

# ABSTRACT

**Strategic Spatial Planning and the Regulatory Sphere of Plans.** The aim of the presented monograph is to isolate and critically evaluate the instruments of strategic spatial planning in the Polish system and to relate them to the regulatory perspective. The following research questions are formulated:

- What elements concerning strategic spatial planning are emphasised in the international theoretical discussion? How is the role and objectives of strategic spatial planning and its instruments perceived from this perspective?
- What institutional arrangements in Poland can be linked to strategic spatial planning? What are the weaknesses of Polish strategic spatial planning instruments?
- What is the spatial dimension in transnational development strategies?
- What is the spatial dimension in local development strategies, in particular after the revision of development policy principles?
- How does strategic spatial planning translate into the regulatory sphere and related legal discourse?

The first chapter provides an in-depth review of the international literature on strategic spatial planning. Due to the (aforementioned) difficulty in providing a unified view of the issue, the answer to the formulated research question is multi-stepped. The key features of strategic spatial planning most frequently identified in the literature are identified. The second chapter contains a characterisation of the elements of strategic spatial planning in the Polish system. Particular focus is placed on the local level, emphasising the legal status prior to the wider amendment of the *Planning and Spatial Development Act*. The subject of reflection is the change in the principles of development policy, in which the spatial scope of development strategy was expanded (at least from the perspective of the statutory criteria). The chapter provides an assessment of the practices related to the new wording of the provisions of the *Act on Municipal Self-Government* which differently recognise the scope of development strategies. The direction of legal changes resulting from the amendment to the Act on spatial planning and development and potential problems related to them (concerning changes and challenges of strategic spatial planning) were also signalled. The third chapter contains

a characterisation of the spatial dimension of development strategies at supra-national level. The fourth chapter analyses several case studies on Polish development strategies. The fifth chapter contains an analysis of the link between strategic and regulatory spatial planning in the Polish system, which has not been undertaken to this extent before. Rulings of administrative courts concerning complaints against local spatial development plans have been analysed. Out of all such rulings, cases were distinguished in which the complainants alleged a discrepancy between local spatial development plans and studies of spatial development conditions and directions (treating this as a violation of the law enabling the plans to be challenged for this reason).

**Keywords:** Development strategies, municipalities, spatial plans, strategic spatial planning, regulatory spatial planning.