

# ABSTRACT

**Creative Cities. From Creative Thinking to Effective Implementation.** The publication is a transdisciplinary monograph, the subject of which is focused on cities in the process of transformation, with special emphasis on creative cities as a separate phase of the process. It can be stated that separating this phase in the process of transformation is a necessary condition for its success. The structure of the monograph allows for attempting to verify several working hypotheses:

- Creative cities are cities that are co-managed and co-created towards citizen self-governance.
- Creative cities are biophilic cities that maintain harmony between nature and culture.
- Creative cities are cities – actors in the process of metropolization of agglomerations/conurbations.

Presented hypotheses allowed for launching a research and expert perspective that is defined by the *triad of creative thinking – creating new visions – implementing innovative projects* and making a transition from interdisciplinarity to transdisciplinary research exploration that go beyond the traditional boundaries of individual disciplines.

In the first part of the monograph *Co-managed and co-created cities: towards citizen self-governance*, researchers focused on the co-managed and co-created city. This is a new cognitive and practical approach to studies on the future of contemporary cities. It aims to combine the creation of the future of cities with urban management styles.

The subject of co-managed and co-created cities was undertaken by the research team of Andrzej Klasik, Florian Kuźnik and Artur Ochojski (*Governance of creative cities. On co-creation and territorial co-governance*). It has been discussed in the context of four key categories, *i.e.*, emerging cities, urban territoriality, urban dynamics and urban *governance*. The territorial dynamics of cities is presented by the authors in the form of a phase transition from cities in the process of transformation to creative cities. This allowed for the formulation of urban *governance* in the conditions of territorial dynamics using the layer formula. A synthesis of the subjective and process approach to the relationship between the territorial dynamics of cities and urban *governance* is the result of this approach.

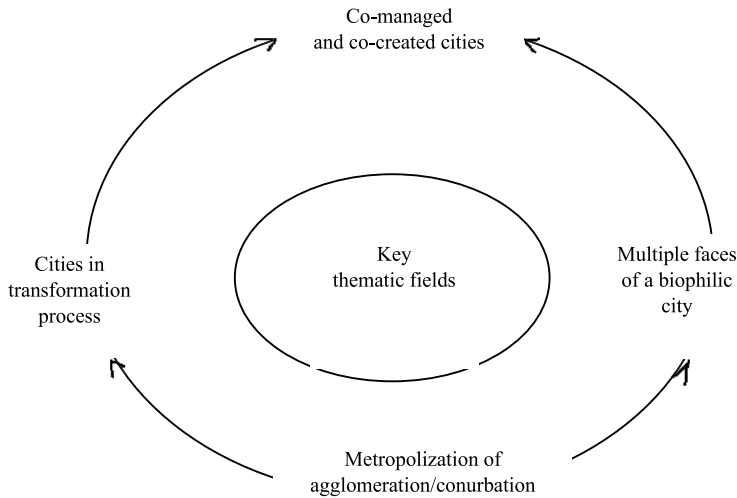


Fig. 1. Creative cities. From creative thinking to effective implementation

Source: own study.

Previous experiences have encouraged Rafał Blazy and Alirza Mamedov (*Models of cooperation and management in creative cities*) to attempt and synthesize contemporary models of cooperation and management of cities against the background of existing cultural determinants. According to the author, new models of management include collective leadership, inclusiveness, social innovation, supported grassroots initiatives and urban experiment. They were used to critically view the changes in spatial planning and spatial management.

Study work by Krzysztof Wrana (*Silesian cities in the process of transformation: from new visions of the future to innovative projects*) presents practical solutions in creating the future of cities. These are case studies of three post-industrial cities in the Silesian Voivodeship. The city of Rybnik links its vision of the future with a just transformation, in the context of the city's position as the main center of the urban functional area in the western part of the Silesian Voivodeship. The city of Siemianowice Śląskie has created a vision of social participation in a smart city. The synthetic content of the vision of the city future includes the concept of a vital city, a new economy city and a sustainable city. The city of Tarnowskie Góry specifically defines its own future as a unique city. The city bases its future and development on its positive difference from the post-industrial cities of the Silesian agglomeration. This specifically applies to differences in terms of nature and urban planning, as well as residential and tourist attractiveness. The study concludes with recommendations for creating a vision of the future of cities and a sentence that „...using a vision of the future is a process based on joint „learning of the city..”.

The subject of the second part of the monograph *Multiple faces of the biophilic city: a new cultural and civilizational opening* concerns the extensively discussed issue of the relationship between the city and the natural environment. This relationship

is usually antagonistic in nature. The city was a kind of a cultural enclave in a natural environment. Now we are debating whether this relationship can change not only to neutral but also to positive and productive one. There are claims that it is necessary to change the paradigm of city management and design.

According to Jan Kubec (*Biophilic city – thinking about the project as a landscape*), it is necessary to consider whether it would be possible to create a new category of architecture, *i.e.*, an „architectural and natural structure” made of natural and technical materials in equal amounts. The author even uses the new concept of „architectural biotechnologies” to describe the ways in which architectural objects, urban complexes and landscapes would be designed and built.

Justyna Gorgoń sees the described relationships in a slightly different way (*From urban ecology to biourbanism – urban utopia or a modern trend in shaping the structure of a post-industrial city*). She refers to classic urban planning theories to support the statement that a biophilic, or at least ecological, approach to thinking about the city-nature relationship has been present in science and practice for over a century. In her opinion, the topicality and intensity of discussions on this topic result from the need to overcome the difficult legacy of industry, *e.g.*, development of post-industrial areas and preparing responses of the cities to climate change.

Małgorzata Pięta-Kanurska reminds that a green, sustainable city must function in accordance with the laws of economics (*Eco-innovations as a contemporary challenge in managing urban development*). Like other authors, she sees the need for integrated city management, where, together with the development of ecosystem services, the so-called eco-innovations are created. Their goal is to effectively use natural resources while limiting the harmful impact of economic processes, which should lead to cost reduction and increased safety.

A description of practical activities illustrating urban biophilia is presented by Anna Starzewska-Sikorska and Leszek Trząski (*Urban green acupuncture*). Demonstration activities were conducted in several cities of the Upper Silesian Agglomeration as part of the international project SALUTE4CE. The authors present a simple and cheap method of urban green acupuncture, explaining, among others, the criteria for selecting the location of activities, the method of selecting species, the structure of a new, small green area, which, when multiplied in the district, can significantly affect its microclimate.

The issue of shaping regional greenery systems is discussed by Krzysztof Gasidło (*From „black” to „green” agglomeration*) when asking how the post-industrial Upper Silesian Agglomeration tries to rebuild its natural environment. The answer is not easy. On the one hand, such important activities as the construction of the Forest Protection Belt of the Upper Silesian Industrial District were performed in the agglomeration and attempts were made to implement an ecological system of protected areas, but on the other hand, no way to counteract further, uncontrolled urbanization or a plan for coordinating activities to build greenery systems of regional importance has been developed.

The third part of the monograph is entitled *Metropolization of agglomerations: cities of social communication and creative lifestyles*, mainly due to the intensity of various types of processes, mainly social, but also cultural, the spatial dimension of

which transforms a large urban agglomeration (conurbation) into a metropolitan system. There are a total of five chapters, each of which is focused on a different aspect of the metropolization process in terms of creativity and social communication of residents and users.

This part opens with a chapter by Andrzej Zborowski and Jadwiga Gałka (*The formation of metropolitan identity in the institutional and social dimensions – the concept of city users*), in which the processes of identification with the emerging new urban region and its recognition, both inside and outside it – was indicated as the social basis for the development of the metropolitan area. Attention was also paid to the importance of its communitarianization, which should lead to the creation of a sense of metropolitan identity among local communities. The authors drew attention to two dimensions of the formation of metropolitan identity, as it applies not only to the central city (core), but also includes the development of interpersonal ties in the suburban area and within commuting distance to work.

Jerzy Runge considers the concept of city rhythm in complex settlement structures (*City rhythm in complex settlement systems*). He focuses on identifying accelerations or slowdowns, sometimes stagnation – in the dynamics of transformations of urban space, when considering its full territorial dimension. He draws attention to the importance of the mismatch of functional, spatial and socio-cultural changes for the development of cities, when the rhythm is a derivative of supra-local determinants or features of the local economic and socio-cultural space. All this may lead to disharmony of development and deepening the state of imbalance.

Jakub Taczanowski, Adam Parol and Arkadiusz Koło (*Electromobile path to creation of modern and attractive metropolises*) focused on showing the level of electromobility development in provincial centers (metropolises and cities with metropolitan features). Based on research conducted in 2022, which covered all provincial cities in Poland, the authors attempt to indicate what type of electromobility is the optimal solution in Polish cities.

The study by Adam Bartoszek (*GZM as creating the network cooperation of cities and the institutional as well as social communication of the Metropolis*) pursues the goal of efficiently creating the Metropolitan Union (Upper Silesian Metropolitan Union) as a public management entity complementing the complex structure of local government administration. It has been shown that in the first period of the metropolitan union (forty-one counties in the Silesian Voivodeship), the administrative institutionalization of the union's statutory competences is characterized by significant effectiveness, both realizing civic aspirations and enabling communication of local and regional political elites with the inhabitants of our region.

The work by Sławomir Sitek (*Attitudes and electoral preferences of the inhabitants of GZM as a manifestation of metropolitan values*), assesses the diversity of attitudes and electoral preferences of the communities of the Metropolitan Association of Upper Silesia (2018 and 2019 elections) and their relationship with metropolitan values, estimating their fit to the defined pattern of social characteristics typical of a metropolitan area.

Another monograph published as a volume of Studies of the National Spatial Development Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences was created as a result of a broad discussion on creativity and the implementation of new impulses into urban development processes. The collective study is addressed to a wide audience from universities, scientific and research circles as well as groups of managers and experts involved in creating city development. The publication may also be of interest to specialists working in studios, institutes and project offices related to city development programming and urban design. The study is interdisciplinary in nature, which may become an inspiration for new scientific, research and promotional initiatives.

**Keywords:** Biophilic cities, creative cities, creative thinking, metropolization of agglomeration/conurbation, multiple faces of a biophilic city.