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*В статье рассматриваются пути повышения конкурентоспособности региона на основе использования инновационных стратегий активизации его конкурентных преимуществ, а также основные направления реализации региональной политики формирования конкурентоспособности региона.*

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### **SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC OF CONDITIONING OF DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY MOUNTAINOUS AREAS (ON EXAMPLE OF POLISH CARPATHIAN)**

Making generally the developmental processes also are assuming the different rate, so in effect of that is taking place the differentiation of particular units creating the socioeconomic systems. At the same time they are regions which can not be able to start any developmental processes with such intensification and to reduce the distance to rich regions. The peripheral position is the main cause of this in the face of main developmental centres and also the small competitiveness of human capital it is discouraging the external capital in undertaking of economic activity in such regions. Acceleration of development of such regions is possible by using the egzogenic factors (first of all the transfer of external investment from regions with high level of development). The main role of peripheral regions is resolving into creating of conditions of inflow of private and public capitals, so into improving the level of qualifications of inhabitants, extension of social and technical infrastructure, supporting of development of local enterprises which will be receivers of external technology and cooperants for external investors. The second group of developmental factors of region are creating the endogenic factors as specific for every region which working depends on the using of internal developmental potential<sup>1</sup>. So it is essential the looking for the optimal proportions between egzo - and endogenic factors, because the domination of external factors leading to increase of dependence of development from public transfer or dependence of economy from one large external investor. It can this to lead of exploitation of local resources for development of region with strong economy. So avoiding this threats are demanding the active part of public authorities (especially local autonomies) which are having the

<sup>1</sup> Czudec A. Czynniki kształtujące spójność ekonomiczną i społeczną regionu, [w:] *Możliwości i bariery rozwoju regionu*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2009, s. 13.

significance qualifies regarding to economical activity (own budget, independence of economical processes, municipal property)<sup>2</sup>.

In local or regional development recognized as a permanent process, the most important role are playing the people and their ideas and skills of utilization the resources in process of achieving of prosperity. Among factors of local development just socio-demographical conditions will be the basic source marking the rate and direction of this development. This conditions included the changes in natural environment and in structure population, rate of urbanization process, changes in level of education, cultural progress, innovations, self-government etc.<sup>3</sup>. The intensification of competitiveness is the condition of present economic development. Human capital in the regional or local scope can play the basic role in this process but about its quality and efficiency of acting will decide about the hard factors of localization such a technic and social infrastructure and the high quality of natural environment<sup>4</sup>.

Essential conditions of local or regional development are determining by human capital, social capital and cultural capital. The human capital included manpower resources in given region considered both in quantitative and qualitative range. Essential role have: knowledge, social maintenance, skills and technologies which are in disposition of population of given region. Social capital is one of resources of democratic society which gives possibility for realization the basic rules of democratisation respecting in scale of: country, region and local environment. This is deciding about articulation of businesses of different social groups, part of citizens in social life, rules, confidence, preferences and cooperation. Cooperation of inhabitants, social activity and mutual confidence are having the positive influence not only on the quality but also on the material level of life. In range of social capital is forming the important sphere of political life of regions, so the problem of choice of vision and priorities of development, choice of ones representatives to varied organs of authorities and institutions, participation of community in social and economic life of region. Then to elements of cultural capital are counting: meaning and power own regional tradition and national heritage estimated in confrontation with culture of country and globalization of culture. The cultural capital is the most important element in creation of welfare, because the culture can be an essential element forming the distinction but also social activity, energy of local home farms and economic subjects<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Grosse T.G., Wybrane koncepcje teoretyczne i doświadczenia praktyczne dotyczące rozwoju regionów peryferyjnych, [w:] Ekspertyzy do Strategii Rozwoju Społeczno-Gospodarczego Polski Wschodniej do roku 2020, Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego, tom 1, Warszawa 2007, s. 119-134.

<sup>3</sup> Kożuch A., Wspieranie rozwoju gospodarczego przez władze lokalne, [w:] Uwarunkowania przedsiębiorczości, pod red. K. Jaremczuka, PWSZ, Tarnobrzeg 2008, s. 160-171.

<sup>4</sup> Baran E., Infrastrukturalne uwarunkowania wzrostu konkurencyjności regionów górzystych w województwie podkarpackim. Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich, zeszyt 48, 2002, s. 79-86.

<sup>5</sup> Musiał W., Demograficzne i społeczne uwarunkowania powstawania wiejskich obszarów problemowych, *Acta Scientiarum Polonorum, Oeconomia*, nr 8 (2), Wydawnictwo SGGW, Warszawa 2009, s. 93-102.

The leveling of developmental disproportions by granting of financial help for regions with socio-economical marginalization is the main aim of regional policy of European Union. In group of problematic regions they are mountain areas characterizing by occurrence of natural difficulties for husbanding and for life of population. Supporting development of this areas is well-founded by fulfilling the important social and economical functions about extra-regional meaning.

Areas with mountainous form of terrain numbered to Carpathian Mts. This are terrains possessing numerous natural values, which protection is condition of fulfilling the social and economical functions about extra-regional meaning. They are areas with exceptional landscape values and from this point of view they are playing the important role as a touristic and recreational areas. So in realization of strategy development of this areas, the sustainable development of rural areas has the main significance.

Independently from demographic and spatial meaning of mountains in particular country always they are fulfilling the similar functions with economical character to which belong:

- accumulating the water resources and providing into water of lowlands areas;
- forest economy directing on the sustainable utilization of forestall resources;
- touristic and health-resort functions which fulfilling is connected with natural and landscape attractiveness of mountains and also with occurrence the specific features of climate in mountains areas;
- agriculture delivering not only specific products of mountains but improving the mountain natural environment and mountainous landscape and also giving sources of survival of significant part of mountain population.

Mountain regions are filling also the most important extra-economical functions i. e. they are delivering goods with-out market prices, but they are most important for whole society, belong to them:

- biodiversity of natural environment,
- floods protection,
- values of mountain landscape,
- cultural heritage of mountain population.

Applied here the division of functions fulfilling by mountain areas first of all has the arranging character and the distinction of specificity of mountain areas creating the place of this regions in economy and influencing on their social and environmental meaning - is the main aim of study.

In reality - economical and extra-economical functions (depending on the delivering of non-market goods) are existing jointly and they are mutually supplementing. The most important are the relations between this functions, because the effective filling each of them is depending from degree of realization of remaining<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Czudec A., Specyficzne uwarunkowania rozwoju regionów górskich, [w] Czynniki kształtujące konkurencyjność regionu górskiego (na przykładzie polskich Karpat), Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2010, s. 15-17.

The aim of this article is an opinion of possibilities of development of rural mountainous areas in the Carpathian Mts. in Poland from the point of view of socio-demographic changes and actions of local self-government. Empirical material of article makes up data from Main Statistical Office in Warsaw and results of questionnaires moved in 2008 year with representatives of self-governments in 94 rural communes in the Carpathian Mts. in Poland (i. e. in 44 mountain communes and in 50 pre-mountain communes with specific difficulties of husbanding). Administratively the communes are belonging to 3 provinces i.e. małopolskie, podkarpackie and śląskie. In analyses were used the average empirical sizes representing the phenomenon in two groups of communes (i.e. in the mountain communes and pre-mountain communes with specific difficulties of husbanding).

According to table 1, in 1995-2007 the number of population was growing and reached the growth dynamism of 5,4%. Two phenomena influenced the change of population number, i.e. natural population increase and migration balance being at the same time responsible for changes in population density. From 1995 there was natural population decrease as counted for 1000 people. In 2007 the rate reached almost half of such in 1995. Despite such unfavourable phenomenon, dynamism of positive migration balance caused general population growth, which was shown as almost 4% increase in population density. Also the relationship of women towards men improved.

In selected groups of communes the processes are different. In a group of mountainous communes, higher dynamism in population growth was observed as compared to the one in communes with specific handicaps. In the group of mountainous communes the factor that was responsible for population growth was a relatively smaller natural population decrease and lower, as compared to the average, growth of migration balance. On the other hand, in the group of communes with specific handicaps, high dynamism of positive migration balance caused population growth with relatively biggest natural population decrease. The phenomena determined higher dynamism of population density growth in the group of mountainous communes as compared to the other ones.

Similarly, as in the whole country, in the region under research there is a population growth in a group of people in working age. Decreasing natural population growth in 1995-2007 is reflected in decreasing population percentage in pre-working age.

In the analyzed groups of communes, there are no significant differences seen as far as the population structure according to economic age groups is concerned. However, there are differences in the rate of changes in 1995-2007. In the group of mountainous communes there is a sudden decrease in the share of population in pre-working age, at the same time with a dynamic growth in the share of population in working and post-working age. However, in the group of communes with specific handicaps, influx of the outside population influenced the rate of structure changes. High dynamism of population growth in pre- and working age is seen here.

Table 1

**Changes of selected demographic features  
in the researched region in 1995-2007 years**

Specification	Years		Changes in years	
	1995	2007	+/-	(dynamism, year 1995= 100)
I	2	3	4	5
<b>Total researched communes</b>				
Population number	841 454	887 266	+45812	105,4
Natural population increase per 1000 inhabitants (average)	6,0	3,3	-2,7	55,0
Migration balance for permanent stay per 1000 inhabitants (average)	-0,8	0,7	+1,5	289,1
Population density per 1 km <sup>2</sup> (average)	104	108	+4,0	103,8
Number of women per 100 men (average)	99,2	100,6	+1,4	101,4
Inhabitants in post-working age (%)	54,9	60,7	+5,8	X
Inhabitants with secondary and above secondary education (%)*	20,5	27,0	+6,5	X
<b>Researched mountainous communes</b>				
Population number	380 718	406 288	+25570	106,7
Natural population increase per 1000 inhabitants (average)	6,3	3,8	-2,5	60,3
Migration balance for permanent stay per 1000 inhabitants	-0,8	-0,1	+0,7	194,0
Population density per 1 km <sup>2</sup> (average)	83	87	+4,0	104,8
Number of women per 100 men (average)	98,3	100,4	+2,1	102,1
Inhabitants in post-working age (%)	55,1	60,8	+5,7	X
Inhabitants with secondary- and above secondary education (%)*	17,5	23,9	+6,4	X
<b>Researched communes with specific handicaps cific handicaps</b>				
Population number	473 047	492 653	+19606	104,1
Natural population increase per 1000 inhabitants (average)	5,7	2,8	-2,9	49,1

Продовження табл. 1

1	2	3	4	5
Migration balance for permanent stay per 1000 inhabitants (average)	-0,9	1,4	+2,3	353,9
Population density per 1 km <sup>2</sup> (average)	122	125	+3,0	102,5
Number of women per 100 men (average)	99,9	100,7	+0,8	100,8
Inhabitants in post-working age (%)	54,7	60,6	+5,9	X
Inhabitants with secondary and above secondary education (%)*	22,8	29,7	+6,9	X

Explanation: \* data for 1996-2002.

Source: Regional Data Bank, Central Statistical Office in Warsaw.

In the region under research there are favourable changes in the percentage of people with secondary education and above secondary education. On the other hand, the number of people with basic and no education is decreasing. In the group of mountainous communes, population is characterized by worse level of education as compared to communes with specific handicaps, which is the result of lower percentage of people with secondary and above secondary education and higher percentage of people with basic and no education.

Population growth in the researched region, increase in population density, positive migration balance, growth of feminisation rate, high level of natural population increase, lower rates of old age are all measures supporting the idea that the region was not in risk of demographic degradation and one can even state that positive changes in this field increase relative economic and demographic attractiveness of mountainous regions.

Evaluation of quality features of mountainous population in comparison to population of communes with specific handicaps does not look so good, which can be associated with developing process of settlement of, as a rule, younger and better educated population in naturally attractive mountainous regions. Similar processes are observed in other countries of the European Union<sup>7</sup>.

Condition of limiting of depopulation processes on the rural areas is assurance of suitable standard of life population by possession of maintenance resources and by convenient conditions of life. Special meaning in this scope have the varied workings directing on the development of infrastructure, taken by local self-governments. Data in table 2 showed that self-governments of investigational communes realizing the infrastructure investments which are servicing the improvement of commu-

<sup>7</sup> Czudec A., Turystyka i rolnictwo - wzajemne relacje i ich znaczenie dla rozwoju regionu górskiego, Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich, zeszyt 53, 2006, s. 13-23.

nical conditions, educational investments and sport-recreational and also in range of building of sewage systems. In mountain communes we may notice the larger activity of local self-governments in range of extension of touristic infrastructure (table 2).

Table 2

**Infrastructural investments taken through local councils  
in the researched region in 2000–2007 years (% of indications)**

Specification	Researched communes		
	total	mountainous	with specific
Water-pipe	44,8	41,5	47,8
Sewage system	59,8	56,1	60,9
Roads	74,7	73,2	78,3
Preparation of terrains under investments	2,3	2,4	2,2
In range of tourism	48,3	63,4	32,6
In range of protection of environment	31,0	31,7	30,4
Wholesome	33,7	46,3	21,7
Educational	64,4	65,9	60,9
In range of culture	40,2	36,6	41,3
In range of sport and recreation	59,8	53,7	65,2

Source: questionnaire investigations.

With regard to specificity of local environment and by creating the local development the self-governments are taking up actions of promotion of values of own communes (table 3). Internet was the main form of promotion. Much more accurate informations were in edited brochures and books, prevailing were organized of out-door events and marking and description of bicycle paths. Mountain communes were engaged in linking of contacts by creating of relationships with different units both national — often neighbouring and foreign. This group of communes showed the larger worry about quality of natural resources by controlling the state of environment (table 3).

Data in table 4 showed that self-governed officials are carefully estimating the power of influence of particular factors on the socio-economical development of their communes, because stated scale of positive influence from 1 to 4 is rarely using in upper compartment at particular factors. The largest average coefficient of influence intensity reached following factors: inflow of tourists and so demand factor, further the factors connected with quality and activity of local population and extra charges for farmers from title of position in areas with unfavourable conditions of husbanding. As we presumed in mountain communes they were distincted on the significant meaning of such factors as: inflow of tourists and level of enterprise in comparison of communes with specific difficulties of husbanding. We must under-

line that self-governed officials see the positive influence of agriculture on the economical development of commune meaning but the significance of this factor is small among other (table 4).

Table 3

**Working taken through local councils in the researched region onto thing of promotion of values commune in 2000-2007 years (% of indications)**

Specification	Researched communes		
	total	mountainous	with specific handicaps
Marking and description of bicycle paths	65,6	65,1	66,0
Marking and description of touristic's rout	32,2	27,9	36,2
Descriptions of touristic's objects	26,7	32,6	21,3
Preparation of brochures, books etc.	78,9	81,4	76,6
Control of state of environment	27,8	41,9	14,9
Internet side	92,2	88,4	95,7
Relationships with different communes	61,1	69,8	53,2
Outdoor event	71,1	72,1	70,2

Source: questionnaire investigations.

Table 4

**Opinion influence of choose factors onto social-economic development of commune in opinion of local council (average)\***

Specification	Researched communes		
	total	mountainous	with specific handicaps
Quality of human factor	1,4	1,4	1,5
Interest development among occupants	1,6	1,7	1,6
Low restrictive of population thickness demand	-0,1	-0,1	0,0
Level of development of agriculture	0,5	0,5	0,6
Financial support of farms from title of credit populaces to ONW	1,5	1,5	1,5
Level of enterprise	1,2	1,7	0,8
Predominant directions of nonagricultural commercial activity	1,2	1,2	1,2
Inflow of tourists	1,9	2,5	1,3

Explanation: \* opinion from -4 to 4. Source: questionnaire investigations

Having in attention the future socio-economical development the commune authorities will be using the different way of utilization of specific resources and properties (table 5). In planned workings the promotion of natural values gained the highest rank. The nature is resource with high



value, attractive for persons looking for rest in clean environment, with attractive and varied landscape, permitting simultaneously on the development of tourism delivering of earnings for local population (table 5).

Table 5

**Intention local councils of relate utilization of specific commune in social-economic development (% of indications)**

Specification	Researched communes		
	total	mountainous	with specific landscapes
Promotion of commune in view of her natural specific	78,7	81,4	76,1
Promotion of commune in view of different guilds	33,7	32,6	34,8
Working onto thing of improvement of degree of utilization of value ;	30,3	34,9	26,1
Support of tradition of social cooperation (programme Leader)	62,9	65,1	60,9
Undertaking of co-operation with different communes	46,1	48,8	43,5
Different	7,9	7,0	8,7

*Source: questionnaire investigations.*

In promotional actions the important place also have the historical values as kept objects and also supported tradition of given region. Membership of Poland in European Union stimulates the local development of rural areas by taking up initiatives "proceeding from the ranks" of defined name of approach LEADER<sup>8</sup>, which considered by near 2/3 of self-governments. We should to estimate on the high level the undertaking intentions of cooperation with other communes. This has special meaning in realization of sustainable development regarding to protection of values and to worries about quality of natural environment which does not recognize the administrative borders but has extra-regional dimension. Also realization of new instruments in range of ecological infrastructure (sewage system, purification system, storage system or institutions of utilization of wastes) and exacting large financial expenditures are standing up much more real by taking up of common initiatives by relationships of commune authorities. Such initiatives can simultaneously count on the additional supporting of external sources of funding by preparing of applying projects directed on the financial resources from European Union (table 5).

<sup>8</sup> The approach LEADER is unusually effective as method of development: economic - across create or survival of places of work; demographic - across reversal of negative demographical trends (e.g. return of young people in the country); social - across been based on partnership approach - unusually effective in range of activation occupants of country.

The increase of population in studied region, growth of population density, positive balance of migration, growth of coefficient of feminization, high level of natural increase, lower coefficient of old ages - there are measures speaking that studied region is not endangering by demographic degradation. Positive changes in this scope we may recognize as an increase of relative economic and demographic attractiveness of mountain areas in spite occurrence of difficult conditions of husbanding in agriculture and peripheral position in relation to economic centres.

Taking into attention the profitable changes in level of education, especially the rate of this process, we may recognize that the human factor in studied region can be qualitatively warrant of new period of development of the mountain areas.

From analysis of factors determining the development of studied region we may distinct the role of self-governments in this process. Results of investigations confirmed the high activity of local authorities, expressing by the widely scope and kinds of workings supporting the socio-economical development of their communes.

The high activity of self-governments in range of infrastructure investment makes possible the utilization of financial support from European Union in accordance with receive aims of her recognizing policy - the need of leveling of developmental disproportions and supporting the areas endangering by socio-economical marginalization. One of often realized infrastructure investment by local self-governments in studied region is the improvement of communicational conditions, which state a condition of increase of territorial cohesion, in view of specificity of mountain areas and their proper functions.

The consciousness of possession of significance values of natural environment, historical values and specific of tradition of social cooperation are including the majority of local self-governments for their promotion and taking up the cooperation with other territorial units for creating of durable bases of future development.

1. Baran E. Infrastrukturalne uwarunkowania wzrostu konkurencyjności regionów górzystych w województwie podkarpackim, *Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich*, zeszyt 48, 2002. 2. Czudec A. Czynniki kształtujące spójność ekonomiczną i społeczną regionu, [w:] *Możliwości i bariery rozwoju regionu*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2009. 3. Czudec A. Specyficzne uwarunkowania rozwoju regionów górskich, [w:] *Czynniki kształtujące konkurencyjność regionu górskiego (na przykładzie polskich Karpat)*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, Rzeszów 2010. 4. Czudec A. Turystyka i rolnictwo — wzajemne relacje i ich znaczenie dla rozwoju regionu górskiego, *Problemy Zagospodarowania Ziemi Górskich*, zeszyt 53, 2006. 5. Grosse T. G. Wybrane koncepcje teoretyczne i doświadczenia praktyczne dotyczące rozwoju regionów peryferyjnych, [w:] *Ekspertyzy do Strategii Rozwoju Społeczno-Gospodarczego Polski Wschodniej do roku 2020*, Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego, tom 1, Warszawa 2007. 6. Kożuch A. Wspieranie rozwoju gospodarczego przez władze lokalne, [w:] *Uwarunkowania przedsiębiorczości*, pod red. K. Jaremczuka, PWSZ, Tarnobrzeg 2008. 7. Musiał W. Demograficzne i społeczne uwarunkowania powstawania wiejskich obszarów problemowych, *Acta Scientiarum Polonorum, Oeconomia*, nr 8 (2), Wydawnictwo SGGW, Warszawa 2009.