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**THE OPPORTUNITIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY
OF PRECIOUS NATURAL VALUES
(BY THE EXAMPLE OF SMOŁDZINO COMMUNITY)**

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Abstract

Local units which include in its territory a huge part of protected areas have the opportunities for multifunctional development. The community of Smołdzino, where the biggest part of territory belongs to the Slovinski National Park and its laggings, sets an example of a community with prospects of social and economic development. The change of functioning of agricultural areas connected with existence of the state agricultural farms as well as resulting from Polish accession to the European Union were all taken into consideration. In addition, there are presented directions of activities taken up by the local community. These activities would make it possible to take on an activity which brings measurable economic profits.

Key words: social and economic development, the community of Smołdzino, the Slovinski National Park

LOCALIZATION AND AREA OF SMOŁDZINO COMMUNITY

The community of Smołdzino is situated in the northern part of Poland at the coast of the Baltic Sea, in the northwest part of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, in the province of Słupsk. The mentioned unity borders five communities, including three rural communities of the Słupsk province – the communities of Ustka, Słupsk and Głównyzyce and in the east – two communities of the Lębork province, i.e. the rural community of Wicko and the urban community of Łeba. The community is 257.24 km² in area, what makes 11.2% of the whole surface of the Słupsk province and is a dwelling place of 3470 people (4.7% of the population of the Słupsk province). It means that the population density equals 13 people per square kilometer and is the lowest among all communities within the province. The settlement structure consists of 21 localities in 16 sołectwas, counting 17 villages and 4 hamlets (Spis miejsco-

wości... 2005). In majority, the sołectwo consist of one village, with the exception of the sołectwas: Smołdzino (2 localities – Smołdzino and Smołdzino Poligon), Gardna Mała (3 localities – Gardna Mała, Wysoka and Siedliszcze), Łokciowe (2 localities – Łokciowe and Przybynin) and Smołdziński Las (2 localities – Smołdziński Las and Czołpino), (Hostyńska 2008).

According to the physical and geographical division the community of Smołdzino is situated at the Slovinskie Coast and covers the area of the Gardęńsko-Łebska Lowland. It borders in the north the Baltic Sea and in the west – the shore of the Gardno Lake, in the east the shore of the Łebsko Lake and in the south – the stretches of the rivers Łupawa, Pustynka and Brodniczka. The inland waters, which cover large surface of the community (approximately 38%), include: the river Łupawa and two smaller – Pustynka and Brodniczka, the Łebsko Lake (third in size among lakes in Poland, with the surface of 7142 ha) and the Gardno Lake (8th place in Poland – the surface of 2469 ha), the Dołgie Małe Lake (6.3 ha) and the Dołgie Duże Lake (146.0 ha). The area of the community is covered also by the network of channels (the Łupawa Channel – Łebsko, the Gardno Channel – Łebsko) and drainage ditches.

The structure of the ground usage in the community of Smołdzino is characterized by big share of forests and woodlands, which compose approximately 25% of the community surface as a whole (6511 ha). For agriculture lands there is 29% of the community surface (7547 ha), where arable lands constitute about 40% (Strategia rozwoju... 2007). Forests and waters in the community comprise therefore about 63% of the surface, what directly causes limited opportunities of social and economic development of this unity.

AREAS PROTECTED WITH LAW IN THE COMMUNITY OF SMOŁDZINO

In the area of the community there occurs the terrain of the World Nature Reserve, which is the Slovinski National Park (SPN). It was created in 1967 with the purpose of protection in the unchanged state the system of coastal lakes, marshes, meadows, bogs, coniferous forests, and coastal forests, as well as the unique in a European scale dune strip of spit with shifting sand dunes. Regarding the variety of the natural values, the Slovinski National Park belongs to the international network of protected areas like: HELCOMBSPA¹, the World Biosphere Reserve, water-mud area Ramsar². In the area of the SPN there are natural reserves: Hatchings of Gardno, Dołgie

¹ Konwencja o ochronie środowiska morskiego obszaru Morza Bałtyckiego z 1974 r. (Konwencja Helsińska – HELCOM), (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission from 1974) enriched by Baltic Sea Protected Areas (HELCOMBSPA), Konwencja o ochronie środowiska morskiego obszaru Morza Bałtyckiego, 1992 (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission from 1992), (DzU 2000, nr 28, poz. 346)

² „Konwencja o obszarach...” (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), signed in 1971, its purpose is conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, i.e. to stem the progressive encroachment on end loss of wetlands now and in the future, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

Małe Lake, Kluki, Beeches of Kluki, Hatchings of Kluki, the Spit, Moroszka and Kamienna Island. In addition, in the area of the community there are two other natural reserves, i.e. Junipers of Wierzchocin and Rowokół.

The surface of the SPN comes to 32 744 ha, including coastal waters of the Baltic Sea which cover 11 171 ha, the inland waters of over 10 000 ha, while the remaining area is land. Generally, the SPN covers 64.79% (Strategia rozwoju... 2007) of the community surface, what enhances to a certain extent the tourist value of this area, but simultaneously limits the opportunities of other enterprise activity development.

TENDENCIES OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY OF SMOŁDZINO

The population of the community in 1988-2007 was relatively stable. In the first years of the political system transformation the number of inhabitants fluctuated on the level little over 3600 people. In 1992-1998 a slight increase in the population has been noticed (from 3646 to 3751 people), and as a result in 1998 the highest number of inhabitants was observed (Tab. 1). In the following years there has been apparent decrease in population of the Smołdzino community.

The reasons for demographic changes after 1989 were, as it is aptly pointed out by Ryzd (2007), the ownership and structural transformations. In case of analyzed community the paramount changes of population occurred as a consequence of liquidation of the Army Unity in Czołpino in 1995 which had been functioning in area of the community. The Unity generated employment for the community dwellers, living largely in block of flats in Smołdziński Las and Smołdzino. After insolvency of the Army Unity in Czołpino, its former employees were moved into other unities or stopped working in the army. It was connected with change of settling place and leaving the area of the community. Currently the flats in blocks owned by Military Housing Agency in Smołdzino are being sold to civilians, while the block of flats and the buildings of the army unity in Smołdziński Las have been privatized and are resided by the holiday center (Hostyńska 2008).

Additional reason for decreasing population, likewise in the whole country, was a tendency of declining birth rate and minus migration balance. The level of birth rate has fallen radically from 17.4‰ in 1988 to -1.2‰ in 2007, whilst the rate of migration balance held minus value nearly throughout the whole analyzed period³. These occurrences were determined by: the suburban localization of the community to the main city of the region – Słupsk, a lack of workplaces (liquidated State Agricultural Farm in Smołdzino, liquidation of the Army Unity in Czołpino in 1995, the collapse of the ‘Argus’ Wicker-Basketry Mill and the tailoring plant in 1999) and deficiency of investment opportunities due to the existence of the Slovinski National Park, unfavourable localization with regard to the main communication routes, investors’ disinterest in the community area. In effect, the community is becoming a depopulating area. The most mobile are young people, who in search of a job and

³ Bank Danych...; Rocznik Statystyczny... 1989.

Table 1

Population of the Smóldzino community according to the permanent place of residence in 1988-2007

Years	Population	Men	Women	Population density
1988	3669	1826	1843	14
1989	3664	1824	1840	14
1990	3661	1858	1803	14
1991	3633	1839	1794	14
1992	3646	1847	1799	14
1993	3666	1852	1814	14
1994	3693	1853	1840	14
1995	3714	1864	1850	14
1996	3718	1862	1856	14
1997	3731	1869	1862	14
1998	3751	1876	1875	14
1999	3578	1778	1800	13
2000	3553	1760	1793	13
2001	3553	1763	1790	13
2002	3526	1757	1769	13
2003	3531	1755	1776	13
2004	3534	1762	1772	13
2005	3545	1762	1783	13
2006	3482	1739	1743	13
2007	3470	1733	1737	13

Source: Bank Danych...; Rocznik Statystyczny... 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995; Podstawowe dane... 1990, 1992, 1994; own research.

better life standard leave their previous settling place, moving to the cities or the communities in better economic condition, however, they go abroad too (in recent years, after Polish accession to the European Union, the outflow of Polish people to the countries of the West Europe has affected the whole area of Poland).

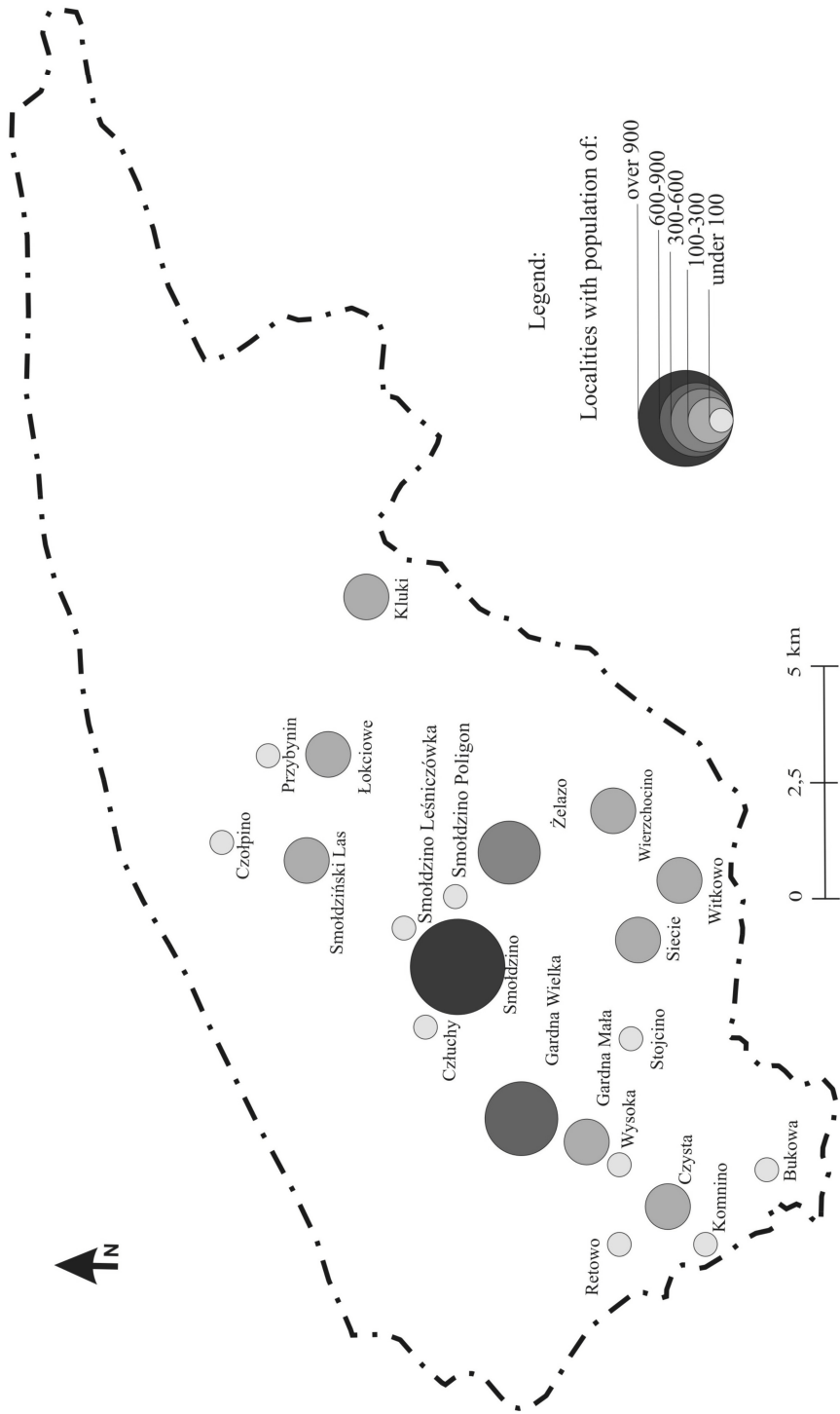


Fig. 1. Rural settlement structure of the Smoldzino community according to the number of inhabitants in 2007
Source: Hostynska 2007; own research

The outcome of these demographic tendencies and environment conditioning is particularly low population density in the community of Smóldzino. A big share of waters and woodlands in the whole surface of the community and granting the status of a national park, where the settlement is not possible, cause uneven distribution of people. Approximately 43.7% of the community inhabitants live in two localities, i.e. Smóldzino (950 people) and Gardna Wielka (625 people), while the remaining localities are scattered nearby these main and definitely less populated (Fig. 1).

SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL STRUCTURES OF POPULATION

Market economy and Polish accession to the European Union have changed current character of rural areas, from traditional unities producing mainly food into multi-functional unities. However, new situation has revealed shockingly low professional qualifications of rural population (Stawicka 2002). The transformation period has brought certain kind of improvement in the situation of people from rural areas in the case of education. In the Smóldzino community occurred an increase in the level of education. People with higher education are characterized by strongest dynamics (the rate of dynamics is 168.9), because the number of people with this level of education have augmented from 74 to 125 people. As well, the structure of people with higher education has changed, owing to the fact that in 1988 the leading group were men, while at present women are more educated. Among the local community also the level of average education has increased (the rate of dynamics is 154.0), what results in more development opportunities and enhances the self-assessment of the community inhabitants. In effect, it is giving the incentive to the increase in industriousness and local community activation.

The changes of economy functioning have caused modifications in the structure of working people in the Smóldzino community. What should be given utmost consideration is decreasing participation of people in the agricultural sector from 20% in 1995 to 16% in 2003 and in the industrial sector (accordingly from 7% to 3%). In this connection participation of people working in the service sector, mainly in non-market service, has been growing. Particularly apparent modifications in the agricultural sector are caused by restructuring of this part of economy, mostly the public sector. In the whole structure the number of workplaces has decreased due to deterioration of economic and financial conditions of enterprise activity, regardless of the branch of economy.

Negative tendencies in the professional structures of population are stemming from the character of the economy structure of the Smóldzino community. Until the end of the 80's the main unity giving the job for the inhabitants of the community was the State Agricultural Farm. According to the Parliament Act dated on the 19th October 1991, on the management of the rural property of the State Treasury, the State Agricultural Farms (the PGRs) were to be formally liquidated, while its possessions to be taken over by the Resource of the Rural Property of the State Treasury (Zasób Własności Rolnej Skarbu Państwa), (Dzun 2005). The basic purpose of liquidation of the PGRs and distribution of its possessions, especially grounds, was develop-

ment of the private sector in agriculture, and most of all, enhancement and establishment of new households (Dzun 2004). The process of liquidation of the PGRs and restructuring of big-area farms caused vast reduction of its employees' number. In the period of few years after the political system transformation many people came back to the villages, mainly these who had been made redundant in the city. It seemed to be an additional problem to the lack of workplaces in villages.

Therefore the problem of unemployment arose. In the area of former PGR it is characterized by family character, as it often applies to the whole families of previous employees of the PGR. By and large, the more isolated and worse localized are the housing estates, the bigger is the concentration of the unemployment (Rydz 2007). In the community of Smółdzino the growth of unemployment is apparent in the first years of the political system transformation (Fig. 2), when the rate of unemployment

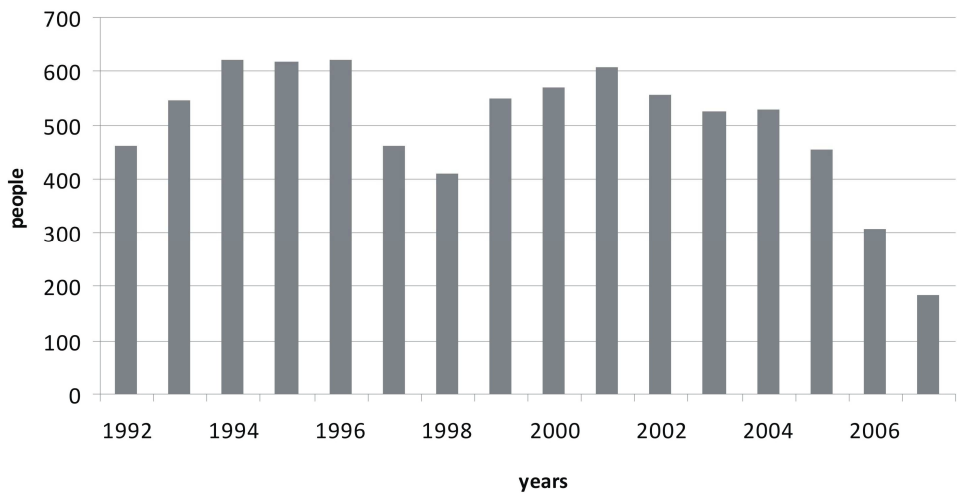


Fig. 2. The changes in the number of the unemployed in the community of Smółdzino in 1992-2007

Source: Sprawozdania Powiatowego...; Dane statystyczne...; own research.

came to its peak of 30% with reference to the number of people in an economically productive age. In following years the process of fluctuation of the unemployment level can be noticed, according to the country tendency and in particular the change of law entitling to the status of unemployed. There is observed a fall of both, the number of the unemployed in 1997-1998 and the unemployment rate to 18.7% in 1998. The next decrease in intensity of this negative process has taken place in recent years, with the unemployment rate declining in 2007 to the level of over 8%. This process is widely linked to the toughening of the Employment Agencies regulations, which required signing the registers of the unemployed, what at the moment of taking up the job abroad (primarily unregistered) causes losing the status of unemployed.

ECONOMIC CHANGES IN THE AREA OF THE SMOŁDZINO COMMUNITY

Traditionally in the Smołdzino community the main sources of income were functions connected with agriculture and fishing, which have been dominating since the second half of the 19th century. It was due to natural conditions, such as existence of the Łebsko Lake, the Gardno Lake or marshes drainage. The meaning of fishing has begun to decline since 1918, but this function was prevailing until 1945. In 1946-1966 the industrial function disappeared almost completely from the analyzed area, due to holding up of local exploitation of peat in Kluki (Szalewska 1991). After the Second World War, existing big-area junker economy was replaced by the state agricultural farms (nearly half the area of rustic farms in regard to the state from 1939 was incorporated into PGR's grounds), which had the influence on the economy development of the community in the time of their functioning, due to the fact that the inhabitants of analyzed region had worked there (Szalewska 2001). Since 1989 it has become a destructive factor in economy opportunities of the community, depriving people of workplaces.

The additional element, which has recently influenced on limiting and, on the other hand, on economy development of the community, is the Slovinski National Park. The positive effect on the economy of the community has tourist values of the Park, which generate the tourist evolution. Nonetheless, restrictions in the development of economy occur due to the Act of Parliament from the 16th April 2004 on the protection of nature, which prohibits from taking up any activity not connected with the protection of the Park values on its territory.

Before the beginning of the political system transformation the share of agriculture lands of the social economy in the community of Smołdzino had closed in 60-70% of the whole surface of the community agriculture lands (Rydz 2007). The State Agricultural Farm, which had been working until 30th November 1992, was a multi-plant enterprise and had three agricultural plants situated in Łokciowe, Żelazo and Smołdzino. The agricultural plant in Łokciowe was a meadow plant, where 96% of agriculture lands were grasslands and it specialized in the drying production. Into the agricultural plant in Łokciowe was incorporated the grange in Przybynino, where the fascine granulator was fixed into the technological line of the drying-shed. The agricultural plant in Żelazo was 1660 ha in area, where the arable land constituted 907 ha, pastures 73 ha and meadows 565 ha. The farm specialized mainly in plant production and was equipped with essential agricultural machinery. Beside the plant production, the animal production was running as well. The plant in Smołdzino had been established on the basis of the farm 'Wielisławice' built in 1976-1981. The farm specialized particularly in animal production – the fabrication of milk, beef, mutton and wool. Three out of eight currently existing buildings, in the period of the activity of the PGR Smołdzino, were adopted for a cowshed, and another one was used for the purpose of watering calves. The whole surface of the agricultural plant was equal to 1425 ha, including arable lands, which was 286 ha, pastures – 181 ha and meadows – 866 ha in area (Hostyńska 2008).

Beside the State Agricultural Farm in Smołdzino in the area of analyzed community worked the State Fish Farm Słupsk with the head office in Siemianice, taken over by the AWRSP in 1991. Since 1992 the farm has been working in the Gardno Lake and has employed 9 fishermen from the area of the Smołdzino community (Sekcja...). In spite of the fact that the lake had been agreed to be the part of the Slovinski National Park (DzU 1991), the State Fish Farm ran there the classic lake balance. That situation occurred due to two aspects, to begin with the fact that the farm had possessed the required permission until 1996. Secondly, the Board of the SPN assumed that only state fishermen were able to provide the area with the best possible balance, obviously controlled by an ichthyologist with accordance to the agreement with the Park (Hostyńska 2008).

Liquidation of the PGR in Smołdzino caused ownership and quality changes both in the usage of land and of the economic objects. The property of the PGR Smołdzino grounds, which were taken over by the Agency was 4274.13 in area. The permanently distributed part was 1160.24 ha in area, where temporarily distributed – 2087 ha. In the Resource was then 1027 ha (24.1%) left for distribution. In Smołdzino contemporarily two big-area farmers are using the buildings and post-PGR grounds. In cowsheds, which once had been the part of the PGR Smołdzino, they are running the farming activity of dairy cows. The economic objects in the Żelazo village were partly bought up and dismantled with the intention of purchasing building materials – bricks, sheet metal and other construction elements or scrapped. The remaining property, which is rented, deteriorates, because there is no running enterprise any longer. Other kind of changes happened in the objects from the Agricultural Plant in Smołdzino. To some extent it was bought up and its new owners transformed it into huge blocks of flats, somewhat for renting to tourists.

The PGR except of grounds and economic buildings possessed also flats and other objects. The AWRSP intercepted 16 blocks of flats and 31 other housing buildings, 13 semi-detached houses and 4 administration buildings, with the total surface of 504 m² in the area of the community of former PGR Smołdzino⁴. The majority of the blocks of flats, which had been resided by the employees of the PGR, were sold to the current tenants. The complex of palaces and parks in Żelazo was purchased by the foreign investor as the center of ecological education and the house of creative work. Unfortunately, despite these plans the object is standing undeveloped and is deteriorating. However, it could be perceived as an enjoyable tourist attraction.

The possibilities in developing the former property of the PGR Smołdzino are limited by some main factors. First of them is the proximity of the Slovinski National Park and its laggings. The values of the area and nearness to the sea remain tourist attractions, therefore the likelihood of the tourism development is very high. Nonetheless, potential investors are sceptical about taking up any activity due to the protection area of the Park and surrounding laggings and the restrictions imposed by law. Other obstacles appear in the awareness of the community inhabitants and their

⁴ Data obtained from the Agricultural Property Agency – the Department of Supervision and Administration of the Resource of the Rural Property of the State Treasury in Słupsk on the 17th December 2007 (data on the size of renting according to the state on the 23rd November 2007).

activity, as they do not show any involvement in property development. An opportunity would be even the possibility of directing to the farming of 'health food', which popularity is growing, and the conditions resulting from the clean natural environment, the proximity of Slovinski National Park and lack of industrial factors, traffic congestion in the neighbourhood cannot be overvalued.

Distribution of the built-up and urbanized grounds property showed above prove the change of character of these objects from agricultural to mostly housing or tourist.

The changes in structure of the ground usage did not play leading role in analyzed period. So far the big part of the community is agriculture of forestry. Among the forms of the ground usage the paramount meaning have forests and woodlands, because their acreage is gradually increasing. Regarding the planned afforestation of agricultural lands, after Polish accession to the European Union within the 5th Programme of Rural Development 2004-2006: Afforestation of agricultural lands, in the community of Smoǳino two people (from Siecie and Człuchy) applied for the programme. The increase in forestation in the area of the community is connected also with enhancing of the Slovinski National Park and its laggings surface.

Taking into account the enterprises in the community of Smoǳino, research indicates, that in spite of attractive location at the coast of the Baltic Sea, the amount of transactors connected with hotels and restaurants is much smaller than in near seaside communities. In 2007 there were 16 transactors of section H registered, what makes 1.7% of transactors in this section on a provincial scale. The most numerous group of transactors are at present plants working in trade (52 unities in section G), what is not an exception in the structure of enterprise. There are many other transactors in the area of the Smoǳino community, i.e.: processing industry (26 unities), building (26), communal, social and individual service (23), agriculture, hunting and forestry (18 unities), property service, rental and service connected with enterprise (19) (Bank Danych...) However, the community of Smoǳino does not have on its territory any significant enterprises. One of the biggest is production and trade plant 'Komnino'. Economically, the community is not developed and the possibilities and prospects are limited by the existence of the naturally valuable areas. The majority of the community inhabitants are employed in Słupsk or neighbouring communities. One of the most important fields which can provide the community with harmonious development is rural tourism. Creating this form of activity in rural areas makes it possible to use free material resources in farms, skills of the rural community members and attaining additional source of income. In the community of Smoǳino, in the areas particularly attractive in the season, function gastronomic centres on the route from Słupsk to Kluki, in Gardna Wielka (2 centres), Smoǳino (5), Czołpino (3) and on the route to unguarded beaches, to the heritage park of Slovinska Village in Kluki, to the Museum of Natural Science in Smoǳino and dunes in the Slovinski National Park. The rural tourism generates useful processes in the social sphere, including development of general local and tourist infrastructure, suppressing migration in connection with increasing pride and contentment from the place of residence, favouring the intercultural exchange and contacts (also abroad), a feeling of community and intention of cumulative actions. The positive interaction

is noticed also in cultural sphere, as e.g. protection and restoration of monuments and other forms of cultural heritage, the rise in knowledge of the inhabitants in history of region, maintaining and reconstruction of ethnic beliefs, legends, habits, the comeback to traditional cuisine and saving the cultural heritage of regions (Sapała 2001).

In the area of the Smółdzino community, with respect to high values of natural environment, appreciated by establishing the Slovinski National Park and characterized by proximity to the sea, coastal lakes and rivers, diversified relief, the variety of fauna and flora, since 1989 has been observed development of rural tourism – mainly agritourism in regard to agricultural character of the terrain (Wiśniewska, Jujka 2005). Development of new forms of the tourist base in the area of analyzed community reflects the models of sustainable growth, which are closely related to the natural and cultural conditioning of the area (Szalewska 2001). Regarding existing national park, intensive development of hotel infrastructure in this area is not observed, contrary to nearby Łeba or Ustka. Still, the more and more popular and often offered are agritourist households and guest rooms, which suit to character of the terrain. The accommodation base in the area of the community consists mostly of guest rooms (accommodation for 293 people, seasonal) and agritourist households (16), when the sole hotel in this area – ‘Gościniec u Bernackich’ has only 2 apartments and provides accommodation for 120 people. The objects providing accommodation for many people include: Holiday Centre PTTK ‘Orion’ in Gardna Wielka (for 50 people) and Holiday and Camp Centre ‘Beata’ in Smółdziński Las (approximately 140 people).

In summer is observed apparent increase in the number of the rental guest rooms offers, exceeding the number noted in the Community Office. It is conditioned by growing demand during holiday and shortage of accommodation among registered lodgers. Frequently these are rooms or part of houses, which are rented at instigation or encouragement of neighbours or friends, while owners do not run the business of renting rooms on a regular basis. Then, there is noticed systematic increase in the amount of guest rooms, which are not recorded in the Community Office, yet accommodation service is provided there.

Considering agricultural character of the community, there are many agritourist households. They differ from the guest rooms by offering an additional element of service for guests, like horse riding (e.g. Spokojne Ranczo – Peaceful Ranch – the winner of competition ‘Green Summer ‘96’⁵), fishing, canoeing, grilling, children’s playground. An additional attraction are meals offered to holidaymakers, which ingredients come from owners’ ecological farms (e.g. milk, rural bread, honey from owners’ apiary, dairy products etc.). For tourists’ needs hosts prepare in certain way whole houses and their surroundings, in order to make their free time enjoyable and encourage tourists to spend holiday in their household again.

While talking about accommodation base we mean also holiday houses (tourist), which are independent buildings, fully furnished, rented as a whole. The houses, not

⁵ The competition ‘Green Summer’ aims at popularization of active recreation in ecologically clean village and using the service provided by farms.

recorded in classification, but existing in the area of the community, are very often a private ownership (e.g. at marina in Gardna Wielka). Recently, people from various regions of Poland have begun to build holiday houses or camps in their plots. These are transitional forms, which are used by new owners of building plots during summer holiday, before they build year-long, heated semi-detached houses (so called 'second houses'). Many examples of tourist colonization occur in Smółdzino and Smółdziński Las.

Local initiatives are of paramount meaning in rural tourism, because they create the image of certain region. The part of that image in the community of Smółdzino is developing folk art connected with Slovincie Coast and local people. The sample of that kind of activity can be Embroidered Circle in Smółdzino, which organize folk meetings, popularizing Kashubian embroidery. Apart from preserving local culture and diversifying ways of spending free time for tourists, this organization provides possibility of additional income for women from the area of the community. Embroidered handicrafts are sold on various plenary events (e.g. in the Museum of Slovincie Village in Kluki⁶ or individually by the embroiders.

The signs of local activity are supported in the area of the community by nongovernmental organizations and associations, which have influence on development of rural tourism, generate tourist movement and help with enhancing activities connected with tourism by the inhabitants. In the mentioned area especially helpful in activation of local community for tourist purposes are e.g. the Association 'Słowiniec'⁷, Sport Club 'Rowokół' in Smółdzino (popularizing culture and sport in the area of the community among the inhabitants and tourists), the Association of Inhabitants of Smółdziński Las 'Common Matter' (famous for organizing family festivals for the inhabitants and tourists) and the Association for Development of Slovincie Region.

USING BENEFITS FROM ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Polish accession to the European Union has created extra possibilities of rural development. By Structural Funds it is possible to receive additional sources for restructuring and modernization of the economy, so that it can be compared with EU

⁶ The Museum of Slovincie Village in Kluki, Department of Middle Pomerania in Słupsk, was established on the 22nd September 1963. Permanent exposition consists of the Reimanns' Farm, Fishing Warehouse, fishing shelter, baking oven, ground cellar, the farm of the of Jost and Klick, the cottage of the of Charlotte Klick, the cottage from Żoruchowo, the farm of Albert Klück, the farm of Keitschiccy, the farm of Anna Kotsch and the inn. By the end of September 2007 the museum has been visited by 70 748 people. The museum is known for its folklore events, where black wedding is an event on a whole country scale, furthermore, here take place inter alia Children's Festival, Days with Music and Bread, Days of Crafts and Techniques.

⁷ The association for the lodgers of the community of Smółdzino 'Słowiniec' was established in 1999 and is functioning in accordance with the Act of Parliament on the 7th April 1989 'Association Law', is a part of the organization Polish Rural Tourism Federation 'Guest Households' (the membership in this organization entitles to the title of agritourist accommodation).

regions in case of average economic level. The community also tries to participate in the allocation of financial support. The most popular, taking into account the number of applications, turned out to be programmes connected with agriculture. Other fields: social, cultural etc. lack in enthusiastic initiatives both from the side of trans-actors and the authorities in benefiting from European funds which embrace these spheres.

The Plan of Rural Development 2004-2006 (PROW 2004-2006) was of avid interest to the inhabitants of Smoldzino among all EU programmes. Concerning Activity 1 – ‘Structural pensions’, which was supposed to encourage farmers, who are in pre-retirement age to suppress running agricultural activity and hand over their farms to younger generation, only 3 farmers⁸ benefited. As a rule, they were farmers who had their successors, treating the handover to offspring as a factor in making decision. Moreover 8 farmers in the community took interest in Activity 6 – ‘Customizing farms to meet EU standards’ and the applications concerned mainly spreading manure and building containers for manure. Through using the funds from this activity, the economic buildings were modernized and manure slabs contributed to environment protection as a vital factor in view of the national park and its laggings. Farmers took major interest in Activity 4 – ‘Supporting agricultural and environmental enterprises and improving welfare of animals’, which 32 people benefited from. In this programme farmers in one package were obliged to mow meadows, therefore its state has developed and did not undergo degradation and meet plague of weeds. Furthermore, culture of growing crops enhanced, because meadows were not overgrown with old grass, so that also esthetic aspects has been improved. That state of matters indirectly influences on tourists visiting the community, as the surroundings encourage tourists to stay in the community and trim, mowed meadows increase tourist values. In PROW was being realized as well Activity 5 – ‘Afforestation of agricultural lands’. Two farmers submitted successful applications, what reduced share of wastelands and grounds of lower pedological classes.

Beside above mentioned activities from European Union funds benefited two more farmers in the community in the programme: ‘Facilitating the start of young farmers’, who for taking up agricultural activity or continuing the activity of predecessors (family or other person, who they have inherited farm from) received financial bonus for starting to take actions in the farm. It allowed for continuing agricultural activity by younger, educated and creative farmers, what can become useful in future development of agriculture in the community due to introducing innovations, facilities or specialization by new housekeepers. It looks very promising that the farms are not deserted and in spite of few successors the agricultural activity will be continued. In current situation of the community, where development of industry and other fields harmful to environment is not possible, agriculture is, next to tourism, an earning alternative.

⁸ Data concerning PROW 2004-2006 in the area of the Smoldzino community was collated through the interview with Mr Jan Długoszek, the expert on farmers from the Provincial Centre of Agricultural Advisory in Strzelino on EU applications and cases in the area of the Smoldzino community (Hostyńska 2008).

European funds have become good source of financing agriculture in the area of both the Smółdzino community and Poland. 48% of farmers from different regions of Poland are convinced that in two years time from Polish accession to the EU, Polish agriculture has improved. Contrary opinions were expressed by no more than 7% of the interviewed. The group of farmers who do not see any changes decreased to 27% – earlier it was 40% – (Ocena zainteresowania... 2008).

SUMMARY

Local unities, which have in their region big share of protected areas, are dealing with the obstacles in development. The community of Smółdzino belongs to this kind of unities, because its functioning is dominated by existence of the Slovinski National Park and its laggings, which spatially comprise nearly 65% of its whole surface. Researches indicate that the changes in the area of the Smółdzino community happen under influence of many factors, including: general processes occurring in Poland and definite region, tendencies related to the process of European Integration, conditioning connected to the political system transformation, environmental and geographic conditions. The influence of transformation processes on development and opportunities of the community functioning is relatively strong.

Summing up, we can assume that after 1989 there occurred negative tendencies in the demographic structure of the community. Together with slight population growth, there appeared unfavourable effects in the natural and migration movement and rapid growth of unemployment, caused by downfall of state agricultural farms. The major social and economic problem is outflow of population from the area of analyzed community, having its grounds in a lack of workplaces and prospects to achieving it, difficult housing situation, growing life aspirations.

The changes in economy of the community, observed in liquidation of the state agricultural farms and therefore in the changes in the structure and usage of grounds, have caused unfavourable situation on the job market and made it possible to develop regained grounds for tourist purposes. The crucial element influencing the directions of the community development is the existence of the protected area in shape of national park, because it hampers economic development of the community and increase of inhabitants' income. Great role is played by local initiatives of inhabitants and the authorities, because it enables people to receive financial support from the outside, primarily from the European Union.

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MOŻLIWOŚCI ROZWOJU SPOŁECZNO-GOSPODARCZEGO GMINY
O CENNYCH WALORACH PRZYRODNICZYCH
(NA PRZYKŁADZIE GMINY SMOŁDZINO)

Streszczenie

Przed jednostkami lokalnymi, które posiadają na swoim obszarze duży udział terenów chronionych otwierają się możliwości wielofunkcyjnego rozwoju. Na przykładzie gminy Smołdzino, której większość terenów zajmuje Słowiński Park Narodowy i jego otuliną ukazano możliwości rozwoju społecznego i gospodarczego gminy. Uwzględniono zmianę charakteru funkcjonowania obszarów rolniczych związaną z działaniem państwowych gospodarstw rolnych, obecnie wynikającą z przystąpienia Polski do struktur UE.

Przeprowadzone badania wskazują, że przemiany na obszarze gminy Smołdzino następują pod wpływem wielu czynników, do których należy zaliczyć: ogólne procesy dokonujące się w całej Polsce i regionie, tendencje związane z procesem integracji europejskiej, uwarunkowania zależne od zmian systemowych, warunków środowiska i położenia geograficznego. Stosunkowo silny jest wpływ procesów transformacyjnych na rozwój i możliwości funkcjonowania gminy.

Po 1989 roku wystąpiły niekorzystne tendencje w strukturze demograficznej gminy. Przy niewielkim wzroście liczby ludności ujawniły się niekorzystne zjawiska w ruchu naturalnym i migracyjnym oraz gwałtowny wzrost bezrobocia spowodowany upadkiem państwowych gospodarstw rolnych. Problemem społecznym i gospodarczym jest odpływ ludności z terenu analizowanej gminy, spowodowany brakiem miejsc pracy i perspektyw na jej zdobycie, trudną sytuacją mieszkaniową, rosnącymi aspiracjami życiowymi.

Zmiany w gospodarce gminy przejawiające się likwidacją państwowych gospodarstw rolnych, a tym samym zmianami w strukturze i użytkowaniu gruntów, spowodowały z jednej strony niekorzystną sytuację na rynku pracy, z drugiej zaś umożliwiły zagospodarowanie odzyskanych terenów do celów turystycznych. Elementem decydującym o kierunkach rozwoju gminy jest występowanie obszaru ochrony przyrody w formie parku narodowego, bowiem hamuje on rozwój gospodarczy gminy, a zarazem stymuluje ruch turystyczny i rozkwit działalności agroturystycznej, umożliwiając rozwój gminy i wzrost zamożności jej mieszkańców. Dużą rolę w takiej sytuacji odgrywają lokalne inicjatywy mieszkańców i władz samorządowych, dzięki którym możliwe jest pozyskiwanie pomocy finansowej z zewnątrz, głównie z Unii Europejskiej.