



EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD ECONOMICS
INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL ORGANIZATION
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Editor: Jerzy Bański

Changing functions of rural areas in the Baltic Sea Region



WARSAW 2004





Jerzy Bański
Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization
Polish Academy of Sciences
00-818 Warsaw, Twarda 51/55

PUBLISHED by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences

COPYRIGHT by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences

OPINION expressed in the individual papers are the sole responsibility of the authors

Publication financed by the Committee for Scientific Research within the framework of the research project entitled *International cooperation in the framework of scientific network „Rural areas development in Eastern and Central Europe”*
590/E – 172/SPB/MSN/H-02/DZ 637/2002-2004

Publikacja finansowana przez Komitet Badań Naukowych w ramach zadania badawczego *Międzynarodowa współpraca w formie sieci naukowej pt. „Rozwój obszarów wiejskich w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej”*
Decyzja nr 590/E – 172/SPB/MSN/H-02/DZ 637/2002-2004

Prepared for print by
W-TEAM

ISBN 83-89666-03-0
ISBN 83-87954-43-8



Contents

Introduction to the volume	5
Sabine Baum, Peter Weingarten <i>Developments of rural economies in the Central and Eastern Europe: an overview</i>	7
Jerzy Bański <i>The development of non-agricultural economic activity in Poland's rural areas</i>	31
Saulius Stanaitis <i>Social, economic and demographic changes of rural areas in Lithuania</i>	45
Soren Pilgaard Kristensen <i>Danish rural areas: recent experiences and future trends.</i>	59
Józef Stanisław Zegar, Zbigniew Floriańczyk <i>Structure of the rural population incomes in Poland before and after the accession to the European Union</i>	79
Ulf Wiberg <i>Future perspectives for sparsely populated areas in Sweden</i>	95
Toivo Muilu, Jarmo Rusanen <i>Changes in population and industries in the rural areas of Finland: from analysis of administrative regions to a GIS based approach</i> 109	
Jan W. Owsiański, Aneta M. Pielak <i>Web-based functionality of Polish self-governmental units and its effectiveness in promoting the development of rural areas</i>	119
Marek Degórski <i>Spatial variability of multifunctional landscape as the basis for potential differences of regional „smart growth“ of rural areas – the examples from Poland</i>	133
Elena Albertovna Romanova, Olga Leonidovna Vinogradova, Larisa Yurievna Stanchenko <i>Structure and evolution of landscapes in connection with strategic planning of development of rural areas (on the example of the Slavsk area in the Kaliningrad district)</i>	149







Introduction to the volume

The second volume in the series published within the framework of the European Rural Development Network (ERDN) is devoted to the changing functions of the rural areas in the countries of Baltic Europe. The authors of articles contained herein represent the research centres of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

The subject matter of the articles spans a very broad domain, but all of the texts touch upon the problems of contemporary changes taking place in rural areas. The considerations contained in the articles concern, in particular, the demographic questions and the issue of employment of the rural population, the development of non-agricultural activities in the countryside, the economic and social transformations of the rural areas, the directions of development of the rural landscape, etc. This, as well, is an evidence of the interdisciplinary character of the present publication, being beyond doubt its positive aspect.

The papers devote a lot of attention to agriculture. This focus is justified, since agriculture constitutes as a rule the leading domain of human activity within the rural areas. The recent years bring, however, highly significant, qualitative and quantitative changes in the European farming, giving rise to multifaceted problems. Suffice to mention the problem of overproduction, of large subsidies supporting agricultural activities, deep developmental differences requiring external assistance, and the like. All these problems make it necessary to introduce new rural activities, alternative with respect to farming, which would make possible sustainable development of rural areas. This is of particular importance for the new member countries of the European Union, in which a significant part of the rural areas is monofunctional, and the agriculture that dominates there is mostly characterised by a low level of development.

The present publication constitutes the basis for discussion at the International Seminar on *Changing functions of rural areas in the Baltic Sea Region*, organised and run by the ERDN in 2004 in Warsaw. The editor express the hope that the Seminar and the volume will contribute to integration of the scientific communities busying themselves with the problems of rural areas.

Jerzy Bański

