



Życie naukowe / Academic Chronicle

“Sustainable Development and Innovations in Space. E-economy” / “Zrównoważony rozwój a innowacje w przestrzeni. E-gospodarka,” Szczecin-Copenhagen, 28–30 September 2022

On 28–30 September 2022, the international scientific conference “Sustainable development and innovation in space. E-economy” took place. The conference was organised by the Institute of Spatial Management and Socio-Economic Geography of the University of Szczecin, with the support of the Polish Economic Society Branch in Szczecin. The official media partner of the conference was the annual journal “Studia Maritima.”

The thematic areas of the conference focused on global issues which affected local coastal communities. These were particularly issues, such as:

- innovativeness of cities and regions, with particular emphasis on coastal and cross-border areas in economic and spatial terms;
- spatial development of cities and coastal regions versus modern technologies (transport infra- and suprastructure);
- creating innovative tourism products in the tourism space of cities and regions, with particular emphasis on coastal areas;
- innovative aspects of territorial marketing;
- digital infrastructure as a factor in regional and local development, with particular emphasis on coastal areas.

The conference began with plenary sessions featuring speakers from academic centres of coastal countries, such as:

- University of Economics, Varna, Bulgaria,
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway,
- Aalborg University, Denmark,
- University of Szczecin, Poland.

Representatives of these research centres referred to the problems of cities, with particular emphasis on coastal cities. A new approach to tourism was also presented, through the prism of Tourism 4.0. It should be pointed out that tourism is a key area of activity in coastal regions.

The next part of the conference consisted of panel sessions devoted to the following issues:

- The city and the idea of sustainable development.
- Sustainable development and regional development.
- Sustainable development in tourism.

The panel discussions on the idea of sustainable development in the context of a coastal city focused on the possible future of coastal cities, where modern technology will primarily be used. The considerations concerned the development of coastal cities while taking into account the digital economy index, smart city 3.0 or cyberspace. The solutions related to the flights of autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles were indicated, and the discussion not only considered economic opportunities and threats, but also paid attention to social aspects, with particular emphasis on acceptance or lack of it by the society. The issues of coastal cities of the future have been widely considered, with attention being paid to real, extended and virtual cities.

In the panel devoted to regional development, the starting point was the issue of financing selected regions, with particular emphasis on the region of Western Pomerania. The discussion included the problem of limitation of financial support in the context of the cohesion policy for 2022–2027. Then, the participants discussed maritime issues and focused on Regional Business Communities. Support procedures for building these communities were presented.

Panel sessions devoted to sustainable development in tourism, on the other hand, focused on the challenges faced by coastal tourism. Thus, particular attention was paid to overtourism and undertourism in coastal regions, as well as thematic routes such as the wine route. The focus was also on innovation in the tourism space of regions serving spa functions. The discussion also revealed the problems and challenges faced by tourist guides and managers of tourist facilities in coastal regions.

During the conference, a study trip was also carried out to the capital of Denmark, Copenhagen, which is one of the leading coastal cities developing in accordance with the sustainable development formula. The highlight of this study trip was visiting the Amager Bakke waste incineration plant (also known as Copenhill and Amager Slope). This building is 124 metres high and 200 metres long, and has been developed in a very creative way. It should be noted that Denmark aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2025. The modernised incineration plant in Copenhagen is one of the most advanced and ecological facilities of this type in the world. The incinerator's energy efficiency is 99%, and the reduction of sulphur emissions is 99.5%. The "waste to energy plant"-type building processes high-energy waste (e.g. paper, plastics, wooden products) from households into electricity. Amager Bakke generates energy from 400,000 tonnes of waste per year. The energy generated supplies electricity to 50,000 households and heats 120,000 homes. The modernisation of this facility contributed to savings of 100 million litres of water per year. The incinerator recovers 90% of the metals passing through the plant, as well as 100 tonnes of slag and ashes, which are reused for road

construction and repair. Moreover, Copenhill Urban Mountain is a public space. The roof of the facility has been designed to create a ski slope on it, while in the summer the structure is to guarantee biodiversity and become a shelter for birds and insects. The Copenhagen waste incinerator is also equipped with a climbing wall, a cable car, a jogging path, a café and an outdoor gym.

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