

Integrating Role of Sustainable Development Paradigm in Shaping the Human-landscape Relation

Integrująca rola paradygmatu zrównoważonego rozwoju w kształtowaniu relacji człowiek-krajobraz

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Abstract

In order to implement the sustainable development paradigm more broadly, it is postulated to deviate from the simple protectionism, which is based on sectoral approach, in favour of systemic landscape management, which encompasses the human-landscape relations. The article presents the issues concerning rural landscape protection in Poland in relation to the assumptions of the *European Landscape Convention*. The aim of the article is to analyze the causes of inefficiency of the Polish rural landscape protection system.

Key words: rural areas, landscape protection, sustainable development

Streszczenie

W celu szerszego uwzględnienia paradygmatów zrównoważonego rozwoju postulowane jest odejście od ochraniarstwa, opartego na ujęciu sektorowym, na rzecz systemowego zarządzania krajobrazem, obejmującego relacje człowiek-krajobraz. W artykule przedstawiono zagadnienia dotyczące ochrony krajobrazu na obszarach wiejskich w Polsce odnosząc je do zapisów *Europejskiej Konwencji Krajobrazowej*. Celem artykułu jest analiza przyczyn nieskuteczności polskiego systemu ochrony krajobrazu na obszarach wiejskich.

Słowa kluczowe: obszary wiejskie, ochrona krajobrazu, zrównoważony rozwój

Introduction

The development strategies of modern civilization are formed on the basis of sustainable development principle. This concept was created when the modern man acquired technical measures enabling him to transform the world to an unlimited degree, and –

simultaneously – was at a loss when it came to their application (Pawłowski, 2010). The fundamental paradigm of sustainable development is caring for the intergenerational equity, which involves enabling fair access to necessary natural resources for

the future generations, in addition to leaving non-degraded natural environment for them (Pawłowski, 2013).

This paradigm is very general and requires specific actions to be taken in the human environment. The most multi-dimensional criteria have been presented by Pawłowski (2008, 2011), who proposed a hierarchical arrangement of the dimensions of sustainable development. The first level – which provides a basis for the others – is an ethical reflection. The second level covers ecological, social and economic issues, all treated as equally important. The third level augments the analysis with detailed technical, legal and political issues.

It can be clearly seen that the sustainable development paradigm is deeply ingrained in philosophy – in ethics, to be more precise, which is an integral part of modern philosophy. Clear determination of human duties in relation to other people and to the individual elements of social and natural environment is the foundation of all considerations relating to sustainable development.

One essential element of this environment is the rural landscape. Dynamic changes that impact both the lives of people, as well as the state of natural environment, occur there (Sobczyk et al., 2012).

Transformations of agricultural production space into multi-functional consumption space are observed, in which recreation, tourism and housing, as well as using natural resources outside production are of growing importance (Halamska, 2008; Raszeja, 2013). On the other hand, agriculture withdraws both from the functional and land-use aspects (Roszkowski, 2008; Bielińska et al., 2014). Such transformation of utility value is a feature of the modern consumer society model. The process of commodification, enhanced by the modernization and globalization, causes significant changes in the structure, form, and content of rural landscape both in Poland, as well as in the Western Europe (Raszeja, 2009). Rural areas, which were isolated and developed autonomically until recently, have been incorporated into the global system of changing world values (Williams, 2002). Numerous new phenomena occurring in the process of rural areas transformations (including, among others, replacing locality by globalization, evolution and succession by supersession, commitment by alienation, integration by segregation) seriously threaten their sustainable development, ecological stability and landscape diversity (Vos, 2000). The dwindling of agricultural lands is accompanied by a noticeable increase in building development, including the creation of traffic routes, which leads to the fragmentation of a landscape and violates the continuity of its ecological structure (Vos, 2000). The present spatial development of rural areas in Poland is the outcome of carrying out local spatial development plans devised for small areas, which are usually determined by property borders. It is connected with the common practice of

issuing single resolutions pertaining to the conditions of development, on the basis of the information found in studies on conditions and directions of spatial development of communes, which were created on account of overestimated needs of housing development areas (Kozłowski, 2005; Raszeja, 2013).

Along with the strengthening of the idea of sustainable development, the issues concerning landscapes assumed an important position in the set of common European policy principles. Landscape was recognized as an important element of European identification (Wascher, 2000). It is postulated to deviate from simple protectionism, based on sectoral approach, in favour of systemic landscape management, which encompasses not only the resource management but also the changes in the socio-economic sphere (Zydroń et al., 2013). Such assumptions are formed by the *European Landscape Convention* (EC, 2000) and the programs of common European spatial policy, found in the fundamental documents and strategies (ESDP, SPESP, ESPON). The new landscape policy pertains to both the European level, as well as the common European principles of landscape protection, planning, and management in individual countries, with respect for their legal system individuality (EC, 2000). The necessity of creating coherent visions and strategies which also include the socio-economic environment is strongly emphasized. The role of landscape has altered as well. Being previously the subject of protection, it has now become an idea integrating sustainable spatial development (Selman and Knight, 2005).

Poland ratified the *European Landscape Convention* in 2004, committing itself to implement its fundamental principles. The issues connected with the practical aspects of implementation (scope, rate, procedures and instruments) falls within the competence of the countries ratifying the document. In Poland, a low level of social landscape awareness is observed, in addition to meagre participation of inhabitants in its protection. The new nature of landscape protection, which involves substituting solely protectionist actions with an integrated landscape policy in rural areas, will help to establish the balance between three entities which co-exist: environment, society, and economy.

New landscape policy

One of the more important challenges of the 21st century is preserving and bolstering the landscape as a means of expressing the national, regional, and local identity and stability through an integrated landscape policy (EC, 2000), which accounts for the present-day requirements of socio-economic development (PEBLDS, 1995; STRATEGY, 1998). The action theme 4 of Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS, 1995) concerns the landscape conservation. It assumes the adoption of common guidelines for the creation of strategic and

legal basis of landscape conservation, determining the criteria of its identification, protection, and monitoring, as well as recording of the endangered valuable landscapes and examining the relation between the protection and socio-economic development on a regional scale (PEBLDS, 1995). In line with the PEBLDS guidelines (PEBLDS, 1995), the conservation of landscape diversity should be carried out through the following actions:

- preventing the further degradation of landscapes, as well as the cultural and natural heritage of Europe connected with it;
- preserving their beauty and individuality;
- considering the landscape comprehensively, as a one of a kind combination of cultural and natural features;
- giving the landscapes in the entire Europe a more adequate protection status;
- specifying and adopting the criteria, which are to be followed in the protection of the aforementioned landscape features;
- preparing a list of endangered landscapes in Europe and determining the methods of their conservation;
- determining the agricultural practice and landscape management methods in line with the concept of sustainable development;
- examining the influence of ceasing or intensifying farming on landscape;
- preparing coherent guidelines for landscape protection.

The fundamental document determining the assumptions of the modern European landscape policy is the *European Landscape Convention* (EC, 2000), which advocates a comprehensive, integrated approach to the issue of sustainable landscape protection and shaping. Apart from an active protection, reserved for the areas and objects recognized as especially valuable, it also proposes other types of actions in a landscape, driven by the socio-economic needs.

The *European Landscape Convention* emphasizes the integrated management of the landscape resources, including both the natural and socio-economic aspects. The method and mode of spatial decision-making, which is the answer to the changes in conditions, needs, and social aims, are especially important. The level and scope of intervening in landscape is characterized by a broad spectrum: ranging from the compensation and limitation of the effects, to a directed and more remote – in regard to time and often space as well – influence exerted on the causes of changes (Klijn, 2004). According to the guidelines of the *European Landscape Convention* (EC, 2000), the recipients of a landscape have to be included in the process of landscape management, as they are its essential element, especially in regard to the protection of common heritage, which requires the participation of both the experts and authorities, as well as all the users in order to protect and familiarize with it (Jones, 2007).

As the recommended actions concern the human behaviour, it is necessary to formulate adequate paradigm on the basis of philosophy, and more precisely – ethics, which would allow conscious decision-making.

Landscape protection in European countries

A review of methods and protective instruments employed in various European countries was conducted as a part of devising the *European Landscape Convention* (Report, 1997). The status of landscape in the national institution system of the European Union is diverse. Only in four EU countries (Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands) landscape was legally recognized at the highest level, i.e. constitutionally (Report, 1997). There are limited legal acts solely pertaining to landscape found in the European countries. Separate acts function in Germany (Federal act of 1976 on nature and landscape conservation), France (Act of 1993 on protection and shaping of landscape), Switzerland (Federal act of 1966 on the protection of nature and landscape, updated in 1995), Czech Republic (Act of 1996 on nature and landscape protection) and in Slovak Republic (Act of 1994 on the protection of nature and landscape). Most often, the issue of landscapes is found in the legal acts concerning the environmental protection. In the majority of European countries the issues connected with landscapes are included in the legal regulations pertaining to the spatial planning, historical and cultural heritage of monuments and nature monuments, nature protection, urbanism and urban development, as well as architecture (Report, 1998; Źarska, 1995).

Sometimes, one ministry assumes the leading role and organises taskforces or committees handling this subject (Report, 1997). British Countryside Commission, founded in 1968, which is a very active landscape protection institution, deserves attention. It is an independent governmental commission, whose responsibilities include: organization, promotion, information and public education. Its numerous functions also involve: advising the government and Parliament in the issues connected with landscape, conducting research on the changes occurring in rural areas, suggesting areas for protection, as well as ensuring that rural areas be taken into consideration during the planning (raising the awareness of the interested parties). It is also supposed to aid in protection and management of landscape, in co-operation with corresponding ministries (of agriculture and environmental protection), as well as in the implementation of the projects concerning agriculture and environmental protection (Marsden, 1998; Jensen, 2005).

The landscape records are made in numerous European countries. They can include all types of landscape or only those, which have already been protected or classified. These records are used in classi-

fication or protection of landscape. They identify extraordinary landscapes or the ones bearing a special meaning. The records are also made at an initial stage of landscape plans. They identify the landscape types in order to include proposals of certain protective or reclamation actions or guidelines for their shaping in a plan (Jongman, 2004). These descriptions give the local and national authorities broader information on the status of landscape in the given area and may serve as guidelines for land development. The authorities are obliged to take the data found in records into consideration (Agnoletti, 2010).

According to the comparative analyses concerning legal landscape protection in the Member States of the Council of Europe, three legislative forms exist, which reflect the specific approach to the issue of landscapes (Report, 1997):

- legal protection of monuments and historical places – dominant in France and Italy, where cultural and aesthetic values are especially emphasized;
- legal protection of the nature – reflects the tendencies of emphasizing the natural values of landscapes (dominant in Germany and Norway);
- inclusion of landscape protection to the legal regulations on spatial economy – found where landscape is considered as a combination of equally important natural and cultural elements, while its protection and shaping is an integral part of spatial planning on different levels, e.g. in Great Britain, the landscape protection is systematically incorporated to the zone system as part of the classification devised by British Countryside Commission.

Studies carried out by the University of Milan in selected European countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Norway, Poland, and Slovenia) showed significant differences in the approach to the landscape, which stem from different tradition and cultural context (Scazzosi, 2002). Thus, different aspects are emphasized: natural, ecologic, aesthetic, and historical. There is a significant difference in perception of landscape between the northern European countries, where attention is drawn to the ecologic issues and nature protection (Norway, Germany), and southern Europe, where the cultural importance of places is emphasized (France, Italy). In some countries (Great Britain, the Netherlands, Spain), the visual-perceptive approach was dominant; however, at present, other landscape aspects were added (Scazzosi, 2004).

The diversification of approaches to landscape in individual countries impacts the choice of operational and institutional solutions, as well as of the instruments of implementing the new landscape policy as part of government and local administration. Inclusion of landscape issues to the planning studies and

procedures, concerns mainly the land development and development plans (ESDP, 1999). The range and level of arrangements depends mainly on the spatial planning systems in the individual European countries (Dembowska, 1999). At present, there are four main methods of landscape protection, employed separately or jointly (Raszeja, 2003):

- the issues of landscape are incorporated into the spatial planning procedures;
- the individual, valuable landscapes are classified as the protected areas, with corresponding legal regulations – ranging from the ban on taking individual actions to specific guidelines and recommendations;
- landscape is a factor for making decisions concerning land use, e.g. prohibition of resource exploitation, declining the building permit;
- detailed landscape plans are devised, integrated with the planning studies to a varying degree or used as guidelines for spatial policy.

European countries, in which the importance of landscape and the social awareness increase, introduce various stimuli and financial mechanisms for strengthening the existing legal means (Zaremba-Warnke, 2013). The most commonly employed solutions in the European Union Member States are based on the instruments enabled by the common agricultural policy, which advocates programmes involving sustainable management of agricultural landscape (Strategy, 1999). These include agricultural and environmental subsidies or, so-called, landscape contracts. In the Netherlands, contracts concerning landscape management are made between the authorities and farmers. Such contract contains detailed obligations, which ensure that the principles of ecological farming, as well as environmental and landscape protection are employed. In return, farmers receive financial grants. In France, since 2004, special landscape contracts concerning the realization of plans and landscape projects came into force. The government also funds research and studies conducted for the purpose of landscape plans. A special rural landscape conservation fund was created on the basis of landscape plans (Raszeja, 2013 a).

In the European countries, building permits and other administrative decisions pertaining to the spatial economy play a special role in management of landscape resources. These include: land-use method, land integration, location of industrial objects and/or elements of infrastructure, advertising placement, dismantling of buildings, etc. Such permits are issued on the basis of landscape guidelines. In Denmark, each of 275 communes prepares their own plan, containing detailed guidelines on shaping the landscape and building development. These plans are the basis for issuing decisions concerning building development. The British Act on spatial planning mentions – among others – that the local authorities are obliged to be in possession of the development plans while issuing building permits, in

addition to having a right to impose sanctions when the changes in land use are made without a permit. The Dutch spatial development plans constitute the most important instrument of spatial policy, as well as a legal basis of forced land buyouts, which is essential for carrying out the protection and landscape reclamation plans (Scazzosi, 2002). The organization of consultations prior to issuing various administrative decisions is another crucial element of landscape management (Raszeja, 2013 a).

The property law, and the way it functions in different European countries, is essential for landscape management (Bielińska et al., 2014 a). In some countries it has been limited long ago due to the broadly understood public good (ESDP, 1999; Dylewski, 2004). Landscape is recognized as public good more and more often. In France, the government and local government authorities can reject the building application if either the planned location of the object, its size or external appearance threaten the landscape harmony. In the Swiss and Spanish legal systems, the building permit can be declined in the case of possible landscape degradation as well (Raszeja, 2013 a).

Rural landscape protection in Poland – theory versus practice

Due to the implementation of the *European Landscape Convention*, Poland is obliged to follow its fundamental assumptions (EC, 2000), including:

- protecting all types of landscapes, while adjusting the means to the value of resources;
- creating adequate methods and instruments on various levels of planning and spatial management;
- creating consulting procedures which increase the social participation in evaluation and spatial decision-making;
- making appropriate legislative changes;
- devising educational programmes in order to increase the social awareness on the protection and shaping of landscape;
- improving the theoretical and practical methods (development of research, educating professional staff);
- creating effective landscape resource management, among others, as part of spatial economy and fiscal policy;
- drawing more attention to the rural areas;
- gathering necessary funds.

In Poland, rural areas – though important for the quality of life of the entire society – for a long time had a marginal meaning in the spatial shaping actions (Ryszkowski, 2004; Wilczyński, 2012). These actions focused mainly on the urban space, densely populated areas, with complex array of functions and problems, subjected to multi-directional influences of high intensity (Zimny, 2005; Niedźwiecka-Filipiak, 2009). At present, the issue of rural landscape

protection is raised increasingly often. However, a discrepancy is observed between the political statements and the methods of landscape management employed in practice. One of the important causes of the hindrance for rural landscape protection is the inefficiency of the Polish spatial planning system and its legal instruments, including the Polish property law (Böhm, 2008). A clear lack of coherence between the identification methods and landscape evaluation and planning is visible, as the results of landscape studies are not transmitted into spatial management. The hurdles in protection and landscape management in rural areas stem not only from the legal, organizational, and financial problems, but also from the lack of common vision and strategy based on a good recognition of landscape features (Raszeja, 2008).

The Polish legal regulations form a system which allows the public authorities (government and local government) to interfere in certain people activities which result or may result with the changes in spatial development. They enable controlling the spatial development, especially eliminating or limiting undesirable methods of its implementation (Wysocka, 2000). Controlling occurs through normative acts (acts, regulations, local laws and law enforcement acts. As regards the spatial development, the most essential is the Act on Planning and Spatial Development (Ustawa, 2003). It determines the system of instruments and procedures of carrying out the spatial policy through the government administration and local government instruments, in line with the European Union standards and legislation, and referring to the general direction of the system changes and Polish law. This is expressed by introducing the economic criterion strengthening the local community governments as the main subjects responsible for the spatial shape (Raszeja, 2013 a). The act assumes sustainable development and spatial harmony as the priorities in development, pointing out the necessity of including the landscape values in planning and spatial development, in addition to the requirements of environmental protection, as well as cultural heritage and monuments.

Among the various landscape management devices (legal, administrative, financial) the ones that function locally are especially important. These include:

- local spatial development plans – which constitute local acts pertaining to spatial development;
- studies on the conditions and directions of spatial development of communes;
- strategies of commune development;
- local development plans;
- communal monument protection programmes;
- countryside renovation programmes
- nature and landscape studies;
- ecophysiological elaborations.

According to the Act on spatial planning and development (Ustawa, 2003), the decisions regarding the

purpose and use of lands – and therefore, concerning the changes of landscape in rural areas – are mainly based on the local spatial development plans, which determine the functional, compositional, and technical rules as the basis for achieving spatial harmony in a landscape. The analyses carried out by the authors of this work (data not published) in the Lubelskie region communes, as well as in the municipalities in Poznań agglomeration (Raszeja et al., 2010) showed that in fact, this legal instrument is not used for creating harmony in rural areas, but rather for the purpose of satisfying the investment needs. The contents are usually imprecise and do not find application in practical management of landscape resources. Plans are fragmented, while the size and shape of the designed building development is calculated from the parameters pertaining to the areas excluded from agricultural use and divided into plots, often very schematically. They often include small areas on which several plots were separated linearly or in a closed system. Such solution causes increasing dispersion of building development, which was previously used in agriculture, and leads to disintegration and fragmentation of the landscape (Kowicki, 2010). In some planning-related content, there are inconsistencies, sometimes leading to the degradation of landscape values. A broad evaluation of Polish spatial management system weaknesses and shortcomings was included in the report of the National Secretariat *Habitat* (HABITAT, 2003). According to this report, the weakness of the system hampers, and often prevents the rational spatial economy, and rational development of areas, thus negatively impacting the quality of life of people, as well as the conditions and possibilities of sustainable development of rural areas. Studies and strategies usually lack the identification and interpretation of landscape in line with the recommendations of the *European Landscape Convention*. The communal documents pertaining to the renovation of towns and communal monument protection programmes usually contain information about the registered monuments. While preparing the communal studies, only the analyses of source materials are conducted and no landscape-related research is made. The value of rural landscape is evaluated in regard to tourism development (Raszeja et al., 2010). In the case of protection plans, the legislator's intention was to ensure that the regulations take effect in the study of conditions and directions of spatial development. Therefore, the protection plan should be prepared first. However, at present, communes are usually in possession of obsolete studies and local plans, which contradict the idea of landscape protection and are transferred into the protection plans. The record of protection plans arrangements in the local law remains problematic. This is relevant, as the local planning and local decisions shape the rural landscape. Transferring the re-

sponsibilities pertaining to spatial management and spatial decisions onto the basic level hinders the social control over the landscape, which is considered a common good by the *European Landscape Convention*. Locally, the local spatial development plans concern landscape development, performed through interventional decision making in the form of immediate reactions, aimed at achieving quick effects or through actions taken to avoid certain threats to landscape. On the other hand, regionally, it assumes the form of a long-run strategic planning and shaping the landscape policy, integrated with multi-faceted regional development policy. Striving for the deregulation of rules and system, as well as separation of the regional and local planning (allocating them into two separate ministries) may lead to the further spatial disintegration and deformation of rural areas (Raszeja, 2013 a). It needs to be emphasized that the *European Landscape Convention* indicates planning as an efficient and common form of active rural landscape protection. To sum up, the practice of planning and spatial management in rural areas should include the spatial policy and strategy of development, ranging from the regional scale and local scale planning, to concrete actions taken by the local communities. Participatory planning, which is connected with the social participation in the process of planning, is an opportunity to bolster the active rural landscape protection. Participatory planning is based on the following assumptions (Pawłowska, 2008):

- people are entitled to take part in decision-making which impact their life, express their needs, expectations and fears;
- alienating people from planning and decision-making induces their resistance against the implementation of various planning arrangements;
- it is essential also for the planners, who thus verify their ideas;
- local knowledge enriches the information necessary for planning;
- participation in planning creates the sense of identity with the place, owing to its better understanding;
- including the residents and users in planning increases their responsibility for the space, creates the basis for a certain social agreement in the form of local spatial development plan or other local development plans.

Organization of meetings, consultations, and discussions is a fundamental element of participatory planning (Buchecker et al. 2003). It is important who and in what way took part in this process (Fig. 1). Usually, its initiators consist of experts and professionals (planners, leaders of countryside renovation programmes); however, the commitment of landscape users is especially important, including in the information gathering, analysis and area

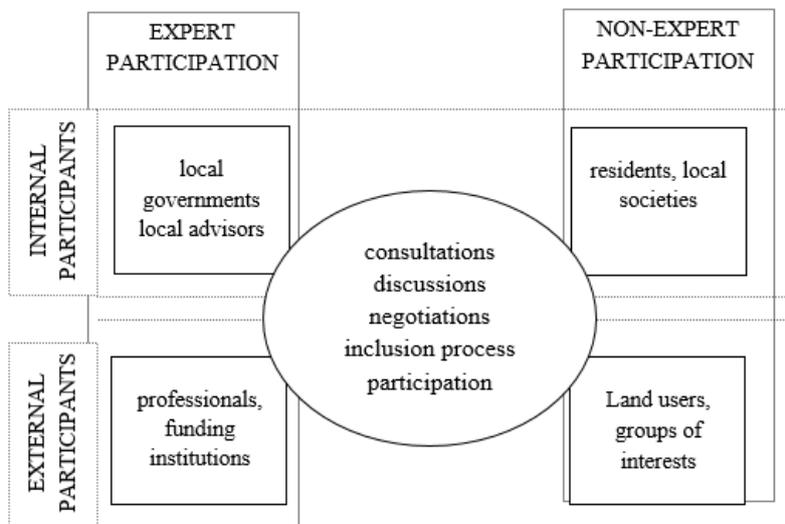


Figure 1. Forms of social participation (according to: Selman, 2006)

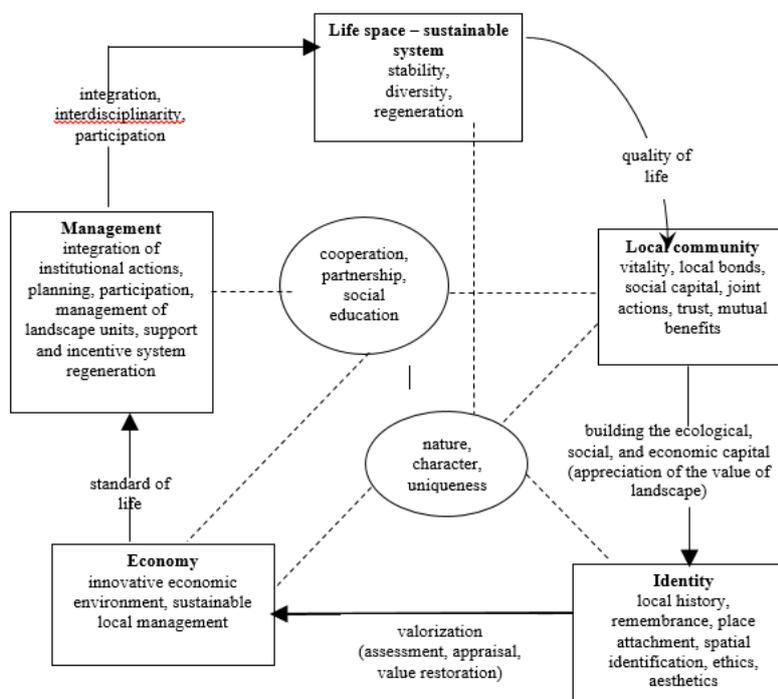


Figure 2. A scheme for the functioning of a stable local social-landscape system (according to: Selman, 2006)

characterization processes, as well as in the assessment of solutions.

Following methods of social participation exist (Swanwick, 2004; Selman, 2006; Pawłowska, 2008):

- passive participation – people take part solely by informing about the taken actions;
- participation through giving information – taking part in various polls and questionnaires, but no influence on the planning method;
- participation through consultations – influencing the modification of planning solutions;
- functional participation – creating groups dealing with particular projects, beginning of an active participation in the project;

- interactive participation – active and direct participation in the analyses, studies and planning;
- internal mobilization – taking own initiatives, independent from the external institutions and experts.

One of the fundamental problems connected with social participation is, usually, the short-term commitment. Sometimes, it stems only from the fear of the expected threats or losses related to, e.g. a change in local plan. There is also the danger of certain elitism, consisting in separation of the team committed in the planning process from the remaining local society. It may lead to pushing the interests of certain groups under the guise of social consultations (Selman, 2006; Pawłowska, 2008). The common participation

of local societies in the creation of local spatial development plans (polls, debates, negotiations) ensures the abidance of their assumptions, considered a common social agreement (Pawłowska, 2008). It also helps raising the social landscape awareness. In sustainable development of rural areas, the improvement of landscape status cannot be limited to the procedural issues, without any reference to the social, economic, or political context. Preparing and conducting social consultations is especially important in the wake of increasing conflicts and *spatial fights* (Raszeja, 2013a). Choosing a certain approach to the issue of landscape resources causes many conflicts. All subjects operating in the rural space (individuals, social groups) bear the undisputed right to freedom, which in practice is expressed in diversified usage of landscape resources. Conflicts arise when the freedom of management boils down to an unlimited and uncontrolled – sometimes even greedy – exploitation of its resources (Mokrzycki et al., 2009). In the process of integrated rural landscape protection, raising social awareness in regard to the issues connected with recognition and respecting the value of landscape, and not only solving single spatial problems, is especially important.

Stable local social and landscape systems (Fig. 2) operating in rural areas, are capable of being incorporated into the global systems, without facing its dangers. They can adapt to the changing external conditions (Selman, 2006). These systems are based on taking advantage of their own potential: social, cultural, and economic, as well as the local spatial and landscape-related nature.

It is vital for the system to operate in the principle of sustainable development and participation of all the residents, as well as to be well-established in the actual economy and well-managed. This creates its stability, resilience, and allows it to react to external interferences (Selman, 2006).

Conclusion

Along with the strengthening of the sustainable development, the issue of landscapes assumed an important position in the collection of common European policy rules. Landscape was recognized as an important element of European identification.

The fundamental document which determines the assumptions of the common European landscape policy is the *European Landscape Convention*, which postulates a comprehensive and integrated approach to the issue of sustainable landscape protection and shaping, as well as drawing more attention to rural areas.

The threats to the rural landscape, stemming from the modern development processes necessitate the verification of the methods and protection instruments currently employed in Poland.

The majority of the European countries are equipped with – still improving – the means and instruments

necessary for the conservation of various landscape resources.

The analysis pertaining to the assessment of the implementation of the integrated rural landscape protection in Poland shows:

- inefficiency of the currently employed methods;
- a visible gap between the theoretical elaborations and the practice of managing the landscape resources;
- inadequacy of the existing procedures and instruments to the needs of integrated protection, as well as to the standards established by the European landscape policy.

The integrated rural landscape protection should ensure:

- creation of landscape resource management instruments efficient in changing conditions, in line with the principle of sustainable development;
- raising the social awareness regarding protection and shaping of the landscape;
- appropriate legislative changes;
- creation of consultation procedures, which increase the social participation in the assessment and spatial decision-making.

Recognition of landscape changes should be an indicator for future strategies, and influence the protection plans, shaping, as well as management.

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