

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We are happy to present the next 95(3) volume of *Czasopismo Geograficzne*. The direct reason for the publication of the articles was the commemoration of an international scientific conference. These issues were the subject of considerations during the 30th Annual Colloquium of the Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems of the International Geographical Union, which took place on June 5–9, 2023 at the University of Lodz, at the Faculty of Geographical Sciences, under the title “Clashes of Knowledge: Green Deal – Concepts and Challenges for Sustainable Rural Systems”. Preparations for the conference began as early as 2020, when the executive committee of the commission entrusted the organisation of the event to the University of Lodz. The Commission began to operate in 1992 as a scientific team of the International Geographical Union. It obtained the status of a MUG commission in 1996. The first colloquium was organised in 1993 in Montreal (Canada). After 30 years, for the first time this annual scientific meeting of the commission was held in Poland. Traditionally, the colloquium combined a theoretical and cognitive part (papers and posters presented during scientific sessions at the Faculty of Geographical Sciences of the University of Lodz) and a field part carried out in rural areas of the Łódź Voivodeship.

The organisers intended to prepare a publication that would summarise this conference and provide a synthesis of the topics currently undertaken by the committee in the field of sustainable development. That is why this issue opens with an article by Marcin Wójcik and Karolina Dmochowska-Dudek, which refers to the concepts of the green transition. This topic is of great importance in the context of global environmental problems and various concepts of the ‘green deal’ included in the development policies of countries, primarily the EU member states. To comprehensively identify the topic, use was made of the content analysis methodology to examine the abstracts submitted by the authors. This tool and the analysis of the sample of research papers presented at the conference made it possible to identify key issues related to sustainable development of rural areas. The approach used shed light on the relationship between society and nature, and revealed a variety of perspectives and solutions proposed by researchers from around the world. An attempt to integrate the thoughts of many scientists (conference participants) and highlight basic issues in the field of sustainable development of rural areas led to the construction of a model of environmental research in relation to the geographical specificity of understanding reality. This specific thought study (a synthesis of views) emphasises the importance of different perspectives and knowledge systems for understanding the foundations of sustainable rural development. The content-related analysis of the conference abstracts revealed four groups of processes influencing the sustainable development of rural areas, i.e. exploitation of natural resources and its social context, changes in land use, building social awareness of environmental threats and the evolution of connections between urban and rural areas.

The remaining five articles deal with issues that address sustainable development of rural areas. The team of authors from Australia (Roy Jones, Tod Jones, Warrick Ford, Xavier Leenders) documents the progress and achievements of joint management to date, notably in the mutual appreciation of cultural and ontological differences and identify the lack of congruence between Indigenous and non-Indigenous boundaries and timeframes as sources of tension and issues requiring ongoing improvements in joint management collaborations. Researchers from Poland and Israel (Paulina Tobiasz-Lis, Piotr Lis, Avi Perez) show the Israeli kibbutzim's organisational culture in the context of challenges arising from ageing society. Drawing on Edgar Schein's three-level model of organisational culture, the research sheds light on the shared services provided for the elderly, their participation in community life, decision-making processes, and the overall attitude of the kibbutz towards its older members. The study contributes to broader discussions on ageing, silver economy, community welfare, and sustainable development. Wioletta Kałamucka presents cognitive advantages of theoretical conceptions of the quality of life in the context of life quality research. It was naturally linked to endogenous development theory, emphasising the importance of a local context. The conception takes account of a broad context of links between living conditions and socio-institutional factors. It also combines them with the results obtained and their evaluation. The livelihood conception is useful in research into occurrences determined by a large dynamic of changes in the form of sudden crises and long-term processes. Researchers from Toruń, on the other hand, (Paweł Smoliński, Jadwiga Biegańska, Elżbieta Grzelak-Kostulska, Stefania Środa-Murawska) address the presence of innovative pro-environmental technologies in suburban zones in Poland considering social research. The existence of these solutions was considered in the context of the public management model. The primary data source was a nationwide survey conducted on a representative sample of 939 respondents. The survey showed that innovative pro-environmental solutions developed in suburban communes strongly depend on the governance model. The team of researchers from Portugal (Diogo M. Pinto, Helena Pina, André Samora-Arvela, João Pedro Barreiros) investigated the perception of mayors regarding tourism in the Douro region, focusing on the challenges and opportunities associated with tourism development. This research aimed to understand how local authorities view tourism as a vector of sustainable development and identify key areas for improvement. Surveys were conducted with mayors across the Duoro region, employing a structured questionnaire to gather data on their perspectives.

We hope that the subject of sustainable development of rural areas will be appreciated by readers, will provoke discussions and will stimulate further research in this area.

*Volume Editor
Marcin Wójcik*