List of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences with a score of 20 points. It is also included in the ICI Journals Master List ranking. The magazine's score has a constant upward trend, from 3.5 points in 2012 to 77.06 in 2022.¹¹

The periodical is indexed in the following databases: ERIH PLUS – European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences, CEJSH – The Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, Bazhum – a Polish database of humanities and social sciences journals, PBN – Polska Bibliografia Naukowa (Polish scientific bibliography), Index Copernicus International World of Journals and the DOI search engine.

Some numbers and interesting facts

Although we are celebrating the publication of the 50th issue, 53 issues of MSR have actually left the printing house. This is a result of the special English edition ("MAZOVIA Regional Studies") being published since 2021 outside the system of continuous numbering, bearing just the year of publication. Taking this into account, 45 numbered issues were published in Polish, 5 in English and 3 as English-language special editions.

The journal has had three editors-in-chief. Professor Strzelecki was replaced in 2016 by dr inż. arch. Adriana Barbara Cieślak. Since 2018, this function has been held by prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Opolski.

The green cover alludes to the color scheme of the logo of its publisher – the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw: two green arrows, connected so as to form a rectangle and surrounding a yellow-green circle. The color green can also have various other meanings: it is sometimes associated with balance and harmony, brings peace of mind, and is a symbol of sustainable development and care for the environment. It may also bring to mind the color of Mazovian meadows.

¹¹ In 2021, the score reached 82.36 points.

A total of 460 articles appeared in all the issues of the magazine published so far, including over 60 in foreign languages.¹² The largest amount of texts was published in sections I. Analyses and Studies and II. Self-government (over 260 and over 100, respectively). The fewest articles appeared in section III. Miscellaneous – over 90. These, however, were the most diverse.

Over the 17-year history of the magazine, it has served as the place of publication of texts by 360 authors, including scientific studies and reports by MBPR employees.

In issue 41 was reprinted an original article from 1929 entitled *Uwagi o Polonji i zarys pracy* [Notes on Polonia and an outline of the work] by the Polish geographer, Professor Walenty Winid.¹³ The spelling of the time when it was written has been preserved in the text. The study, taken from the family archive, was also published, along with the professor’s biography, in a book entitled *Walenty Winid. Geograf Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [Walenty Winid. Geographer of the Second Polish Republic], written by Professor Jadwiga Winidowa, privately the daughter-in-law of Walenty Winid.

An interesting fact is that a paper about Val d’Europe – a young city in the Paris region, has been the only article published so far in MSR in French.¹⁴

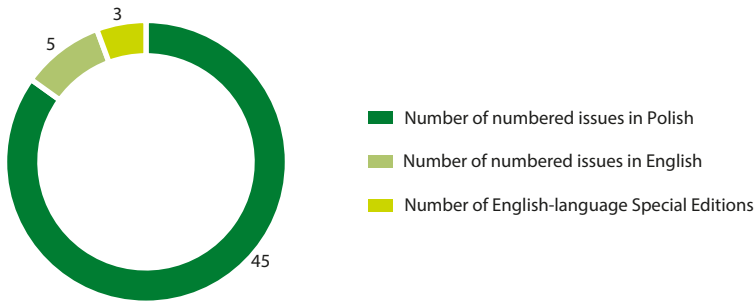


Fig. 5. Number of MSR issues by language

Source: own work by MBPR

¹² Some of the articles were printed in both Polish and foreign languages, which slightly distorts the statistics.

¹³ W. Winid, 2022, *Uwagi o Polonji i zarys pracy*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 41, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, pp. 67–83.

¹⁴ E. Muszyńska, E. Tomaszewska-Taton, 2019, *Val d’Europe – ville du XXI siècle*, MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne, 30, Mazowieckie Biuro Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie, Warszawa, pp. 11–32. The Polish translation of the article was published in 2021, in issue 39.

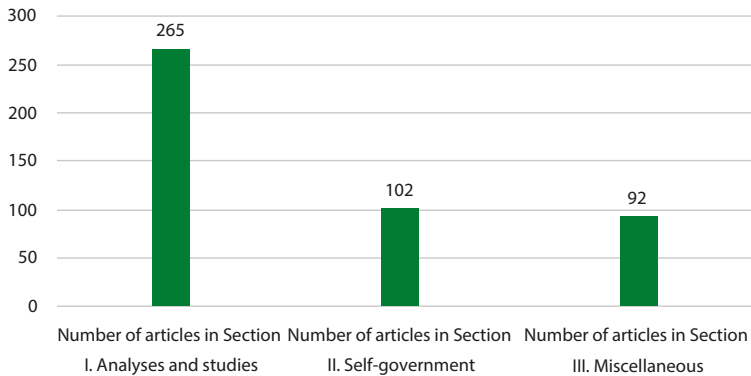


Fig. 6. Number of articles published in MSR by part

Source: own work by MBPR

By way of a conclusion

The establishment of the periodical "MAZOWSZE Studia Regionalne" and its continuous publication for 17 years (and counting) has been possible thanks to the commitment and work of many people. The publishing process may have included many difficulties, but it also brought experience, know-how and a lot of satisfaction. The magazine is climbing up in the indexes and these achievements have served as encouragement to continue working, constantly raising the bar and ensuring even higher quality of published materials. The publisher's aspirations reach towards the journal being included in the Scopus scientific database which has been functioning since 2004, containing information about published scientific works, such as articles in scientific journals, books, conference materials and patents.

Since its beginnings, MSR has been constantly developing and evolving, but the increasingly rapidly changing world and the development of new technologies will pose new challenges to the publisher, about which little is known today. However, the magazine's credo remains the same: credibility, reliability and honesty.

The editorial team and the publisher cordially invite new authors and reviewers. Potential authors are encouraged to send paper proposals, prepared in accordance with the editorial guidelines posted on the website mazowszestudiaregionalne.pl/en.

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