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# Integrated development planning and local spatial policy tools

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# Abstract

**Aim/purpose** – The purpose of the paper is to determine the extent to which the elements of integrated development planning are implemented and may be implemented into current local spatial policy tools.

**Design/methodology/approach** – To address the purpose of the study, key spatial policy acts were selected for verification on a local scale, i.e. local spatial development plans. The focus was on the latest local plans proceeding on the premise that the debate on the wider application of integrated development planning on a local scale is definitely more extensive under the legislative amendments of this period. Therefore, there have been selected all the local plans adopted in the West Pomeranian Province since 1 January till 30 June 2019. There are 49 local spatial development plans adopted in various communes. Five plans have been adopted for Szczecin, one for Koszalin, and nine for communes of the Szczecin Metropolitan Area. The paper focuses on several issues contained in the plans adopted that can be associated with integrated development planning. **Findings** – While the local plans actually mostly contain these (obligatory) elements, they can be adopted in a variety of ways. In this context, attention should be paid to: first, the protection of environmental, natural and cultural values (i.e. determining whether the principles contained in the plan are merely a repetition/reference to other provisions of broader scope, and if so, which ones); second, to understanding the way of shaping public spaces, especially in the context of their possible impact on the social sphere. Furthermore, additional provisions contained in local plans should remain in the

focus as they may reduce the potential conflict between existing land use plans.

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**Research implications/limitations** – This study examines all the latest local spatial development plans from the West Pomeranian Province. This research extends the perspective of analysing the problem of integrated development planning and introduces the possibility of a new assessment of local spatial policy. Nevertheless, it should be recognised that the analysed provisions of the plans are also representative for other provinces. Further research can be continued for other provinces.

**Originality/value/contribution** – The research literature clearly emphasises that elements of integrated development planning have already been included at the current stage of local spatial planning. However, neither are they precisely indicated, nor classified or analysed. The paper carries out these tasks, which is also important from the perspective of future application.

**Keywords:** spatial policy, local development. **JEL Classification:** R51, R58, Q01.

# 1. Introduction

The issue of integrated development planning can be addressed in a diverse range (Nowak, 2019). There is no doubt, however, that it is also a key to the spatial management system and its tools (Nowak, 2017). Under the Polish legal order, elements related to the integrated development planning are introduced at a regional level. Moreover, the literature specifically acknowledges this aspect as a crucial one (Camagni, 2011). Nevertheless, the concept of integrated territorial investment, or other forms of territorialisation of development policy, does not seem sufficient. Clearly, integrated development planning is not addressed in the local spatial policy – the legislator did not deliberately introduce this concept there. This does not mean, however, that integrated planning cannot be implemented at a regional level.

The issues of integrated development planning are usually discussed in the literature as follows:

- definition of the essence of integrated development planning (Korzeniak, 2011);
- identification of applied practices that take into account integrated development planning (Żak-Skwierczyńska, 2018);
- definition of the role of integrated development planning in the spatial context (Markowski, 2011).

Certainly, spatial aspects, as well as spatial policy itself, should be combined with issues of integrated development planning. The literature has repeatedly been calling for the same approach. However, the problem remains whether it is possible to identify at least some elements of integrated planning and link them with the integrated development under the current spatial management system. The literature review indicates that it is possible (Markowski, 2014). Detailed selection and description of these elements should be considered as a research gap. This gives rise to:

- defining future possible barriers and problems associated with integrated planning, which also includes the spatial sphere and, as a consequence, description of certain relationships and diagnosis of problems in implementing theoretical models;
- selecting issues particularly important from the perspective of planning integration;
- addressing the inefficiency of public authorities in the spatial management system from the perspective of the selected issues.

The purpose of the paper is to determine the extent to which the elements of integrated development planning are implemented and may be implemented in the current local spatial policy tools. The specific objectives are:

- determining the scope of including the environmental and cultural sphere in the local spatial development plans;
- determining the scale of the interdisciplinary approach expressed in local spatial development plans;
- assessing the awareness of the communal bodies of the need to implement elements of integrated planning in a local spatial policy as well.

The paper reviews the literature, determining the essence of the integrated development planning and its translation into the spatial sphere. Then the results of the research are presented, including the analysis of local spatial development plans and the results of surveys.

## 2. Literature review

The literature along with numerous national and regional acts increasingly propounds the necessity of integrated development planning (Korzeniak, 2011; Tolle, 2016; Zaucha et al., 2015). This has various dimensions. Integrated development planning consists of spatial, functional, temporal, subjective and financial integration (Danielewicz & Żak-Skwierczyńska, 2019). Spatial integration is associated with both the implementation of coordinated activities in various areas, but also the coordination of a diverse structure of objectives identified in individual areas with common properties. Therefore, the integration of the spatial, social and economic sphere, i.e. the integration of an economic, social and

environmental subsystem, is an important element of the indicated concepts. The adaptation of planning to the specific properties of individual areas is also crucial, irrespective of their administrative boundaries. Nowakowska (2012) distinguishes among the key features of integrated planning: sound utilisation of endogenicity, special features of resources and development mechanisms, integration of socio-economic planning with spatial planning, as well as emphasising the interdependencies and connections between constituent elements of a given territory. Horizontal, vertical, multidisciplinary integration (Żak--Skwierczyńska, 2018) as well as wider social participation are also crucial. Similar features of integrated planning are highlighted in other publications, e.g. focusing – as part of the general conditions for integrated development – on selected issues related to the discussed point. For example, the integration of spatial planning and flood risk management (Ran & Nedovic-Budic, 2016) and integration of spatial planning and transport development (Perić, 2016). A part of environmental issues in integrated development planning is worth emphasising in the context of the research issues discussed in this paper (Ravetz, 2013; Yigitcanlar & Teriman, 2015).

Danielewicz & Turała (2015), when distinguishing the development management integration instruments, rightly did not include in them the current spatial solutions. As an objective, integrated development planning for effective implementation requires prior extensive legal changes. At this point, it is necessary to agree with Markowski (2011, 2014) that planning integrity can be easily faked in legislative practice and even legal regulations, according to which certain issues, important from the perspective of integrating development planning, should be included in spatial planning, remain non-genuine, leading at most to reducing conflict between existing plans and policies. At present, it can be concluded that in the sphere of legal regulations, as part of spatial policy tools at the local level, there may be at most elements of integrated planning (I do not refer here to the announced and currently pending statutory changes). The literature has also attempted to determine how integrated development planning should be combined with spatial policy tools. Drzazga & Markowski (2015) concluded that it is necessary to look at plans in terms of a decision-making process, i.e. policy and development management. This would amount to moving away from a typically formalistic approach. While such a postulate can be taken into account in a way that raises no doubts in a given system model development, in the current system, it raises considerable doubts. Moreover, the current spatial management system comes in for a lot of criticism for the same reason. Under the current formula, the detailed scope of individual spatial policy tools results from the wording of laws and regulations. Part of this scope has been laid down quite broadly, but too far a freedom associated with shaping these tools will effective-ly undermine them, whatever or not combined with legitimate goals related to development policy. As a general rule, this is only one of the barriers within the system which is not adapted to integrate development planning.

The literature points to many weaknesses of the spatial management system. There is no doubt that in the current reality, a key problem is the lack of skilful shaping and protection of spatial order by means of available spatial policy tools (Giedych, 2018; Śleszyński, 2018; Woźniak, 2018; Zybała, 2019). As a consequence, there are difficulties in approaching diverse spatial spheres in planning with economically or environmentally coherent documents.

Wdowicka & Mierzejewska (2012) expressly state that the problems arising in the spatial management system are largely associated with the lack of integrated management. The lack of a systematic approach to integrated management is a permanent element in diagnosing the weakness of the spatial management system (Drzazga, 2018; Feltynowski, 2018; Komornicki et al., 2018; Nowak, 2017). Integration of development planning at the regional level will not solve the problem, which is where the weaknesses of the spatial management system related to this perspective are also noticeable (Nowak & Mickiewicz, 2012). Kudłacz (2015, p. 32) drew particular attention to the problems of integrating the spatial and socio-economic planning at the local level. He emphasised that both systems are characterised by a number of similarities, including entities carrying out the work and similar prime objectives. There are some differences, including the extent of susceptibility to market regulators, specific goals corresponding to a limited extent, as well as different formula for expressing them. The author draws attention to a key barrier - a completely different approach to both manifestations of public entities' intervention.

However, due to the definite positive effects that integrated planning can bring, it also seems important to separate and define those elements that, despite the outlined differences, arise when spatial policy tools are adopted under the current spatial management system even if their scope of application is small in relation to real needs. First of all, reference should be made to the study of conditions and directions of spatial development and local spatial development plans (Niewiadomski, 2016; Nowak, 2019). Then, it should be considered which elements contained in these tools, including their preparation procedure, can theoretically be associated with integrated planning. While carrying out a case study, attention should be paid to:

- Mandatory requirement to carry out economic, environmental and social analyses before drafting or amending the indicated Act – the positive assessment should particularly refer to the fact that the analyses must be directly adapted to specific works. This prevents the repeated use of the same materials as they require even slight processing. However, this does not guarantee that the analyses indicated will be both prepared and used in a way that guarantees the integration of development policy.
- 2) The requirement to consider conditions related to the environmental status, livelihoods of the residents as well as directions regarding land development, accounting for the issues indicated in the study. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the above guidelines actually lead to references to other acts, documents, and a broader perspective of analyses in studies. Obviously, this is by no means an integration of various spheres. Even more so, these regulations do not guarantee strategic planning.
- 3) Directional nature of the study.
- 4) A local spatial development plan should be considered a much more important spatial policy tool. Relatively limited national scope slightly limits the universality of any applications made in relation to the whole country. Nevertheless, at least in theory, the role that local plans should play in the spatial management system cannot be stressed enough. In this context, when separating possible elements of integrated development planning in current local plans, one should distinguish: requirement that the local plan does not conflict with the study which from the analysed perspective will come true in a situation where the study contains firm references to environmental, so-cial and other analyses; broader manner of agreeing and providing opinion on the draft local plan by public administration bodies. It enables, to some extent, the inclusion of various perspectives in the local plan, e.g. related to environmental protection or the specific character of areas in neighbouring communes. In some cases, the latter example is manifested by the opinion on the draft plan by the authorities of neighbouring communes.
- 5) Inclusion within local plans of elements such as: 'principles of environmental, nature and landscape protection,' 'principles of cultural heritage protection,' 'requirements arising from the needs of shaping public spaces,' as well as identifying options for the location of large-scale commercial facilities and public purpose investments.

There is no doubt, therefore, that elements of integrated development planning in the sphere of local spatial policy should be traced primarily to local spatial development plans. While the study of conditions and directions of spatial development is primarily noticeable in conceptual divergence with the development strategy, the adoption of local plans is the implementation stage of spatial policy, under which elements of integrated development planning can be distinguished on a separate basis. There is therefore no doubt that elements of integrated development planning in the local spatial policy should be primarily traced to local spatial development plans.

#### 3. Research methodology

The study verifies the key local spatial policy Acts, i.e. local spatial development plans. The focus is on the latest local plans based on the assumption that the debate on the wider adoption of integrated development planning on a local scale is definitely broader in conjunction with the proposals for statutory changes during this period. Therefore, all local plans adopted in the West Pomeranian Province since 1 January till 30 June were selected. There are 49 local spatial development plans adopted in various communes. Five plans are adopted for the city of Szczecin, one for the city of Koszalin, and nine for communes included in the Szczecin Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup>. Referring to previous statements, the interest was concentrated on including several issues that can be associated with integrated development planning of these plans. Certainly, this is not a complete catalogue that guarantees integration of development at the local level, as there is no such a catalogue. These are the elements that constitute an important basis for the integration.

In addition, research surveys were sent to the communes of the West Pomeranian Province, providing the basis for conducting extensive direct interviews. Full interviews were performed in 14 communes. Surveys were sent to all communes of the province, and direct interviews were held in 14 commune offices, which expressed the interest to discuss selected issues in a greater detail. The results of this study were compared with previous analyses of local spatial development plans<sup>2</sup>. Clearly, groups of communes surveyed are not identical as not all representatives of communes expressed their readiness to carry out broader consultations. They merely stated their disregard of what constitutes integrated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Following communes are included: Czaplinek, Darłowo, Dobra, Drawsko, Gryfino, Kołbaskowo, Kołobrzeg, Koszalin, Międzyzdroje, Postomino, Sianów, Stargard, Szczecin, Szczecinek, Trzebiatów and Wałcz.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Direct interviews were conducted in communes: Kobylanka, Myślibórz, Rewal, Sianów, Ustronie, Stepnica, Osina, Dolice, Świerzno, Dębno, Krzecin, Szczecinek, Malechowo and Police.

development planning. The local plans were adopted in the first half of 2019. All of these communes have adopted local spatial development plans over the past three years, therefore it can be assumed that they are implementing the spatial policy. Nevertheless, the results of direct interviews should be treated only as complementary to previous studies.

In principle, it should be assumed that the research results are representative for the whole Poland. This is due to the following reasons. The scope of local plans is determined by statutory provisions. Therefore, the possibilities of communal bodies to shape the specific content of plans are limited by the above reasons. Within the communes all over Poland, there are clearly individual departures from general principles in this respect, but they still provide the basis for individual case study analyses. However, it should be assumed that the content analysis of the local plans for large cities and other mutually diverse communes gives a representative picture of trends taking place across the country.

#### 4. Research results

First of all, attention was paid to how the issues of environmental and nature protection as well as protection of cultural heritage are included in local spatial development plans. These issues should clearly be considered with relation to spatial policy, but in scope going beyond this sphere. In this context, one can think about the elements of integrated development planning which also determines the development of various areas with common features.

The issue of including the principles of environmental and nature protection in local plans looks differently. Many local plans include precise statutory guidelines, especially those adopted for urban areas as well as they anticipate wider restrictions. These restrictions are often not based on legal regulations which is the only condition for their justification. And thus, nothing prevents introducing non-statutory concepts to local plans, such as 'forest promotional complex.' However, the introduction of these concepts cannot justify specific restrictions on a land use. Similarly, the justification for restrictions cannot be the future introduction of a specific form of nature protection in a given area.

Table 1.	Environmental and nature protection principles, principles of cultural heritage
	protection in local spatial development plans and integrated development planning

Environmental and nature protection principles	Principles of cultural heritage protection
1. Defining in the plan a 'extensive greenery	1. Designation of a conservation and heritage
programme' constituting the basis for introducing	protection zone for a spatial structure (city)
building restrictions (rural)	2. Requirement of cooperation with monument
2. Reference to the City Greenery System (city)	protection authorities in the implementation
3. Determination that in a given area, location of	of the investment (rural)
a natural and landscape complex is 'proposed'	3. Requirement to carry out archaeological research
and introduction of building restrictions on this	(rural)
basis (city)	4. Protection of the 'view' (city)
4. Introduction of the requirement for conformity	
of the plan with the economic and conservation	
programme of the forest promotion complex (city)	
5. Determination of the requirements of 'greening	
the walls in the plot demarcation lines, placing	
greenery in pots' (city)	
6. Determination of undesirable plant species	
in a given area (rural)	
7. Indication that 'in the event of a nature protection	
conflict with the investment, cooperation with the	
nature protection authority applies' (rural)	

Table 1 shows that many plans, i.e. 23 plans from the study group, introduce 'above-standard' elements into local plans. A significant part of them may raise some doubts of a formal and legal nature, especially if they fall within the statutory scope of local plans. At the current stage, however, they are applicable, and their broader adoption, irrespective of formal and legal assessment, leads to the conclusion that they contain elements of integrated planning. These plans refer to perspectives other than typical planning and sometimes even adjust planning to these perspectives. Similarly, cultural conditions included in local plans should be assessed. In this context, one may note references to the need to carry out archaeological research as well as a broader collaboration with conservation protection authorities to a greater extent than provided for by legal regulations. These types of local plans can be easily and effectively challenged from a formal and legal perspective. However, they are an expression of attempts at broader planning referring to other perspectives. In this context, 'protection of the view,' i.e. acceptance of a wider possibility of restrictions in spatial development justified by the cultural values of a given area, including the vicinity of monuments, should be considered as accepted practice (adopted in the case law). The analysis of Table 1 illustrates a clear discrepancy between the possibilities

perceived from a formal and legal perspective and actions that can be *post factum* associated with elements of integrated development planning.

In the context of integrated development planning, the elements of flexible planning contained in local spatial development plans and – to a much broader extent – referring to other than typically planning perspectives, should also be considered as important. These issues are included in local plans in a variety of ways.

Elements of flexible planning	Attempts to refer to other perspectives in planning
1. Correction of the boundary of the integrated	1. Indicating the requirement of 'cooperation' with
development planning area is allowed for the needs	the bodies for the protection of monuments/nature
related to the implementation of public purpose	in the implementation of 'investment plans' (rural)
investments (city)	2. Postulate that investors use 'technological
2. Defining the 'functional home' as a residential	solutions' that will counteract environmental
home related to the business activity (city)	threats (rural)
3. Determining the 'complementary purpose'	3. Order to use 'technologies for reducing harmful
in a given area (city, rural)	emissions' for heating purposes (rural)
4. Defining the 'investment zone' covering access	4. Requirement to conduct archaeological research
roads outside the construction plot (rural)	prior to the investment (rural)
5. Defining 'general services' and 'non-strenuous	5. Order to use excess earth mass obtained during
services' by the phrase 'in particular' (rural)	construction works to harden the site (rural)
6. Approval for the location of buildings outside	
the building line (rural)	
Doubts: possible allegations of lack of precision	<b>Doubts:</b> very likely allegations of lack of precision
in local plans; potential difficulties in interpretation	in local plans; exceeding the scope of the Act
at later stages	and difficulties in interpretation at later stages

**Table 2.** Flexibility and interdisciplinarity of local spatial development plans and integrated development planning

The next stage of the research covers issues related to flexibility and interdisciplinary approach to local plans. The latter issue should be approached while bearing in mind the natural limitations associated with local plans in the current formula. It was established that elements which may be related to integrated development planning could be searched for in such a context. When analysing flexible planning (Table 2), one needs to be aware that it is also limited in the current formula. From a formal and legal perspective, it should be emphasised that this creates some doubts and risks; to even greater extent than with the issues listed in Table 2. This entails the risk of undermining plans in administrative courts and supports allegations that they exceed the limits of statutory authorisation. At the same time, it should be stressed that the commune authorities do not consciously implement flexible planning. One can only talk about its elements which are not always consciously considered an element of flexible planning, but is objectively close to these criteria. Among them the following can be distinguished:

- individual definition of particular concepts in a way detached from the standard solutions,
- open possibility for further clarification of certain phrases in the future, which the phrase 'in particular' serves,
- limited breach of the framework included in the standards, e.g. by predicting the correction specified in the local border plan or the location of objects outside the building line.

Such solutions can be used to contribute to more efficient territorialisation of spatial processes in particular cases. However, this is about responding to challenges arising on an individual, unitary scale and addressing specific needs. Having said that it is worth noting that they can be an expression of broader trends. In turn, when observing attempts to refer to other perspectives in planning, one should also pay attention to the uncoordinated nature of these activities. Furthermore, certain trends can be identified in this context:

- referring to local plans of specialised concepts from other areas with an assumption that they will be clarified at the stage of interpretation, using interdisciplinary knowledge;
- reference to specific events and activities not covered by law, e.g. archaeological research;
- reference to non-legal consultations/forms of cooperation with other bodies.

Such solutions should also be considered in the wider context in terms of their incorporation in the finally developed vision of integrated development planning.

Supporting direct interviews were carried out in selected communes of the West Pomeranian Province. Most of the surveyed communes (eight) indicated that the concept of integrated development planning is unknown to them at all. Only three communes declared that this concept is more widely known. From the entire study group, representatives of only one commune declared that they were trying to accommodate elements of integrated development planning in local spatial policy. The representatives of this commune understand the adaptation of the content of development strategies as well as the study of conditions and directions of spatial development as activities related to this context. Homogeneous in time work on changes and updates of the mentioned acts reflects this

approach. Most of the respondents indicated that the environmental values of the areas are adequately protected by local spatial development plans in their communes. Justifying this position, they pointed out that the applicable provisions sufficiently comprehensive with respect to the environmental protection framework. Thus, while knowledge of integrated development planning reaches some communes at this stage – especially in the sphere of spatial policy – it is rudimentary. It can be added that the perception of other systemic problems in the field of spatial management is also limited at this level. The representatives of communes declared that local plans are based on statutory regulations and agreed that such a solution fully addresses all concerns.

## 5. Discussion

Once again, it should be noted that a spatial development plan does not absolutely guarantee integrated development planning. It can, at most, limit the conflict between existing plans and policies. At this point, it should be indicated that from a slightly different perspective, different functions can be assigned to the local spatial development plan. The local plan is also used in public policies other than spatial policy and should also be interpreted in this context. It can be stated that in this respect, the local plan is not solely a matter for spatial policy, as it also implements (and engages elements of a holistic approach):

- a function related to environmental and nature protection,
- a function related to the protection of cultural heritage,
- a function related to shaping public spaces that is important not only in the spatial but also in the social dimension.

Determining the location of specific investments must also be connected to socio-economic planning. However, from the perspective of analysing the content of local spatial development plans<sup>3</sup> it seems crucial to verify the extent to which the mentioned functions are performed. While, for the most part, these (obligatory) elements are actually included in the local plans, they can be comprised in a variety of ways. In this context, the following criteria should be noted:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> At the same time, when analysing the content of local plans, it should be remembered that in the analysed context, this content must be seen as a result of previous planning process. However, this does not change the fact that elements of integrated planning can also be distinguished to such extent and taking into account the above reservation.

- the scope of protection of environmental, natural and cultural values, i.e. determining whether the principles contained in the plan are only a repetition/reference to other provisions or whether they have a wider scope, and, if so, what scope is of relevance in that respect;
- understanding of the way of shaping public spaces, especially in the context of their possible impact on the social sphere;
- additional regulations contained in local plans that may reduce the potential conflict between existing plans and policies.

From a more formal perspective, the criteria that can be more broadly linked to integrated development planning may be:

- terms referring to a language other than planning,
- provisions introducing flexible planning, though to a limited extent.

The research results lead to the conclusion that all these elements are included in the local spatial development plans in the scope usually wider than that provided for in the acts. As a consequence, this leads to doubts in the formal and legal assessment of these plans. The application of these planning provisions will not always be synonymous with achieving, even partial, goals of integrated development planning. However, it needs to be assumed that the elements of integrated planning included in the plans amount to:

- references to extra-statutory terminology,
- references to events and extra-statutory activities,
- references to extra-statutory practices.

Practices of this kind are relatively rare manifestations of independent attempts at integrated development planning. Rather, they come down to a bottomup solution to individual spatial problems. Therefore, there is also a real need to increase the social capital in communes in this respect. In practice, communes to solve problems related to a broader environmental protection, cultural values, as well as to provide a broader perspective in planning activities, should combine them with the concept of integrated development planning to the mind of specific representatives of communes.

#### 6. Conclusions

The paper adopts a different perspective to analyses of local spatial development plans, considered as key tools of local spatial policy. The elements of local spatial development plans have been specified. These elements can be combined with the (future) model of integrated development planning. On the one hand, specific thematic spheres to which these elements may refer were indicated, and on the other, it was exemplified what their holistic dimension means. On this basis, it was pointed out that the environmental and cultural elements of local plans specifically have the potential to be associated with integrated development planning. The limits to which this potential could be used under the current formula were indicated and how the legal framework limits this potential was shown. Potential flexibility and interdisciplinarity of local plans were verified in a similar way.

The literature analyses in detail spatial policy tools, especially in the context of the inefficiencies of public authorities, but the discussed context is missing. This happens due to one reason – the fact that the integrated development planning model is not implemented in the local spatial management system. Such a situation means that the main avenue of analysis is to develop proposals for changes (a target model), or to focus on other aspects related to integrated development planning (e.g. territorial issues). Therefore, the research results provide a new material in this area. The examined communes are mutually strongly diversified – both in terms of spatial conditions and adopted concept of spatial policy. A detailed analysis of their local plans is therefore a significant reference point for the whole country, which is also characterised by a similar diversity of communes. In turn, from a material perspective, they provide a certain basis for reflection on the barriers to policy integration also in the supranational dimension.

The research results will help refine the integrated development planning models. It should be assumed that from the perspective of discussions about such a model, currently diagnosed trends and problems will be very important as they will reoccur when the scope of integrated planning is elaborated. The results are also substantially reflected in practice. The research itself shows low awareness of communal representatives about what integrated development planning is. However, the results of the research allow to include elements of this concept in currently implemented spatial policy. It should also be stressed that the issues currently visible in local plans must also be included in the optimal model of integrated development planning. Particular emphasis should be placed on the issues related to environmental protection, which are often identified as one of the key elements of integrated planning. In this context, the concept of 'environmental and nature protection principles' should be clarified and expanded in such a way that it translates much more directly into the detailed parameters of

a land use. However, they should constitute implementation of unspecified concepts detached from the legal basis to a lesser extent.

There is a key limitation associated with the conducted research: it is not the consciously implemented elements of integrated development that are verified, but only those elements of spatial policy tools (local spatial development plans) that can be combined with this model. If such an approach to the topic, as indicated above, has significant potential for practice, while assessing the results in this context, the lack of awareness from communes will constitute a certain limitation in making the assessment. However, this does not change the fact that this topic should be carried out. Following directions can be proposed in this regard:

- wider verification of integrated development planning elements in local plans from the perspective of assessments of supervisory authorities and courts,
- verification of integrated development planning elements in the study of conditions and directions of spatial development,
- verification of integrated development planning elements in specific types of communes.

A separate issue is the announced change in regulations regarding the principles of conducting development policies, though of fragmentary nature. This change is also intended to partly interfere in planning solutions, providing an excellent basis for further discussion.

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