

Witold A. Werner

Cuius regio, eius religio : whose country, the religion

Problemy Rozwoju Miast 7/1, 7

2010

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

CUIUS REGIO, EIUS RELIGIO

Whose country, the religion

That old rule of power is still valid and indicates the attitude of those who rule towards all spheres of economic and social life, and it also relates to the contents of articles published in this issue of our Quarterly and devoted to spatial policy and economy, with particular emphasis on residential housing.

Residential housing constitutes one of basic elements of a country's development and of its citizens' well-being, it exerts influence on demographic trends, on external and internal migrations, productivity and growth of production and, consequently, on gross domestic product.

Improvement of existing condition of housing in Poland requires that decision makers should conduct a conscious spatial policy, expressed in terms of specific programmes aimed at providing "a roof over one's head" to everybody, partly one's own roof, partly a rented, as well as a social one. The condition of housing in Poland indicates a need for eliminating striking quantitative and qualitative shortages as compared to other EU countries. The neoliberal theories, which implied that the housing issue would be solved by an invisible hand of the market failed, and did not actually come true.

Previous attempts at creating a residential housing development programme, like e.g. the "new housing deal" promoted by minister A. Bratkowski in early 1990s, or the programme of minister S. Najniger from 1997 were not finally put into practice. Subsequent party "programmes" unannounced before each election, like e.g. "3 Million Flats in 8 Years" were unfeasible without indicating their legal grounds, resources, and, first of all, without the determination of public and legislative authorities to implement them.

In this issue we are presenting own views of authors on pathology of legal instruments pertaining to space management, on the autocratic nature of planning permissions issued by authorities, and on the necessity for providing ecological balance to development.

At the background of present housing crisis, which manifests itself by the annual decrease in the number of building permits and commenced housing projects that continues for 3 years running due to, among other things, tightened bank credit rating requirements, we are developing the problem (discussed already in the previous issue) of support to rental housing, but this time in coexistence with public and private partnership.

We are also presenting, in a synthetic approach, a multi-year research on housing that has been conducted in the Institute of Urban Development. Our readers can also familiarize themselves with the subject of extensive research on revitalization of Polish cities, conducted in the Institute of Urban Development.

Witold A. Werner
Editor-in-Chief