

## EDITORIAL

You are now holding in your hands the 43 volume of *Studia Obszarów Wiejskich* entitled *Multifunctional development in rural spaces: challenges for policy and planning*, devoted to multifunctional development of rural areas and agriculture. The majority of materials included herein was derived from speeches delivered during the visit of members of the Committee of Rural Areas of the Polish Geographical Society to Croatia in May 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to attempt at comparing the transformations in rural areas in Poland and Croatia under the influence of various political, economic, and social factors, including the effects of European Union programmes. Polish researchers undertook enormous effort to comprehensively present to their Croatian colleagues the work of local communities towards transformation of the functional structure of villages in regional and local systems. This volume presents representative results of research that introduce the essence of these transformations and, at the same time, constitute interesting examples of research conducted in recent years. All articles share an assessment of the effects of high dynamics of rural area transformations and a reflection on the directions of further development of social and economic activities.

The volume starts with interesting national studies on functional diversity of rural areas (M. Mazur and K. Czapiewski) and the role of European funds in transformations of agriculture (M. Biczkowski, M. Biczkowska). In subsequent papers K. Janc and P. Siłka attempted at an evaluation of differences in technological progress using the example of development of the Internet in cities and in rural areas, while M. Wójcik presented the determinants of establishing the Network of the Most Interesting Villages on the basis of cultural and social assets. The majority of papers are devoted to development of the tourist function, which shows the significance of rural space transformations based on the need for consumption of the rural environment by city dwellers. The papers highlight regional differences in development of tourism (D. Cerić), threats to landscape (M. Szczepańska, A. Wilkaniec), local development processes (M. Lisiak, A. Opala, K. Borowiak) and thematisation of villages (M. Wójcik, P. Tobiasz-Lis, K. Dmochowska-Dudek). In the final paper M. Wesołowska presented the problem of integration of farmers' activities in animal production using the example of a selected village in Lubelskie Voivodeship.

We hope that the problems presented herein would be a next step on the way to better understanding of transformations of rural areas and agriculture and would turn out helpful in research and teaching.

*Marcin Wójcik, Konrad Czapiewski*

