

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL WORK

Justyna Wieczerzak, MSc

Supervisor: Professor Iwona Sagan
Department of Socio-Economic Geography
Faculty of Oceanography and Geography
University of Gdansk

Subject of doctoral dissertation: Use of development potentials in the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area

The doctoral dissertation deals with the issues of endogenous development and the development of inequalities in metropolitan areas. The research problem defined in the dissertation is to find and analyze the most important resources and potentials. Moreover, finding the degree of its inequality in the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area. The following goals were set:

- cognitive goal: to analyze the hierarchical-functional structure of the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area. Furthermore, to characterize the distribution and the use of its development potential;
- theoretical goal: application of Hirschman's theory of economy development to explain the mechanisms of increasing inequalities within a metropolitan area;
- methodical and application goal: to indicate the spatial interaction models such as gravity and potential models as useful tools in the study of metropolitan areas.

The paper presents an abductive thesis that strategic development planning is crucial for the use and skillful connection of endogenous resources of the area. It may not only lead to a synergy effect but also allows for monitoring and minimizing inequalities.

The spatial extent of the research covers the metropolitan area in the Pomeranian Voivodeship. The time range covers the years 2011-2018. Although due to the subject of the research, some information comes from earlier or later years.

The work includes five chapters. The first chapter presents theoretical background including the concept, features, and functions of metropolitan areas as well as the issue of inequalities in metropolitan areas. The legal and planning conditions of metropolises, the place of Polish metropolitan areas in Europe, and tools for metropolitan cooperation were also discussed there.

The second chapter concentrates on the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area and its history. It includes a description of internal and external relationships and links.

Furthermore, it also includes the general framework for the functioning of the Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area Association, as well as its sources of financing.

The third chapter includes a description of the research methods and tools adopted for empirical analysis. The research procedure was also described. The description of the concept of gravity and potential models and their application in spatial and economic research is also included.

Chapter four includes the estimation of potential models for the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area divided into four thematic groups: population and social policy, economy, spatial planning, and quality and living conditions. It is the most extensive chapter that concentrates on empirical research.

Finally, the fifth chapter describes the potential functional and spatial structure of the metropolitan area and the unused development potentials. Moreover, this part of the work indicates recommendations and implications for the development policy of the Gdańsk Gdynia Sopot Metropolitan Area as well as the identified internal development inequalities were explained.

The whole work ends with general conclusions, summarizing the conducted research.