

TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNE OF WYSZKÓW IN COMPARISON WITH EU REQUIREMENTS

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Abstract. This article deals with characteristics of technical and social infrastructure in the commune of Wyszaków in Mazowieckie Voivodship and the EU requirements in connection therewith. The research which has been done in the commune of Wyszaków has shown that with respect to transport the EU directives are not carried out, the commune authorities focus on road network development, on its modernisation, they do not provide proper traffic security. With respect to education the commune of Wyszaków has not introduced the UE standards concerning improvement of system of education and vocational training. In the field of public health the institutions acting in the commune do not plan in the near future to implement the EU programme which pertains to public health between 2003 and 2008.

Key words: social infrastructure, technical infrastructure, EU requirements

INTRODUCTION

The term “infrastructure” defines equipment and institutions which are necessary to enable national economy and social life to function properly [Borcz 2000].

The word “infrastructure” is derived from Latin and it means: *infra* – under, below, lower and *structure* – building, construction, organization, system. The two parts put together form a term: sub building, substructure [Mirowski 1996].

In the military dictionary the term “infrastructure” started to be used in the countries of Western Europe, USA and Canada between 1945 and 1950. In Poland it was used for the first time in 1959, and it has become a common word since mid-seventies.

Infrastructure is an international term which defines a group of primary constructions, equipment and institutions aimed at providing services which are necessary for proper functioning of society and productive branches of economy.

On the one hand infrastructure is treated as a part of national economy but on the other hand as an integral part of special structure of a given area.

Infrastructure of rural areas defines constructions and equipment in a given rural area, strongly connected with this area and necessary for proper functioning of economy in this area and life of certain local communities.

With respect to rural areas infrastructure is divided into three basic groups: economic (economic or economic and financial, technical), social, organizational.

Economic infrastructure includes services which facilitate production processes along with selling of manufactured products-outlets which supply and sell fertilizers and pesticides, retail outlets, veterinary clinics, merchandize exchanges. Technical infrastructure includes any transport systems, power industry systems, communication systems and hydro-sanitary systems. Social infrastructure comprises constructions and equipment which meet people's demands concerning: upbringing, social aid, health protection, culture and art. Organizational infrastructure includes management system of communes, counties and voivodships.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Social infrastructure plays an important role in spatial development and development of rural settlements. Buildings like a church, a school, an inn or a shop constituted the development centre of a former village for many centuries. Along with changes to economy and level of people's life constructions connected with culture, health protection and management were erected.

Social infrastructure is considered to comprise all civilization equipment and institutions with any factors and conditions which are necessary for functioning of social life and transformation of society. This infrastructure serves for realization of cultural values whose contemporisation is in connection of meeting various people's psychological, economic and cultural demands thanks to using social resources which are made and acquired in the form of goods and services [Mirowski 1996].

Technical infrastructure consists of primary constructions, equipment and installations like roads, bridges, power networks and telecommunications networks which provide services necessary for proper functioning of society and for productive branches of economy [Borcz 2000]. The number and nature of services rendered for residents depend on the importance of a village in the hierarchy of a network of settlements.

The analysis of technical and social infrastructure was made on the basis of direct site investigations in the commune of Wyszaków as well as available substantial literature. For the purpose of compiling this subject certain constructions, equipment and installations were chosen in the area of research and they were compared with requirements of the EU.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNE OF WYSZAKÓW

The commune of Wyszaków with area of 165.5 sq km is situated in Mazowieckie Voivodship 55 km from Warsaw and 68 km from Ciechanów. The commune lies in the valley of the Bug River on the edge of the Biała Forest which is a part of "Green Lungs

of Poland”. Wyszaków is situated on an important road transport route Warsaw – Vilnius and on water transport route East – West. There are 37 500 inhabitants in the commune. There are 2615 farms in the commune. The average size of a farm is approximately 3.3 hectares. The cropland area is 9377 hectares that makes up 56.7% of the total area of the commune. In the town and commune 3229 business entities are registered (commerce, repairs, building, health protection, hotels, agriculture, education).

EU REQUIREMENTS

The European Community have taken action pertaining to transport deregulation which have been divided into the following domains:

- railway transport (equal access to infrastructure, security concerning railway transport of dangerous loads, railway systems integration between particular states),
- sea transport (security at sea, coastal sailing),
- air transport,
- inland transport on waterways (deregulation of inland sailing),
- transport of passengers and goods using road means of transport (road security, freedom to render transport services, terms and conditions of granting licences).

The main purpose of EU policy pertaining to transport is quality improvement, imposing of provisions and tightening controls as well as stricter penalties in the road transport sector. In order to fulfill the aforesaid tasks the European Committee put forward certain actions which should serve the aforesaid purpose:

- introduction of “drivers’ certificates”,
- development of vocational education,
- harmonization of permitted period of time concerning driving vehicles, the average working, week should not exceed 48 hours,
- harmonization of prohibition of weekend truck traffic,
- improvement of road safety, reduction in number of fatal road accidents by half until 2010,
- harmonization of taxes on fuel paid by commercial road users,
- increasing in number of inspections.

The European Community deals with energy policy on the basis of competitiveness on world markets, energy security and environmental protection. Planning of any kind shall be made pursuant to provisions of Directive 2002/91/WE issued by the European Parliament and Council of Europe concerning energy parameters of buildings. The Directive demands that member states of the EU establish:

- minimum standards of energy capability concerning new buildings,
- minimum standards of energy capability concerning large existing buildings,
- energy certification requirements for buildings,
- regular controls over energy use and emission of carbon dioxide concerning boilers, main air-conditioning systems.

The member states shall implement acts of law and administrative regulations which are necessary for compliance with this Directive until 4th January 2006.

Communes should consider higher level of use of renewable energy sources i.e. wind, solar energy, biomass. According to the attitude of the Polish government expressed in "Assumptions of Polish energy policy till 2020" active attitude of local authorities to renewable energy is a key to successfully increase use of renewable energy sources.

The European Union does not impose common educational policy it only makes cooperation systems between the member states through: plans of exchange of persons, innovative projects with respect to teaching, supranational partnership and frameworks which serve for solving of current problems.

Moreover the Community has established five standards of improving of education systems and training systems in Europe until 2010:

- the total number of Masters of Science, and graduates in technology faculties should increase by at least 15% (keeping sex balance concerning these studies),
- at least 85% of the EU citizens up to 22 years of age should have secondary education,
- reduction in the average Union rate of persons who resign from school education to level below 10%,
- percentage of the EU inhabitants aged 15 years old with poor results of reading and writing should be reduced by at least 2% in comparison to 2000,
- the medium EU's level of participation in continuous education should be at least 2.5% of adult population (25–64 years of age).

In order to achieve in the member states a high level of health protection between 2003 and 2008 the European Union accepted the Community Action Programme in the field of public health, whose most important tasks are as follows: improving of information level and level of knowledge with respect to public health promotion and health care systems, creating of mechanism of quick reaction to serious health threats and focusing on the factors which determine health condition.

With respect to culture UE actions are not compulsory. Their purpose is complementing and supporting of domestic policies without aiming at harmonization of provisions of law in the member states. The community has to act according to three basic terms: cooperation between the member states, respect for culture differentiation and promotion of common cultural heritage.

The actions complement and support policy of the member states the purpose of which is: increase in knowledge level and culture popularization and popularization of the European states history, support of cultural exchange and artistic and literary work, and preserving and protection of cultural heritage important to Europe.

The policy of rural areas development aims at creating of common and permanent frameworks which guarantee the future of the areas [Zadania gmin... 2003].

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNE OF WYSZKÓW

Education and upbringing. 15 primary schools, 5 public gymnasiums and 1 semi private gymnasium are and function in the town and commune of Wyszaków. On average one teacher has about 19 students. The number of students in primary schools is decreasing while in gymnasiums it is increasing (Table 1).

Table 1. Description of primary and gymnasium education in the commune of Wyszaków
Tabela 1. Charakterystyka szkolnictwa podstawowego i gimnazjalnego w gminie Wyszaków

Year Rok	Primary school Szkoły podstawowe			Gymnasiums Gimnazja		
	schools szkoły	students uczniowie	teachers nauczyciele	schools szkoły	students uczniowie	teachers nauczyciele
1996	15	5630	313	–	–	–
2000	15	3765	196	6	1432	64
2003	15	3632	193	6	2114	106

Source: Communes in Poland in 1996 GUS (Central Statistical Office) Warsaw, annual statistical reports 1996, 2000, 2004.

Źródło: Gminy w Polsce w 1996, GUS Warszawa, roczniki statystyczne 1996, 2000, 2004.

Secondary education in the commune is well developed. In general lyceums and technical secondary schools and vocational secondary schools there are over 3000 students (Table 2).

Table 2. Description of secondary education in the commune of Wyszaków
Tabela 2. Charakterystyka szkolnictwa średniego w gminie Wyszaków

Year Rok	General lyceums Licea ogólnokształcące			Technical and vocational secondary schools Szkoły techniczne i zawodowe		
	schools szkoły	students uczniowie	teachers nauczyciele	schools szkoły	students uczniowie	teachers nauczyciele
1996	1	668	20	9	2977	150
2000	2	945	31	14	3384	147
2004	2	740	31	13	2594	142

Source: Communes in Poland in 1996, GUS (Central Statistical Office) Warsaw, annual statistical reports 1996, 2000, 2004.

Źródło: Gminy w Polsce w 1996, GUS Warszawa, roczniki statystyczne 1996, 2000, 2004.

In the commune the structure of students of secondary schools is different from the structure in the country. We can see higher number of students who are educated in vocational secondary schools than in general lyceums.

There are four departments of daytime and extramural studies in Wyszaków where students are educated (distance learning departments of the University in Płock under the name of Paweł Włodkowic).

Culture. The following units deal with popularization of culture in the town and commune of Wyszaków: Center of Film Culture (“Kino Stare”), the Community Centre, the Municipal and Communal Public Library. The Community Centre conducts activities with children and the youth organising a music centre and foreign languages classes. Moreover it offers many concerts and shows, a billiards salon, an audio salon, a music café for non-associated persons.

The Public Library under the name of Norwid consists of the main library and 8 branches in the town and commune. About 8 000 readers use the library which constitutes 21% of all Wyszaków inhabitants. Many social organisations and associations, whose purpose is popularization of culture function in the commune. These are: the Folk Group of Song and Dance “Wyszaków”, Brotherhood of Knights, Youth’s Brass Band and Club of Social Dance.

The commune has good conditions to develop physical education. Wyszaków has a swimming pool (“Błękitna”), a modern sports gym with about 300 places for the spectators. Apart from this the Municipal Center of Sports and Recreation and numerous sports organisations function in the commune.

Health protection. After implementation of the reform of health care system of 1st January non-public health care centres came into existence. Altogether there are 6 health clinics. In the town there are 300 hospital beds, medical staff comprises 100 doctors, 14 dentists, 260 nurses.

The commune of Wyszaków conducts the Municipal Center of Social Aid. Its task consists in care over persons who have difficult financial condition, families affected by addictions, mothers who bring up their children alone and homeless and unemployed persons. The amount of benefits per family has remained at the same level for a few years but the number of families who take this aid has increased.

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNE OF WYSZAKÓW

Transport. In the commune of Wyszaków the roads are managed by the Municipal Board, their length is 162 km, the area is 382 square km. The length of the surfaced roads is 101 km, including 51 km of the improved surfaced roads. The length of the roads has not changed for 10 years, only the length of the surfaced roads has increased by 10 km. County roads and voivodship roads run through the commune.

A Motor Transport Company (Zakład Transportu Samochodowego) of the Polish Motor Transport (PKS) functions in the town of Wyszaków. It enables inhabitants to move freely not only within the commune but outside of its boundaries as well. The inhabitants of the commune commute to their workplaces which are situated mainly in Warsaw. Through the town centre there runs a railway Warsaw – Otwock.

Power and gas network. The commune of Wyszaków is supplied with electricity by Zakład Energetyczny Warszawa – Teren S.A. The commune and the town are supplied with 5 types of power lines: 110 kV, 15 kV overhead, 15 kV underground, 220 V overhead, 220 V underground. The existing power network fully meets demands of the receivers located in the commune as regards electric power and uninterruptedness of power supply.

In the commune the gas network is badly developed. Gas is supplied from the Main Gas Switching House Warszawa – Białoleka. The length of the gas network is about 9 km.

Heat is supplied from individual boiler houses there is no central heating system which serve for specific villages. Individual boiler houses are coal fired and wood fired. The commune aims at increasing in the number of individual receivers who use ecological fuels.

Development of the commune. The infrastructure improvement. Local development strategy means establishing of concrete purposes which are possible to achieve and methods which are used in order to carry out the purposes.

Part of the task consists in carrying out a sewage system plan in the commune of Wyszaków. For the time being approximately 92% of the town and only 5% of the rural areas have a sewage system. In the majority of households water gets into the environment. It is necessary to modernize the sewage – treatment plant which for the time being does not fulfill the requirements.

A strategical geographical location within an important international road creates a need for taking actions to start building a ring road around Wyszaków and another section of the road between Radzymin and Wyszaków.

It is necessary to implement a commercial plan of the town centre management and modernize the existing roads.

The task which aims at tourist attractiveness improvement of the town and the commune consists in sports infrastructure development through extending of a recreation and sports complex.

ANALYSIS

The European Union has established standards which have to be fulfilled by all the member states in order to receive aid from the EU's resources. As regards the infrastructure there are directives and postulates which call for observance of certain rules relating to the infrastructure components. The directives referring to the technical infrastructure focus to a large extent on the environment. With reference to the social infrastructure the EU pays much attention to the educational development, exchange of students, sharing experience and meeting of cultural demands.

As regards education the European Union puts emphasis on exchange of tertiary education students. There is no such an exchange at the local level. Besides the commune does not use improvement standards with respect to systems, education and training of its inhabitants in Europe. As far as culture is considered The European Commission does not impose any requirements on the member states. Each country is responsible for its cultural policy.

The purpose of the EU is complementing and supporting of domestic policies without aiming at harmonization of provisions of law. For the purpose of achieving a high level of health protection the EU approved the Community Action Programme in the field of public health for the period between 2003 and 2008. The centres which function in the commune of Wyszaków do not yet implement the approved programme. They perform their state duties and do not plan to expand them.

The EU's policy concerning transport presented in the White Book "The European transport policy till 2010: time for decisions" aims at road quality improvement, tightening controls and penalties in the road transport sector. These assumptions are not enforced by the commune. The authorities of the commune concentrate on the road network development: building of a ring road around the town of Wyszaków, modernization of existing roads and building of a sewage system.

Concerning sewage system policy the commune of Wyszaków still has many tasks to perform. The communal authorities aim at increasing of the number of inhabitants who use ecological fuels which positively affects the environment and reduces pollution emission. The assumptions of Directive 2002/91/WE of the European Parliament and the Council concerning energy parameters of buildings do not come into effect in the commune either

CONCLUSIONS

The commune of Wyszaków is a small commune, it is a good reflection of the situation of the Polish village. Analyzing chosen aspects of the technical and social infrastructure the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. EU requirements in connection with the social infrastructure first of all concern educational development and in connection with the technical infrastructure mostly refer to the environmental protection.

2. The commune of Wyszaków in the light of guidelines which are in effect in the UK did not succeed, because:

– Directive No 2002/91/WE of the European Parliament and the European Council on energy parameters of buildings has not come into effect yet,

– guidelines included in “The European Transport Policy until 2010“ are not implemented, the communal authorities focus on building of a ring road around the town of Wyszaków and modernization of existing roads,

– as regards ecology the majority of inhabitants do not use ecological fuels,

– the commune of Wyszaków does not implement the approved program on public health.

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INFRASTRUKTURA TECHNICZNA I SPOŁECZNA GMINY WYSZKÓW W PORÓWNANIU Z WYMOGAMI UE

Streszczenie. W artykule przedstawiono charakterystykę infrastruktury technicznej i społecznej w gminie Wyszków w województwie mazowieckim oraz wymagania UE w tym zakresie. Przeprowadzone badania w gminie Wyszków wykazały, że w dziedzinie transportu założenia unijne nie są egzekwowane, władze gminy skupiają się na rozwoju sieci drogowej, na ich modernizacji, nie zapewniają właściwego bezpieczeństwa ruchu. W zakresie edukacji gmina Wyszków również nie wprowadziła ustalonych przez UE standardów poprawy systemów edukacji i szkolenia zawodowego. W dziedzinie zdrowia publicznego placówki działające na terenie gminy nie planują w najbliższym czasie wdrożenia programu Wspólnoty w dziedzinie zdrowia publicznego na lata 2003–2008.

Słowa kluczowe: infrastruktura społeczna, infrastruktura techniczna, wymogi UE

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