

FOREWORD

The dynamic development of urban and suburban areas, emerging from ever ever-new and growing needs of local societies and changes in spatial infrastructure and the economy in general, forces changes in the spatial development structure. Appropriately organised and rationally planned spatial and functional arrangement that maintains the correctness of technical, economic, and aesthetic solutions is becoming the essence of proper functioning of both urban and suburban areas.

Rural areas in Poland are acquiring different functions besides their typical agricultural function. Hence, the form and essence of a multifunctional development of rural areas have been considered and studied for many years. The countryside has become an alternative to the city, a place attractive for tourism and culture, and a site of intensive economic activity in industrial zones. In the previous political orientation, the countryside served as an antithesis to the city.

The current issue of GLL covers a wide range of topics related to space in open and closed landscapes, and to the latest developments in geoinformatics.

The first paper presents the use of cartographic data in emergency management. The study was based on an online survey with an interactive sheet that was directed to experts.

The following publication discussed the possibility of using cartographic imaging of the development potential of the city of Nowy Targ. The research resulted in a cartographic visualisation of data with the use of GIS tools.

The next study addresses the issue of point location on the example of determining the identification number of a map and the scope of a map sheet in the IMW system. The aim of the paper was to evaluate the quality of selected geoinformation websites.

The fourth article uses the aggregated indices to assess the quality of chosen geoinformation websites. A map portal can streamline the work of public administration units and improve access to information, however, it has to feature high content and technical quality.

The use of NDBI indicators as a way to measure the effects of urban heat islands (based on the example of the municipality of Guelma, Algeria) is the subject of another paper. The NDBI indicators could be a tool for urban planners in the future.

The sixth paper investigates the lithobio-stratigraphic features and the geographic distribution of the Coniacian-Santonian formations. The results of the study signifi-

cantly contribute to a better understanding of sedimentation processes and paleontological content in this region during the Upper Cretaceous.

The seventh paper assesses the efficiency of planning instruments in protecting landscape values on the example of the village of Wysowa Zdrój. The provisions on the necessary protection of landscape values, included in the legally binding documents at the municipal level, are very general in nature and lack detailed guidelines for specific measures. In effect, this gives quite a lot of flexibility in terms of changing the land use and thus weakens the protection of landscape values.

Managing urban accidents with the help of network analysis in order to reduce evacuation times to healthcare facilities is the focus of the eighth article. The research results developed may support the decision-making of local authorities in this city regarding evacuation and intervention in the event of a road accident.

The last article is concerned with the effects of land set aside on the chemical and physical properties of soil and the composition of inhabiting its vegetation species. The occurrence of ruderal plants, typical for post-mining heaps and post-industrial areas, including hemicryptophytes, is evidence of a long process of fallowing and adaptation to the existing ecosystem with a predominance of the most common species.

All of the mentioned papers are of greatest interest in terms of their content and structure. The Geomatics Landmanagement and Landscape journal brings together on its scientific board individuals with recognised achievements and authority, which is a guarantee of the quality of the publications included therein. GLL introduces Polish geodetic communities into the global exchange of ideas in the fields of modern geoinformation techniques, rural areas management, and environmental planning and protection. Its aim is to present and share scientific ideas, including environmental planning, land shaping, nature conservation, and property management, using modern geoinformation techniques.

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