

**SELECTED PROBLEMS OF SPATIAL ORDER AND CULTURAL  
HERITAGE IN THE ASPECT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION  
AND GLOBALISATION ON THE EXAMPLE OF TORUŃ  
AND ITS SURROUNDINGS**

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**Purpose:** The main reason for writing the article is a will to research the current problems of spatial order and cultural heritage in Toruń and its neighbourhood.

**Design/methodology/approach:** There were three methods used for the research – the document examination method, the quantitative-statistical method, and the observational method. The objectives can be considered as achieved. The main subject scope of the paper was applying a very broad and multidisciplinary approach to the topic, considering whether globalisation and European integration, in terms of economic development, have an impact on the condition of the architectural space, especially the spatial order and the cultural heritage in Toruń and its closest vicinity.

**Findings:** The situation of spatial development, town planning and preservation of cultural heritage in Toruń and its surroundings is not in the best condition. The built environment in this area does not experience such a harmonious and aesthetic development as it could. In many cases, one can talk about a decrease in different kinds of its values, for instance, cultural ones, perhaps except the financial values of real estate. Important drawbacks causing this state of affairs are market mechanisms, pressure from investors, and the inefficiency of blocking and securing mechanisms, which is related to the wrong law and weak management.

**Research limitations/implications:** The main problems of spatial order and cultural heritage are very complex and require further research.

**Practical implications:** The paper is connected with practice in the subject field.

**Social implications:** The article's social implications are an important value of the work.

**Originality/value:** Even though this is not the first voice about spatial chaos in Poland, the situation is fundamentally not improving. The problem has been repeatedly confirmed not only in publications of scientists and specialists but even in government documents. In this study, an attempt was made to draw attention to a special, interdisciplinary aspect of the issue. The value of the paper is putting together many different issues which influence spatial order and cultural heritage. It is addressed to both scientists and monument lovers.

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage, spatial order, development, town planning, architecture, European integration, globalisation, Toruń.

**Category of the paper:** Research paper. It can also be additionally regarded as a review paper.

## 1. Introduction

In this text, the author tried to collect some information from various fields to consider the title problem. Although this article concerns problems that have already been raised many times in other publications, i.e. spatial chaos and the unsatisfactory situation of tangible cultural heritage in Poland, there is still no clear answer to the question of how their future will look like. Observing the spatial reality for years on the example of Toruń and its surroundings, it becomes clear that two seemingly contradictory phenomena occur simultaneously – on the one hand, the undeniable success of human and economic development, on the other hand, the mess in the spatial planning of buildings and the poor situation of cultural heritage, including the poor state of monuments. Despite this noticed temporal and local coincidence between these two different states, it does not prove that the first one directly caused the second one. Errors, shortcomings and threats (e.g. legislation, administration, pressure from investors) have already been identified in earlier documents and other publications.

## 2. Methods

The main scientific method used in the research was the document examination method, including the query of source materials, for instance, legal acts, documents and other publications.

In addition, the quantitative-statistical method was used, too. This method was concerned mainly with statistical data on Human Development Index (HDI) and the gross domestic product (GDP) indicators.

Finally, the social research method – based on observations – was also important. The observational method was focused on the case study of the situation of spatial order and cultural heritage in Toruń and its development. Observations were conducted from various fields, but above all from the perspective of an architect operating in the market and simultaneously a resident interested in the good of the local community. The very extensive problem of the paper leads to the search for a way to deal with it properly. Among others there are involved in the topic many, sometimes quite different disciplines. On the one hand, there are spatial development, town planning, architecture, conservation and restoration of historic buildings. On the other hand, important issues can also be provided by, among others, such areas as economy, politics, administration, management, sociology and law.

### 3. Results

The economic transformation, after the times of the People's Republic of Poland (in short in Polish: PRL) and people's democracy, began in 1989. After the initial problems and significant social costs of this undertaking, there was an opening to the world and a tightening of relations with it. Poland became a member of the European Union on May 1, 2004. European integration, which, of course, started dozens of years earlier, has led to increased well-being in this new member country from the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

There was a huge economic gap between Poland and Western Europe in the early 90s. It also was a vast distance in the human development level between this state and the most developed countries in the world. But this gap over thirty years has been significantly reduced.

This favourable trend is noticeable both with the naked eye and in numerous publications and statistics, such as the study of the gross domestic product (GDP) level, the Human Development Index, the Sub-national HDI, the OECD Better Life Index, the OECD Regional Well-Being and others. For instance, Poland ranks very high in the Human Development Report 2021/2022 – with an HDI (Human Development Index) rank of 34 (somewhere about the middle of the very high human development group of 66 countries) and an HDI value of 0,876 (United Nations Development Programme, 2022, p. 272). In turn, another table of this study also shows the previous values of this indicator and the average annual trends in its growth. In the case of Poland, the records of this indicator in the past for selected years (given in brackets) were as follows: 0.716 (1990), 0.793 (2000), 0.841 (2010), and 0.876 (the same in 2020 as in 2021). So the total increase of this indicator in the years 1990-2021 was 0,16. These values indicate a significant upward trend during this period.

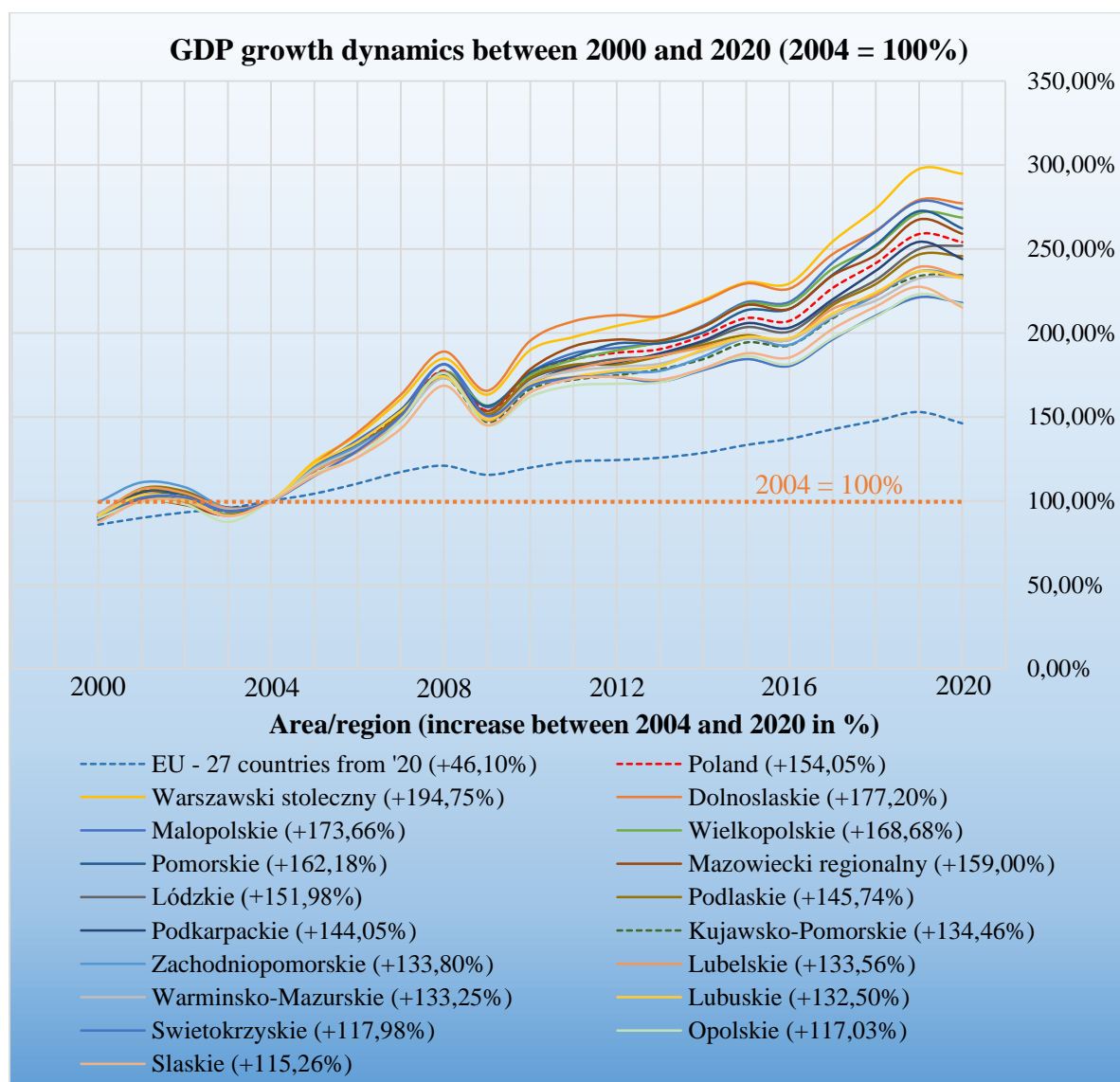
Moving to the regional level, information published by various institutions can be used. Using the GlobalDataLab's data conducted by the Institute for Management Research at Radboud University in the Netherlands, it can be read that the Sub-national HDI index (v. 5.0) for the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship in the period 1990-2019 also increased significantly (by 0.15), which can be seen in the following figures (years given in brackets): 0,712 (1990), 0,786 (2000), 0,824 (2010), and 0,862 (2019) (Sub-national HDI 2019 – Maps, 2022).

The general view of data mentioned below, concerning the regional gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, provided by such an institution as Eurostat, gives a clear picture of the economic success of the discussed area – both on a national and regional scale. Also, comparing the GDP of regions with the average value of this indicator for a given year in the European Union (annual, purchasing power standard, per inhabitant percentage of the EU27 from 2020 average), it turns out that significant economic growth was achieved in each of the Polish regions from the moment of joining the Community in 2004 until today, or to be exact to latest records. Poland was divided into 17 regions according to NUTS 2 (nomenclature of territorial units for statistics), where Mazowieckie Voivodeship was divided into two regions in this

classification – Warszawski Stołeczny and Mazowiecki regional. In the case of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region (which is in NUTS 2 the same as the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship), where Toruń is located, the readings of GDP at current market prices by NUTS 2 measured in PPS (i.e. purchasing power standard) per inhabitant in percentage of the EU27 (from 2020) average were: 43% in 2000, 45% in 2004, 58% in 2019, and 62% in 2020 (latest research results). Eurostat dataset enables also taking an even closer look at the city selected in the work and its surroundings – at the regional statistics by NUTS 3 (another geographical level) classification. This is the lowest classification available and therefore the most accurate. Toruń is located in the Bydgosko-Torunski Region, which consists of four units. Apart from Toruń, there is another city – Bydgoszcz, and two land units surrounding them – consecutively Toruń County and Bydgoszcz County. The following readings of GDP at current market prices by NUTS 3 measured in PPS per inhabitant in percentage of the EU27 (from 2020) average were recorded values for the Bydgosko-Torunski Region as follows: 56% in 2000, 57% in 2004, and 73% in 2019 (latest research results). It is visible that the gradual development of this region is faster than the average for the entire European Union. For Poland, i.e. the whole country, the above indicator looks like this: 48% in 2000, 52% in 2004, 73% in 2019, and 76% in 2020 (Eurostat, 2023a).

A similar improvement was also recorded using the unit of measurement of the GDP indicator in Euro (i.e. not in PPS) per inhabitant in percentage of the EU27 (from 2020) average – for the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, this value measured as a percentage was 24% in 2000, 22% in 2004, and 37% in 2020. Comparatively, this indicator for Poland was: 27% in 2000, 25% in 2004, and 46% in 2020 (Eurostat, 2023b).

By creating a statement presenting the dynamics of GDP growth, one can even more clearly see the huge development that Poland, and all its regions, including Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region. Using data published by Eurostat in a table entitled *Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices by NUTS 2 regions*, a statistic of the GDP growth dynamics of Poland and its regions (in NUTS 2 classification) compared with EU 27 countries (2020) in percentage (where values for the year 2004 equals 100%) (Eurostat, 2023c). Figure 1 presents such a summary, which shows the average for the European Union (27 member states in 2020), Poland and all its regions, according to the NUTS 2 geographical level (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** GDP growth dynamics of Polish regions compared with EU 27 countries (2020) in percentage (2004 = 100%).

Source: own study (2022) based on data published by Eurostat in a table entitled *Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices by NUTS 2 regions* (Eurostat, 2023c).

These above-mentioned data showing significant economic and human development in Poland and its areas, including Toruń and its vicinity, make it possible to assume that land use and settlement areas have also increased in recent years. Other Eurostat data indicate this sufficiently clearly. As it turns out, there is a significant increase in land use and settlement area in Poland. This applies also to the land use in the voivodeship where Toruń is located. The relevant data can be found in the dedicated sections of the Eurostat dataset – Land use overview by NUTS 2 regions (Eurostat, 2023d) and Settlement area (Eurostat, 2023e).

This convergence between significant economic and human development and the increase of land use and settlement area in Poland is natural because built development is always an important element of the entire socio-economic development of countries. This has its special aspect in this country due to the relatively small stock of available flats. As a result,

state policy is focused on making it as easy as possible for residents to meet their housing needs, especially in a situation where the rulers, despite promises made for years, are unable to ensure that these needs are met to a sufficient extent. For this reason, almost any measures that will facilitate construction investments in the area of housing, especially single-family housing, become acceptable. And the price for this can be high because the problem is serious. One of such costs is often spatial chaos in Polish cities, especially around their borders.

One of the foundations of spatial development and urban planning is the issue of **spatial order**. According to the *Act of 27 March 2003 on Spatial Planning and Development* (title translated into English from Polish), which is a binding legal act in Poland, spatial order is understood as "a shape of space that creates a harmonious whole and takes into account all functional, socio-economic, environmental, cultural and compositional and aesthetic conditions and requirements in orderly relationships" (Ustawa z dnia 27 marca 2003 r..., 2022, p. 4).

One of the most important documents dealing with spatial development is *Koncepcja Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju 2030* (title in English: *National Spatial Development Concept 2030*) was adopted by the Polish Council of Ministers on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011. It comprehensively covered the issues of spatial development in Poland at the national and regional levels. As a result of legislative changes, its provisions became invalid in 2020 and so far nothing has satisfactorily replaced it. The last of the six goals of the country's spatial development policy included in this document was: *Restoring and consolidating spatial order*. According to it: "Spatial order is the main objective of spatial development at all levels of planning: national, regional, local and functional. [...] In spatial development, spatial order means the order and harmony between various components of space and functions of spatial structure, constituting a criterion for assessing the quality of changes in land use in relation to the efficiency of socio-economic processes and the quality of life" (Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego, 2012, p. 163).

Unfortunately, the situation in terms of spatial order has not been the best for many years. There is no room here for an in-depth analysis of this, and there is no need for it because a lot of serious studies have already been written, also in the recent period. It is worth mentioning here, for example, such publications as *Polska Polityka Architektoniczna. Polityka jakości krajobrazu, przestrzeni publicznej, architektury* (title in English: *Polish Architectural Policy. Landscape, public space and architecture quality policy*) (Polska Rada Architektury et al., 2011), *Polska Polityka Architektoniczna. Studia i szkice* (title in English: *Polish Architectural Policy. Studies and sketches*) (Chwalibóg, 2020), *Studia nad chaosem przestrzennym* (title in English: *Studies on Spatial Chaos*) (Polska Akademia Nauk Komitet Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju, 2018), *Narodowa Strategia Rozwoju Kultury na lata 2004-2013: Narodowy Program Kultury „Ochrona zabytków i dziedzictwa kulturowego” na lata 2004-2013* (title in English: *National Strategy for the Development of Culture for 2004-2013: National Culture Program "Protection of monuments and cultural heritage" for the years 2004-2013*) (Ministerstwo Kultury), and *Strategia Rozwoju Kapitału Społecznego (współdziałanie,*

*kultura, kreatywność*) 2030 (title in English: *Social Capital Development Strategy (cooperation, culture, creativity) 2030* (Strategia Rozwoju Kapitału Społecznego (współdziałanie, kultura, kreatywność) 2030, 2020).



**Figure 2.** A satellite image of terrain near the eastern side of Toruń – the villages Lubicz Górny, Krobia and Brzozówka that are affected by urban sprawl.

Source: Geoportal (2022), <https://geoportal.gov.pl> (Geoportal Krajowy).

An important problem of Polish cities is the **inconsistent shaping of urban areas**, including both public and private spaces, free for development. It has many faces, and it is one of them is **urban sprawl** – suburbanisation, which is a global problem of spatial development, exists also in Poland. This phenomenon does not only affect Silicon Valley, the vast neighbourhoods of the world's largest metropolises. Gradually, it also appeared in Poland, not only near the metropolis of Warsaw but in numerous places near local centres of socio-economic activity, scattered throughout the country. In the vicinity of the capitals of voivodeships, as well as the largest cities, chaotic suburban development has appeared, the location of which is mainly due to economic reasons – primarily lower prices of building land than within the boundaries of a large city. The extensive neighbourhood of Toruń from the east and northeast is an example that illustrates this phenomenon well. The villages located there - e.g. Złotoria, Lubicz Dolny, Lubicz Górny, Grębocin, Krobia, Brzozówka, Głogowo - are experiencing an investment boom caused by the intensive and largely chaotic development of single-family houses erected there, which *de facto* become new residential districts of the main city, although formally they do not belong to it (see Figure 2).

An important in this field document is the *Polish Architectural Policy. Landscape, public space and architecture quality policy*, which was already mentioned above. It was published for the first time in 2009, and in 2011 its second edition was developed by the Polish Architecture Council (in Polish: Polska Rada Architektury), SARP (Association of Polish Architects), TUP (Society of Polish Urban planners) and the Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland (in Polish: Izba Architektów Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej). It contains an unambiguous critique of the state of Polish space – inconsistent shaping of public spaces, including urban centres, urban substandard of newly erected buildings and housing estates, a random expansion of suburban zones, the distraction of buildings in agricultural and recreational areas, destruction of cultural and natural landscapes, including contemporary culture, the ugliness of suburban and rural areas, etc.) (Polska Rada Architektury et al., 2011, p. 8). There were also causes of spatial chaos and an appeal regarding the necessary counteracting the process of anarchizing Polish space, because: "Matters of landscape, public space and architecture, cultural and natural heritage, including contemporary cultural goods must be considered and resolved with the highest attention" (Polska Rada Architektury et al., 2011, p. 9). It describes in detail nine important problems of Polish architectural policy. In its part dedicated to the spatial planning system, there is stated that cities, especially their periphery, grow chaotically, because of no spatial plans in a significant part of urban areas. Construction and aggressive external advertising destroy the landscape. The basic planning tool of spatial planning – local spatial development plan – is not widely used, because local authorities are not too much interested in it. Such a situation promotes *ad hoc* private interests and leads to the degradation of space. Another problem presented in this document is the protection of cultural heritage, including also contemporary cultural goods. A devastating diagnosis was listed there, among others: the low rank of the issues of cultural heritage protection in the minds of public administration authorities and other participants in space design and management processes, cultural heritage protection tools in space planning and management processes are not used and protection of monuments is understood only as the desire to fulfil statutory obligations, incorrect interpretation of respect for tradition, historical objects are often renewed in a way that blurs their original values in the name of concern for incorrectly understood aesthetics and/or raising the energy standard, the social awareness of the need to protect your cultural heritage is not common, the construction of civil society, landscape protection and monuments are associated with limiting freedom and seem to be contrary to the interests of residents undermining the right of ownership (Polska Rada Architektury et al., 2011, pp. 17-19).

Recently, as a kind of continuation of the material described above, the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning published in 2020, edited by Krzysztof Chwalibog, its next instalment entitled *Polish Architectural Policy. Studies and sketches* Adam Kowalewski, author of the chapter entitled the crisis of spatial management, indicates that: "Spatial economy crisis, urbanization pathologies and growing spatial chaos generate huge social and economic losses.



[...] The last 10 years have brought a special severity of negative phenomena related to economic development and investment boom. As a consequence, the distraction of buildings and uncontrolled, destructive suburbanization took the size unheard of in civilized countries. [...] This crisis is confirmed by reports and research, as well as the speeches of professional and local government organisations" (Kowalewski, 2020, p. 27). The text mentions the costs of spatial chaos and losses, primarily social and economic, in many areas (e.g. settlement, transport, real estate market, infrastructure, environment, etc.) in this respect. It is also recalled that the costs of spatial chaos are PLN 84.3 billion, which were presented in another study, originating from 2018 entitled *Studies on Spatial Chaos* (Polska Akademia Nauk Komitet Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju, 2018), only include documented costs, and in fact, they are much higher. Because they are either not monitored or they cannot be counted thoroughly (Kowalewski, 2020, p. 32). For example, one of the many types of spatial chaos costs is its effects on the real estate market, which was more accurate in one of the chapters of the second volume of the book *Studies on Spatial Chaos*. There were, among others various economic, social and environmental effects - both direct and indirect (Maćkiewicz et al., 2018, pp. 280-316). And this is just one of many negative aspects of spatial chaos and the costs it causes.

In another important document – *National Strategy for the Development of Culture for 2004-2013: National Culture Program "Protection of monuments and cultural heritage" for the years 2004-2013* – it was noted that: “An extremely important function of the state is the patronage of culture, even in times of prosperity. The state, by conducting an appropriate cultural policy, can maintain continuity and prevent the loss of cultural heritage. The commercial sector is usually unable to play a similar role due to frequent and rapid economic fluctuations, even in the most developed economies of Europe” (Ministerstwo Kultury, p. 14). Of course, it is difficult to say what part of the gross domestic product is accounted for by cultural heritage, but it is certainly a significant share.

The document entitled *Social Capital Development Strategy (cooperation, culture, creativity) 2030*, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2020, also paid a lot of attention to the unsatisfactory situation of monuments in Poland nowadays. According to it: “Cultural heritage, together with collective memory, form the basis for the formation of social bonds. Monuments, which are one of the essential elements of heritage, are an emanation of the values with which the communities that created them in the past identified themselves. The creative interpretation of monuments is therefore the foundation for the formation of contemporary collective identity in various dimensions and aspects: local, regional, national, social, cultural, political, etc. Care for the past preserved in monuments can therefore foster solidarity within local communities, as well as allow for the development of sensitivity to the heritage of other communities” (Strategia Rozwoju Kapitału Społecznego..., 2020, p. 27). Besides, according to the authors of the *Strategy*: “All historic buildings require special storage and protection conditions. Meanwhile, **only less than 1/3 of historic buildings listed in the**

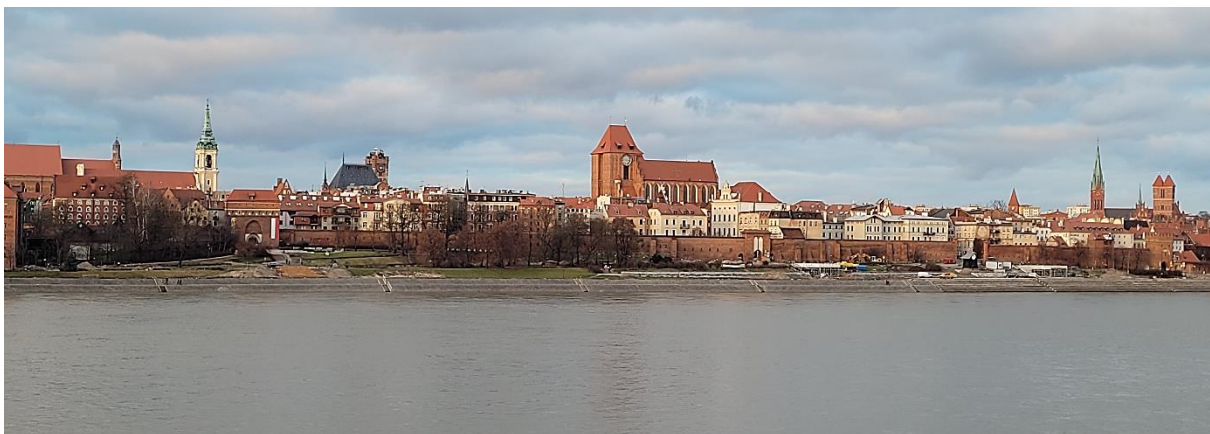
**register do not show signs of damage** that would justify the need for renovation interventions. Over 70% of the registered objects were assessed as showing signs of destruction. It is therefore clear that the effective preservation of heritage requires the intensification of actions implemented by the state in this area. Responsible development should also be understood as caring for the established, e.g. in historic buildings, the achievements of past generations, without which the process of strengthening social capital will be significantly hindered” (Strategia Rozwoju Kapitału Społecznego..., 2020, pp. 27-28).

The facts quoted above illustrate, of course, only to a limited extent, the satisfactory progress in the economic and, more broadly speaking, human development of Polish regions in the last twenty years, and, on the other hand, the unsatisfactory, even alarming situation of the space of cities and villages, including the cultural heritage located in them.

#### 4. Discussion

At the beginning of this chapter, it is worth trying to take a broader look at the problem under consideration. It would be much easier to find coincident relations between the construction and real estate industries and European integration and globalisation, for instance by observing changes in land cover, funds, business co-operations etc.

Can urban sprawl be considered as a kind of backlash of the excessive and fast economic growth, which has its roots in globalisation and integration of European Union Member States? This phenomenon has an impact on the cultural landscape, which is changing from agricultural to suburban in an uncontrolled and uneven way. Often, towns resemble vast residential districts, although formally it is still a village. Here's another economic aspect – the inhabitants of these areas, who in large part come from the main city, do not want their areas to be attached to this central centre. They prefer to pay taxes locally and thus have a greater guarantee that they will be used for the benefit of the local community.



**Figure 3.** The panorama of the waterfront of the old town of Toruń.

Source: own study (2023).

There is no room here for a broader discussion of the theoretical foundations on which contemporary spatial and town planning, architecture and conservation of monuments are based. However, because the old town of Toruń was inscribed in 1997 on the List of World Cultural Heritage Sites and is generally considered to be one of the most valuable historical cities, it is worth mentioning here the most important issues in the field of monument protection. This area looks particularly picturesque from the side of the Vistula river, creating a wonderful panorama of the cultural landscape – a place created by nature and man with natural elements (water, greenery, embankment with an escarpment) and anthropogenic elements (buildings, roads, squares, riverside boulevard), which form a harmonious and extremely valuable whole (see Figure 3).

The author of this article has written many times about the protection of monuments. An interesting addition to the considerations contained here may be reading his article *The influence of architectural practice in Poland on cultural heritage – selected problems*, published in the IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering (Furmanek, 2019) or a chapter (in Polish) called *Odpowiedzialność w zawodzie architekta a miasto historyczne – wybrane problemy na przykładzie Torunia*, which is included in the post-conference monograph, edited by K. Guranowska-Gruszecka, *Miasto zwarte. Miasto rozproszone. Materiały ogólnopolskiej konferencji Doktorantów Wydziałów Architektury. Warszawa, 4-5 listopada 2011* (Furmanek, 2011). In the first one, there is some information about the situation of the profession of an architect in Poland along with selected theoretical aspects of the conservation of ancient monuments and their importance for architects, as well as the free-market economy in design branch issues. The second text contains considerations on the relationship between the architect's responsibility and the historic city. They are carried out, as in this article, on the example of Toruń. The issue of architect's responsibility towards the historic monuments was even more extensively and thoroughly described in his doctoral dissertation entitled *Odpowiedzialność etyczna architekta w dziedzinie materialnego dziedzictwa kulturowego w Polsce* (title in English: *Architect's ethical responsibility in the field of tangible cultural heritage in Poland*) (Furmanek, 2013).

The foundations of the theory of conservation of ancient monuments go back at least to the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century scientific discourses between architects, conservators, art historians and lovers of monuments of the past. Among them, such characters deserve special mention: John Ruskin and William Morris in Britain, Camillo Sitte, Alois Riegl and Max Dvořak in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Georg Dehio in Germany and Camillo Boito in Italy. It's hard to miss one of the most famous characters here – the 19<sup>th</sup>-century French architect Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc who made a special contribution to the history of this field – with his coherent conservation theory emphasising stylistic purism, he provoked his adversaries to criticism, and at the same time strengthened interest in the history of architecture and its existing monuments. Based on the consensus among the greatest experts in the field of monuments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, created as a result of many years of scientific dispute, many international

doctrinal documents were created, among them, the Athens Charter of 1931 and the Venice Charter of 1964 were the most important. Both contain some recommendations regarding the surroundings of the monuments. There are such guidelines for this in the charter from 1931: “[...] in the construction of buildings, the character and external aspect of the cities in which they are to be erected should be respected, especially in the neighbourhood of ancient monuments, where the surroundings should be given special consideration. Even certain groupings and certain particularly picturesque perspective treatment should be preserved the character” (The Athens Charter..., 1931, III). The Venice Charter largely confirms, clarifies and extends the provisions of the Athens Charter of 1931. There is a special rule concerning historical sites – according to Article 14: “The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner [...]” (The Venice Charter, 1964, Article 14). Later, many international doctrinal documents in this field were also created, which have recently moved away from orthodox conservation in favour of managing changes in the spirit of sustainable development.

Looking at the magnificent monuments of Toruń, dating back to different times, one may wonder whether such phenomena as globalisation or at least the integration of the European Western world, originating from Europe, and more precisely from the circle of Mediterranean civilisation, occurred during their construction. Of course, this is the case today, but it was also the case before the 20th century. Former master builders and architects wandered around Europe in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and later also other continents, bringing technological innovations and the ability to build respectable grand buildings, such as cathedrals or palaces, to distant places. This was the common way of transmitting knowledge, art and culture until the 19th century, when the influence of other cultures began to intensify, which in the early 20th century led to the flourishing of modernism, and in a broader sense in architecture and urban planning – the International Style.

The processes of globalisation, as well as European integration, have significantly intensified since the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until now. Michael Davis in his text *Has globalism made architecture's professional ethics obsolete?*, that is a chapter of a book entitled *Architecture, Ethics and Globalization* and edited by Graham Owen, noticed that: “If we understand «globalization» to mean no more than architects designing structures for distant lands, getting the designs approved, and overseeing construction, then the globalization of architecture is not new. Almost a hundred years ago, Frank Lloyd Wright saw to completion his famous hotel in Tokyo, more than two hundred years ago, a Frenchman designed Washington, DC; and, of course, architects were trotting the globe long before that. We have only to think of Leonardo da Vinci's years in Paris” (Davis, 2009, p. 122). Following this track, we will notice that he was not the first. Hundreds and thousands of years ago countless architects and construction masters travelled vast areas of countries and continents, bringing knowledge and transferring architectural fashions and styles into more and more nooks of the globe. Hasn't ancient art spread in this way, first in the Mediterranean area, and then throughout the

entire Roman Empire, among others to Cologne and Trier in current Germany, London (called *Londinium* in Roman times), or to the Iberian Peninsula? Davis indicated that: “The problem is not that standards differ from place to place, they always have. The problem – or at least one of them – is that the old hierarchy is gone. Every culture is, in some sense, equal. The architect can no longer claim to be an agent of civilization – or, at least, can only make that claim knowing it to be controversial. Understood as complete ways of life, cultures are immune from criticism from outside. No culture can even understand another” (Davis, 2009, p. 122). This author concludes at the end of his text that “globalization presents few, if any, new problems for the ethical practice of architecture. The profession has been dealing with similar problems for a long time. It has worked out solutions for most of them and incorporated those solutions into its codes of ethics (with ordinary morality forming a baseline or backstop). For the most part, at least, the difficulty is to see the old in the new. The big new problem, if it is new, is one of scale, developing a global profession of architecture to match the global practice of architects” (Davis, 2009, p. 131).



**Figure 4.** The CKK Jordanki building at Aleja Solidarności, in the northern vicinity of the old town of Toruń. Design: Fernando Menis architect with an international team.

Source: own study (2022).

Just as it was in the past, also today there is a transfer of ideas, architectural styles, fashions, and of course modern technology. A good example of architecture in the vicinity of the historic city centre is the project of the Spanish architect Fernando Menis, who together with his team won the international architectural competition for the design of the Cultural and Congress Centre Jordanki (in Polish: Centrum Kulturalno-Kongresowe Jordanki; in short: CKK Jordanki) building. Its original form was significantly different from other concepts proposed by Polish architects participating in this competition. The Spanish architect, however, tried to refer to the

identity of the place – its *genius loci*. The dynamic form and earth embankments refer to the old past (from over a hundred years ago, when modern military fortifications were located in this place), and the ceramics used on the façade and inside the building - to the brick character of the old town formed in the Middle Ages, when these the walls of buildings, neither external nor internal, were usually not plastered. Looking at the means used, the scale and the artistic quality of the CKK Jordanki building, we can say that it is a successful investment that positively combines global influences, and international integration with local cultural heritage and co-creates spatial order in this part of the city (see Figure 4).

In turn, Michael E. Zimmerman in his chapter of the above-mentioned book *Architecture, Ethics and Globalization* that is entitled *Globalization, multiculturalism, and architectural ethics* observed: “Global economic integration is taking place at the same moment that totalizing political narratives (whether modern ones from developed worlds or traditional ones from developing worlds) have been giving way to a host of new, often competing, frequently exclusionary narratives that tend to disintegrate what modern ideologies sought to unite” (Zimmerman, 2009, p. 160). And after that, he continued: “Despite other disagreements, capitalists and socialists alike concurred on the basic premises of Enlightenment modernity: that humankind takes part in a universal history; that basic rights ought to be extended to all humans; and that the human estate can be improved by eliminating political oppression, by providing economic well-being and opportunity, by dominating nature through scientifically-guided technology, by encouraging universal education, and by preventing religious dogma and clergy from interfering in political, economic, and scientific affairs” (Kowaluk, 2011, p. 160). In the next paragraph, he pointed out that: “Postmodern theorists claim that modernity’s noble promises have often had dark consequences, ranging from marginalization and virtual extermination of indigenous cultures to degradation of the biosphere by industrialism, all of which are intensified by ever more intensive globalization” (Zimmerman, 2009, p. 160).

An interesting problem was undertaken by Maciej Kowaluk in his article *Public space in contemporary housing estates – attention to the common good versus maximization of investor’s income*. He observed a dynamic development of the Polish housing market, especially located mainly in towns’ outskirts, because of the cheaper land price there than in the city centre. Besides, very often these areas do have not any official local land development plan. In his opinion: “A really serious problem is the lack of a comprehensive concept of newly built districts. Structures are frequently created in a chaotic and inconsistent way. Moreover, these districts also lack the basic infrastructure such as roads. Another typical defect is negligence in relation to the public space which constitutes one of the characteristic elements of the city tissue that determines the residents’ quality of life” (Kowaluk, 2011, p. 71). As he noticed further: “Developers’ activities are focused only on achieving profits on the sale of flats. Investors usually expect usable areas of flats to be maximised locally; at the same time, the building law strictly defines conditions of locating car parks, rubbish heaps or recreation areas without specifying their minimum sizes. Due to these conditions, many housing estates

have a very limited area of common space or in fact, there are no such places” (Kowaluk, 2011, p. 71). It is worth adding here, that usually the developer does not build something for himself, but only manages the investment in a limited time. In addition, he or she is reluctant to delegate decision-making to other parties, including architects. This means that he or she is not emotionally attached to the investment, and is not very interested in how it will be lived in, and how the designed buildings will be used. From a simple economic point of view, profit is the most important for him or her, the success of the investment as such is of secondary importance. After all, according to the law, he or she is not allowed to act to the detriment of the company he or she manages. It is worth adding here that, it is primarily about preventing financial loss in this case.

However, incurring costs is not a one-off and will not end soon, and their current negative effects will have a long-term and multi-faceted nature in many aspects of the social and economic life of current and future generations. The success of the country and its regions in the field of measurable economic and human development does not translate into the fields of spatial order and cultural heritage. Looking at this difficult situation, it is impossible not to get the impression that the problem is not globalisation nor European integration. The problem lies in the internal conditions in Poland. Admittedly, there is a time coincidence, but the essence lies in insufficient, and sometimes even inappropriate, actions not only at the national level, like the deregulation of the profession of an urban planner, but also at the regional, and local levels.

## **5. Conclusions and summary**

The situation in the topic’s field is fundamentally not improving. The general problems of spatial planning and historic monuments’ protection have been repeatedly confirmed not only in the publications of scientists and specialists but even in government documents. In this study, an attempt was made to draw attention to a special, interdisciplinary aspect of the issue of spatial order and cultural heritage in Toruń and the vicinity of it, together with a look at the economical aspects of globalisation and European integration of this place. European integration and globalisation have only an indirect impact on this, and it does not have to be negative at all. On the one hand, contemporary progress in economic development itself, which can largely be attributed to these two, cannot be considered as something unequivocally negative in the discussed issue. On the other hand, errors and oversights, as well as many years of neglect, may not only not help in creating and preventing spatial order, as well as in the protection of historic monuments, but may even pose a certain threat to it. Sometimes, free market mechanisms, bad laws, insufficient supervision and inappropriate decisions of governments and administration, and in the absence of appropriate protective and securing mechanisms,

may gradually contribute to incurring more and more costs, including the degradation of the country's space into spatial chaos and loss of value of cultural heritage. All this leads to the loss of the achievements of civilisation developed by previous generations. The destruction of the level of culture achieved in the past and present in the form of preserved architectural monuments, and urban and rural cultural landscapes leads to measurable and immeasurable losses, including economic ones, which can be estimated today and which will be also felt for a very long time. Paradoxically, spatial chaos and the loss of cultural heritage may in the future contribute to slowing down gross domestic product or even limiting further human development growth.

Summing up the considerations from the main part of the article, some of the answers to the main problem of the work have been found and stated above, but the matter occurred to be very complex and certainly requires further research.

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