

Regional challenges related to the protection of peri-urban open spaces (PUOS) in

MAZOVIA



REGIONAL DATA

Country	Poland
NUTS Level	Level 2
Total Area in km ² (2019)	35559
Population (Census Data 2019)	5 423 168
Ratio on Total Country population (%)	14.1
Population Density (Persons/Km ² ; 2015)	153

**Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques*

PROJECT PARTNER

Mazovia Development Agency Plc,
Warsaw



Regional Background

The Mazovian Voivodeship is internally very diverse in terms of social and economic development. As a result, in 2018 it was statistically divided into two separate NUTS 2 regions, i.e. the Warsaw Capital Region (WCR) and the Mazovian Regional Region (MRR). Diversification also applies to the development of urban areas. The greatest urban pressure in the form of a typical urban sprawl is observed in municipalities located in the Warsaw Capital Region, near Warsaw, especially along important transport routes (national road, highways, railway lines). The expanding development has a negative impact on nature and the continuity of the ecological network which consists of Kampinos National Park, Chojnowski and Mazowiecki Landscape Parks and the entire Vistula Valley. It is also problematic to maintain high quality soils located particularly on the western outskirts of Warsaw, where economic development is very intense. To a lesser extent the typical urban sprawl process occurs in the Mazovian Regional Region – mainly in the area of other subregional cities (Radom, Płock, Ciechanów, Siedlce and Ostrołęka). The bigger problem here is a large dispersion of new buildings, which generates costs for provision of infrastructures. Much more negative impact on the preservation of PUOS, and thus on nature, has urban sprawl observed around Warsaw. A large part of local authorities is in favour of the development of buildings and the influx of the new residents. They see it as a quick and easy source of profit. This trend may increase due to changes in the Polish tax system, which may affect the finances of local governments. Unfortunately, the desire for a quick gain obscures the long-term effects of development, e.g. negative impact on environment or increase in the cost of servicing residents by the municipality. Additional negative leverage comes from private landowners that form pressure groups as they prefer to make profit on sales of land for development rather than maintain it as an open space. The potential group of incentives that can stimulate protection of PUOS in the region arise from two directions: (1) huge potential to implement Ecosystem Services connected to tourism and culture – in that context it was noted that local authorities and communities have to be educated to be aware how to execute that assets of PUOS; (2) liberal form of nature protection in Poland is so-called protected landscape area -such areas are mainly intended for recreation and economic activities are subject to only minor restrictions (prohibition of the construction of objects harmful to environment and the destruction of the environment).

Regional Challenges

Development pressure on open space around large cities

Insufficient intercommunal cooperation

Investment in nature seen mainly as costs

Short development perspective of local

Needs for Good Practices

Incentives stimulating PUOS protection

Tools/instruments for intercommunal cooperation

Forms of education focused on Ecosystem Services

Usage of Structural Funds as driver in PUOS protection

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