
Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030 – development priorities

Elżbieta Kozubek

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the vision and goals put forward in *The Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030. Mazovia as an Innovative Region*, which was adopted on 28 October 2013. The document contains a complete and consistent vision of the region's development, taking into account the goals outlined in a number of European and Polish strategic documents. The regional development policy, as set out in the Strategy, focuses primarily on those areas of strategic intervention that will influence the competitiveness of the Mazovian Region¹. This document is a strategy aiming to increase, rather than merely redistribute, the resources that are to be used to develop the region. The priorities and goals are grouped into six thematic areas: Industry and Production, Economy, Space and Transport, Society, Environment and Energy, and Culture and Heritage. The Strategy also takes into account the territorial aspect: different tasks have been apportioned to the Warsaw Metropolitan Area (WMA), to urban areas, and to rural areas. To achieve the identified development goals, the document specifies a number of rules relating to the development policy. However, the voivodship's weakening financial position could prove the most serious threat to the achievement of these goals.

Introductory comments

This paper focuses on the vision and goals for development of the Mazovian Region, as specified in the *Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030. Mazovia as an Innovative Region*, adopted by the Regional Assembly on 28 October 2013. The Strategy contains a comprehensive and consistent vision of the region's development, taking into account the goals referred to in a number of European and Polish strategic documents, including the *Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth*, the *National Regional Development Strategy 2010–2020: Regions, Cities, Rural Areas*, and the *National Spatial Development Concept to 2030*. The Strategy indicates that the region's development policy should focus primarily on those areas of strategic intervention that will influence the competitiveness of the Mazovian Region. The Strategy answers questions concerning the region's development goals, and sets forth a vision for its future. It is the most important strategic document at regional level, where it serves as the basis for implementing the approved/accepted development policy. It is also a reflection of the Mazovian community's expectations.

The primary goal of any regional development strategy should always be economic growth, and perhaps even economic development, which lead to an improved quality of life. In supporting regional centres of development ("growth poles"), the Mazovian regional government needs to create conditions for the diffusion not just of innovation, but also of factors that help to build social, intellectual and human capital. These factors include educational opportunities, social integration, improved social and digital inclusion, and better access to social infrastructure including transport.

¹ In this paper the terms Mazowieckie Voivodship, the Mazovian Region, and Mazovia are synonymous and are used interchangeably.

Strategic planning must address the demographic context and the latent workforce potential. As seen in the *Strategy*, the Mazovian regional government has specified the activation of dormant assets of the labor market and improvement of the demographic situation as one of its main priorities.

Concepts for the region's future

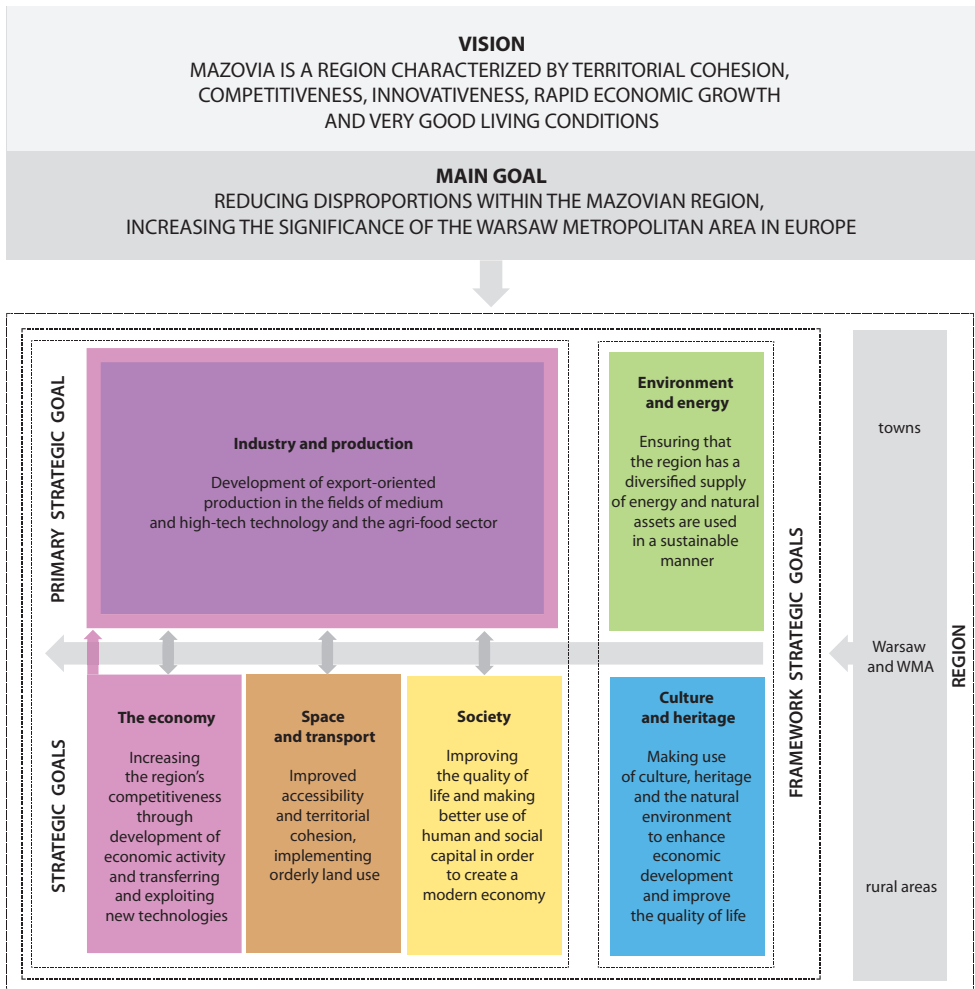
The aim of the *Strategy* is to specify the goals and policy measures that will allow the region to sustain long-term development. Based on a socio-economic assessment and on the potential of six thematic areas (industry and production, economy, space and transport, society, environment and energy, and culture and heritage), we performed a SWOT analysis to pinpoint the most significant factors influencing development processes. This, in turn, allowed us to identify the following challenges (which served as a basis to formulate the regional development goals):

- the economy of the sub-regions;
- the international competitiveness of Warsaw;
- development of regional and sub-regional urban centres;
- export-oriented production specialization;
- organizing the agricultural market;
- cooperation between science, enterprise, and local/regional government;
- quality of railway infrastructure and rolling stock;
- the share of public, bicycle and pedestrian transport in the modal split;
- the state of the landscape and the quality of public spaces (coherent spatial development);
- energy security;
- the state and quality of the natural environment;
- safety measures in the event of flooding;
- effective system of education;
- professional activity and entrepreneurship;
- civic activity;
- poverty and social exclusion.

The main goal of the *Strategy* relating to the vision for the region is territorial cohesion, i.e. reducing intra-regional disparities and increasing the significance of the Warsaw Metropolitan Area (WMA). This should improve the quality of life across the region. This main goal can be achieved by implementing the tasks of the primary strategic goal, supplemented by tasks of five other strategic and cross-sectional goals (Fig. 1).

The above diagram shows how the six strategic goals relate to the six thematic areas, as well as to each other, to the main goal and to the overall vision for the region's development. As can be seen, the primary strategic goal takes priority over the others, and all six are closely interrelated.

Fig. 1. Structure of the development goals



Source: MBPR

The strategic goals and appropriate policy directions are outlined below:

- (i) *Development of export-oriented production in the fields of medium and high-tech technology and the agri-food sector* (thematic area – industry and production). To achieve this goal, the following policy directions should be followed:
- Creating favorable conditions for the generation and absorption of innovation;
 - Developing production: creating a business-friendly environment for investors and enterprises;
 - Internationalization of the economy;

- Creating conditions that encourage non-agricultural investments, primarily in the agri-food sector;
 - Supporting the creation and development of industrial companies.
- (ii) *Increasing the region's competitiveness through development of economic activity and transferring and exploiting new technologies* (thematic area – economy). This goal will be implemented through the following policy directions:
- Strengthening and making use of regional specializations;
 - Supporting the development of new technologies, primarily biotechnology, biomedicine, nanotechnology, photonics, optoelectronics and information (ICT) and cosmic technologies;
 - Warsaw as a capital city – development of metropolitan functions;
 - Supporting the development of regional and sub-regional centres;
 - Increasing the development and absorption potential of rural areas;
 - Restructuring cities in order to strengthen their socio-economic functions;
 - Increasing accessibility of broadband internet and e-services.
- (iii) *Improved accessibility and territorial cohesion, implementing orderly land use* (thematic area – space and transport). This goal will be implemented through the following policy directions:
- Increasing accessibility within the region;
 - Preventing excessive suburbanization and promoting coherent spatial development;
 - Development of environmentally sustainable and accessible modes of transport;
 - Streamlining the transit system;
 - Intraregional cohesion – focus on the economically lagging sub-regions.
- (iv) *Improving the quality of life and making better use of human and social capital in order to create a modern economy* (thematic area – society). This goal will be implemented through the following policy directions:
- Developing human and social capital;
 - Developing the areas of science that are of key importance to the region;
 - Providing equal educational opportunities;
 - Activating the dormant assets of the labor market and improving the demographic situation;
 - Making fuller use of human resources by increasing professional and spatial mobility;
 - Combating social exclusion; promoting social inclusion;
 - Constant improvement of the functioning of social infrastructure; improving health-care and public safety.
- (v) *Ensuring that the region has a diversified supply of energy, and that natural assets are used in a sustainable manner* (thematic area – environment and energy). This goal will be implemented through the following policy directions:
- Supporting the development of eco-industries and eco-innovations;
 - Producing energy from renewable sources;
 - Ensuring sustainable development and safeguarding natural and environmental assets;

- Diversifying sources of energy and using energy efficiently;
 - Modernizing and expanding local energy networks, improving the quality of transmission infrastructure;
 - Preventing natural hazards;
 - Improving water quality, recycling/waste disposal, restoring contaminated sites, reducing pollution.
- (vi) *Making use of culture, heritage and the natural environment to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life* (thematic area – culture and heritage). This goal will be implemented through the following policy directions:
- Making use of natural assets and cultural heritage to make the region more attractive for tourists;
 - Promoting urban areas as centres of cultural activity;
 - Supporting development of the creative industries;
 - Using cultural heritage as an asset in economic activity;
 - Diffusing culture and creativity.

The *Strategy* covers various tasks addressed to areas of strategic intervention (ASI). In accordance with the goals identified in the *National Regional Development Strategy* (NSDR), two types of such areas have been identified at the regional level in Mazovia: problem areas (Ostrołęka-Siedlce, Płock-Ciechanów, Radom) and the growth pole of the Warsaw Metropolitan Area. Both types of areas will be the subject of individual regional policies focused on solving the specific problems of each given area. Intervention in problem areas will be focused on NSDR goals 2.2: *Supporting rural areas with the lowest accessibility to goods and services necessary for development*, and 2.3: *Urban renewal and regeneration of other areas losing their socio-economic functions*. In the case of the WMA, the overarching NSDR goal is 1.1: *Supporting the metropolitan functions of regional centres and integrating their functional areas*.

To achieve the identified goals, intraregional rules of development policy must be implemented and fully observed. The measures that the Mazovian regional government will undertake in this respect will include a call to increase the stream of funds devoted to innovative activity in Mazovia. The regional government will also lobby for companies to designate 1% of their corporate income tax for pro-innovative activities, especially for research conducted by SMEs in cooperation with the R&D sector. Such cooperation will be an essential condition if a company is to receive support from the regional government, and at the same time will encourage companies to support technological incubators and industrial parks organized by the regional government.

The way forward

The *Partnership Agreement* (PA) signed in May 2014 between the Polish Government and the European Commission set out a framework for Poland's growth and development in 2014–2020 based on EU funds. The PA also serves as the basis for Regional Operational Programs and for the Territorial Contract, which is to include strategic investment priorities

and key projects to be financed at a national level. As this is the last such generous budget for Poland and the Mazovian Region, it is crucial that all projects subsidized by EU funds are developed judiciously and managed effectively, so that their full potential is tapped and they generate revenues that will yield new investments.

The goals of the *Strategy* will be achieved through projects and investments agreed upon in negotiations between the regional and the national governments, as well as those implemented through tasks identified in the Regional Operational Program.

Literature:

Strategia rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego do 2030 roku. Innowacyjne Mazowsze [en: *Development Strategy of the Mazowieckie Voivodship 2030. Mazovia as an Innovative Region*], 2013, Municipal Government of the Mazowieckie Voivodship, Warsaw.

Krajowa Strategia Rozwoju Regionalnego 2010-2020: Regiony, Miasta, Obszary wiejskie [en: *National Regional Development Strategy 2010-2020: Regions, Cities, Rural Areas*], 2010, Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw.

Strategia rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego do 2030 roku – priorytety rozwoju

STRESZCZENIE

W artykule omówiono wizję i cele sformułowane w Strategii rozwoju województwa mazowieckiego do 2030 roku, uchwalonej 28 października 2013 r. Stanowi ona spójną i kompleksową koncepcję rozwoju Mazowsza, która uwzględnia cele europejskich i krajowych dokumentów strategicznych, w tym *Europy 2020 – Strategii na rzecz inteligentnego i zrównoważonego rozwoju sprzyjającego włączeniu społecznemu*, *Krajowej strategii rozwoju regionalnego 2010-2020: regiony, miasta, obszary wiejskie* i *Koncepcji przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju do 2030*. Polityka rozwoju regionu, wyrażona w strategii, koncentruje się przede wszystkim na działaniach zorientowanych na strategiczne dziedziny decydujące o konkurencyjności województwa mazowieckiego. Jest to strategia pomnażania środków na rozwój regionu, a nie tylko ich redystrybucji. Priorytety i cele określono w sześciu obszarach tematycznych – przemysł i produkcja, gospodarka, przestrzeń i transport, społeczeństwo, środowisko i energetyka oraz kultura dziedzictwo. Uwzględniono przy tym wymiar terytorialny, przypisując odrębne działania dla Warszawy z jej obszarem metropolitalnym, miast i obszarów wiejskich. W dokumencie określono również zasady realizacji polityki rozwoju w celu osiągnięcia założonych celów. Głównym zagrożeniem dla realizacji celów strategii mogą okazać się malejące możliwości finansowe województwa.

dr Elżbieta Kozubek is a geographer, cartographer and GIS specialist. Her main research interests include the study of changes in land use (CORINE Land Cover – 1990, 2000, 2006), spatial analyses of social infrastructure, the information society and modeling of complex spatial systems and geosimulations. In the years 2005-2012 lecturer at the College of Real Estate Management in Warsaw. For 20 years she was assistant professor in the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, collaborating with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since August 2012 she is Head of Regional Development Unit in the Mazovian Office of Regional Planning in Warsaw / geograf, kartograf i specjalista GIS; specjalizuje się w badaniach zmian użytkowania ziemi z zastosowaniem GIS (udział w trzech edycjach projektu UE CORINE Land Cover – 1990, 2000, 2006), modelowania złożonych systemów przestrzennych przy wykorzystaniu narzędzi symulacji komputerowych m.in. w zakresie rozwoju społeczeństwa informacyjnego, procesów urbanizacji, rozwoju regionalnego i infrastruktury społecznej. W latach 2005-2012 wykładowca Wyższej Szkoły Gospodarowania Nieruchomościami w Warszawie.; przez 20 lat była adiunktem w Instytucie Geodezji i Kartografii; współpracuje z Instytutem Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Polskiej Akademii Nauk; od sierpnia 2012 kierownik Zespołu Rozwoju Regionalnego w Mazowieckim Biurze Planowania Regionalnego w Warszawie.