

Jak DEVELOPMENT OF NOWE WARPNO – IMPLEMENTATION OF A DON T MOVE
IMPROVE DEVICE IN A SMALL POLISH TOWN

Katarzyna Krasowska

¹West Pomeranian University of Technology Szczecin, Faculty of Architecture and
Institute of Architecture and Spatial Planning, e-mail : krasowska.katarzyna@gmail.com

Abstract:

Nowe Warpno is a typical example of a town stricken with economic collapse of
nevertheless managed to survive due to the attitude of local authorities and re
analysis carried out for this rural-urban municipality unveils that it has been
negative occurrence of shrinking towns. Existence of Nowe Warpno has always
associated with lake fishery formerly supported by functioning shipyard, comm
harbours. The crisis of Polish fishery – liquidation of local shipyard, Polish
Schengen Area, abolition of duty-free zone on the town grounds caused deterior
disappearance of life within Nowe Warpno until the beginning of the 21st cent
Strategy of Development supported by efficient local authorities aiming at rev
economic development, effective acquirement of regional and EU funding, in addit
compensation from Maritime Department reasonably allocated by the authorities, a
a decaying village into a tourist destination. Wise management established th
richest and best-administered municipalities in Poland. For Nowe Warpno the la
from deterioration to averting the crisis . The article depicts endogenous and
influenced the success of this small community. Among the positive tendencies a
the initiative of inhabitants fighting for development of expansively function
actions have a lot in common with the idea originated in a district of Boston:

Keywords: local planning, town revitalisation, european union s funds, local rev
small towns

1. Introduction

In the time of globalisation, urban centres participate in international
investments, inhabitants and tourists. Those cities, which raised a broad symbolic cap
battle for creating an attractive touristic product on a global market. The si
big, but also small cities. Among this group we can also rate such historical centres
Gimignano (7105 residents) and Polish Kazimierz Dolny by the Vistula River
Therefore, there are cities which regardless of their scale are globally or over-local
to the value of the gathered legacy and compilation of unique features, that
nature. There are also cities so far lacking the local, domestic or even global identit
small Polish cities, which in the last quarter of a century had to face up to
transformation, are peculiarly interesting example. Closing one local industry b
turnabout of an economic profile of the city, usually faster than services a
developed there. The process of de-industrialization worries the most, due to the cor
cities and the sequence of negative occurrences such as the unemployment, impo
and finally depopulation of small centres, connected with the job-search migration to
UE countries. These phenomena cause the shrinkage of small cities and require

organizational potential of their authorities and citizens in order to protect maintaining the official, judicial, or health function of the district service further regression or stagnation. Tourism, considered as a leading industry further important role in the process of the largest post-industrial centres revitalization significant link to stopping the degradation of small cities.

2. Nowe Warpno - a city with a great history.



Figure 1 Nowe Warpno - location

Nowe Warpno is a classic example of the small town, affected by an economical crisis. It is a least populous urban-rural municipality in Poland situated in Western Pomerania (location). The exact date of town's foundation is arguable, however it probably dates back to the 13th century. This little city is situated on a cape, which is a part of a Nowowarpie Lake from the eastern side. Originally Nowe Warpno laid on the water and was joined with the dry land by weir. Raising fortifications hasn't been necessary under defensive conditions of the town. Entirely wooden buildings were put up at four streets and a marketplace. Uninhabited character of buildings led to many fires in Nowe Warpno and caused its destruction. Despite historical turbulence associated with the town, as well as the changing state affiliation, citizens for centuries led a calm life in a natural environment and seasons cycles. According to Wojciech Popuch: Existence of Nowe Warpno was connected above all with the lake and bay fishery, as well as with farming and agriculture. Especially fishings, their processing and sale determined the economic state of the town. A prince's privilege for the organisation of trade fish fairs gave the city huge economic activity associated with town's by-water location developed apart from the fishing. In the part of the XVI century a shipyard was founded and in the XVIII century several mills operated in the city. Apart from a fishing port, a trade port functioned, through which goods were obtained from Wkrzańska Forest. The XIX and XX age brought an interest in Nowe Warpno, as a potential holiday resort. A closeness of the Wkrzańska Forest and the sea led to tourism development. Even though Nowe Warpno never became a health resort with other fishing towns set by the Baltic Sea, the tourism started playing a role in the town's life. Many steam ships, which serviced a regular sea-route to Szczecin, made a port of call in Nowe Warpno. Each tourist was able to find a bathing beach, hotels and inns in this town. However, the development of tourism didn't affect the fall of fishery's significance. In the 30s Nowe Warpno

fishing bay port and a headquarter department of a fishery master. Thanks to the war has spared Nowe Warpno, it kept its urban planning arrangement and the main buildings, along with exceptional monuments such as : Town Hall (Figure 2) and Assumption of the Virgin Mary. A fishery and a boatbuilding still remained in the economy. In spite of restoration and touristic activation projects made in the town, the monochrome lifestyle has changed in 1996 , when the duty-free border crossing between Warpno and Altwarp (DE) was opened. The opportunity of cheap alcohol purchase attracted visitors to Nowe Warpno. However they remained indifferent to city charms by shopping at the port market. The time period connected with the border trade ended along with the European Union and the "Schengen zone". From this moment on we can observe the decline of the fishery, which is associated with permission to compensational cutter-scrapping and Nowe Warpno started plunging into the slump, along with vanishing of passenger fishing cutters.



Figure 2 Revitalization of town hall in Nowe Warpno

3. Process of the cities shrinkage.

There is no particular theory explaining the shrinkage of cities. Many aspects, cause, that in order to understand its mechanisms, the course and effects, theoretical concepts. One of attempts of interpretation is a reference to Gunnar Myrdal's Process theory (1956) modified by Hokveld (2012) in which the reduction of city size - circle - is both cause and a result of the shrinkage of cities (Figure 3 - shrinkage). There is no simple solution for stopping this process. The undertaken strategies depend on a way a shrinkage-process is perceived by local authorities and on the population's decrease. These strategies can have an adaptive character (planning for shrinkage conditions or can be orientated to re-increase with shrinkage as a

process might also be ignored – no action is being taken. Planning in the time more difficult than in the increase conditions, therefore a way of managing shrinking cities is very important. Building the development strategy based on favouring the improvement of city's social-economic situation is crucial. For the periods of growth, stagnation and fall. Cities based on one, falling industrial position. Nowe Warpno was set in this situation. The last wave of the stagnation connected with fishery's fall. Nowe Warpno was afflicted by a deep crisis. Unhesitating actions aiming at the creation of new strategy of social-economic

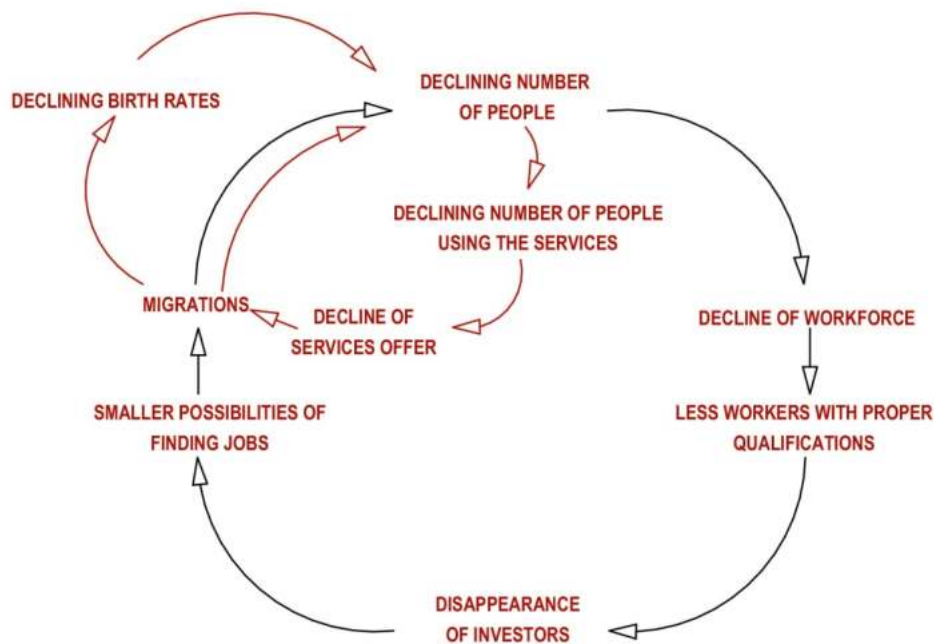


Figure 6 "Vicious Circle" – shrinkage of cities, source: on the base of Hoekveld 2012, s.

4. Social-economic revitalisation of Nowe Warpno.

The revitalization is a method of reviving the degraded municipal complex accumulated social-economic problems, the effect of which is technical consumption land development as well as the environmental degradation. It should consist in the self-reliance of the local community and the ability to improve (restore) reducing the dependence on the public assistance. It is too often identified as the buildings or the improvement in the public space, when it is only a part of a city. Such actions are rather a symptomatic treatment", effective in places temporarily suppressed developmental potential. In most of the cases, those actions delete the causes, rather than symptoms of the degradation.

In 2004 a Strategy for Development of Nowe Warpno Community (for years 2004-2007) has been created. It was later extended to 2007-2020 years. The priorities include: creation and modernisation of the infrastructure for improving the competitiveness; strengthening the economic development in the community, enabling personal development of residents, creating a new quality of life for Nowe Warpno residents; of the touristic and recreational function and exploiting its natural advantages.

investitions and up to now changes, it s easy to state that strategic aims are fulfilled, if there s a vast support from the external financing and previously finances.

Recent years of Nowe Warpno pave a road from a shrinkage (fall) to a further development . Today's New Warpno present itself as a small dynamically. Wise managing by local authorities focused on the public activation and the development certainly plays a huge part in this process. A number of municipalities affecting such image of the city.

Amongst major investments, having a huge impact on an actual image of previously fishing, today more of a touristic one - those connected with a transport a greater role (creating a road from a nearby Dobieszczyn to Nowe Warpno investment with local administration of Police government). The reconstruction cost over 15 mln zloty. For a touristic Nowe Warpno this road is of a great importance the connection with a central voivod city - Szczecin from an hour up to 40 minutes touristic motion, but also increases the attractiveness and worth of recreational community.

The municipality also put an emphasis on the cyclists service, so that new bicycle

- road along the ancient railway line No. 424 Swobnica-Sonowo, incising the Tywy via the high hung bridge (length 15.8 km)
- the environmental education path between the newly built district road New Dobieszczyn and the Polish-German border - it leads through Wkrza sk protected by the Natura 2000 project, to a border river My liborka (length
- the bicycle route running along an old railway embankment from the Polna Warpno to the route W114 - near a Szczecin Bay (length 3.41 km)

Being involved in a project of the Westpomeranian Sailing Trail Nowe Warpno the path marked by the water-leisure touristic potential. Project of the new sailing the infrastructure is an extremely needed investment, which without a doubt will city from the waterside. The new sailing port was located on the southern side the development of the water infrastructure Nowe Warpno has an opportunity beneficial location. The city is an only Polish port located on the west coast cross-border character makes the city very attractive for both Polish and Additionally the revaluation of the city conducted in final years builds the sailing development. However refurbished squares and streets are waiting for their visitors yachtsmen. The unique value, in comparison to other trail-cities is Nowe Warpno and still noticeable genius loci of a of fishing settlement. However through the the city shows one enduring principle, the fate of Nowe Warpno is permanently connected regardless of the character of this relation. Today the city starts to write the



Figure Nowe Warpno - a place on the map of West Pomeranian Sailing Trail. Yacht Harbour Nowe Warpno. The beneficiary's name: West Pomeranian Regional Tourist Organization. Project No. 95254252,07 PLN; UE contribution: 35280000,00 PLN; time of realization 2009–2013

A town hall, a church and the public spaces underwent the renovation along the pier of the north port, to which leads today the Yachtsmen Avenue. A new pier was built on the northern coast of the cape finial with a view-tower was also built. On the southern coast a jetty was created and another section of waterside boulevards. This way the waterfront was developed, without the loss of their natural picturesque character.

In May 2010 the Nowe Warpno city council passed a resolution on the rule of the state subsidy for conservation, restaurant and building works by the monument protected register. Main aim was a gradual improvement of the building development. It was a difficult situation, in which all citizens feel invited for the participation in the development within the limits of one's possibilities. Conversation with residents, examining their needs, served confirming them in the belief that it is they who are the hosts of the town and its future. The process of the participatory planning was a period of the learning. Supplementing the infrastructure, repair and building of internal roads in the town was a matter guaranteed as public investments. A process of buildings revitalizations in the town square has been started. The commune participated in repairs funding them in part, when needed, was granted in form of low charged loans on easy terms. The results have surpassed expectations of optimists. In the city area the improvement of the building development included 70% of real estates. This example shows, how achievable it is by creating proper development conditions based on social (non-financial) capital. Undoubtedly, a small scale of this particular town affected this process.



Figure 5 Tenement houses after revitalization co-financed by Community.

From 2004, when the revitalization was limited to the largest project structural funds, the social energy started changes in the private construction this action is realisation of dreams about living-improvement.



Figure 6 The view tower on the cape in Nowe Warpno

Today's image of the space of Nowe Warpno - tiny, picturesque town situated in the Bay, to which new roads and Wkrzańska Forest bicycle trails lead, might arouse interest of other urban centres. Unfortunately this wonderful image becomes a bit distorted when checking the demographic structure of the commune. The research of the depopulation shows the negative birth rate, but at the same time it is not showing the essential changes (funds which were dispatched to the social-economic development). We are allowed to state that the city managed to avoid the shrinkage process (in the sense of residents number) (deliquescence of cities). The demographic level from the pre-investment period shows that active actions of commune hasn't rejuvenate the society, neither attract many

nearby centres. The problem still lies in the lack of of citizens with high dominance of post-productive residents.

Young people migrate to other, bigger Polish cities or abroad – to England, Germany. Keeping the social capital in the city became a problem. The local authorities had to find chances for development for the youth and convince them, that it is easy to live in such small city. As part of the public activation they can find an annual Social Festival in Nowe Warpno.

Many projects focused on the increase of young people's number (on a productive side) but not spent money will not come off. A Centre of Education in Nowe Warpno was one of the projects supposed to be the most modern educational centre, in the field of basic education in Pomerania or perhaps throughout the country.

The architectural concepts of the Education Centre (Figure 7) were created by students of an architecture course at West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, organised by Nowe Warpno's mayor. Teaching by experiencing was the idea of the project. The concept a building project occurred however investment won't be implemented as they aren't able to guarantee an appropriate amount of pupils. It is a great financial and a bigger missed opportunity. Creating such a modern school could've attracted students from centres of Szczecin, Police and German Luckow or Altwarp. By following this example, investors ready to live in Nowe Warpno (with perfect opportunities for their children) and some summer-houses, would've been possible.



Figure 7 The concept of an educational center in Nowe Warpno

5. Summary

Present-day planning in Poland has a loose connection with management of development, it lacks an operational segment allowing for its phasing, applying of implementation for the purpose of strategic city-planning, methods of building scenarios of regression, as well as methods of planning for functional areas – both problematic (eg. depressed areas predisposed to development (revitalization areas, areas of intensive investment).

The most important task for local authorities is to monitor the social, spatial and economic transformations. Detecting at the right time negative occurrences forerunning development processes and evaluation of their durability is possible only with the help of indicators. While carrying out the development policy, first thing to do is to block out the negative factors. This knowledge is crucial at a time of preparation of strategic documents for the community that administers that kind of knowledge can make decisions regarding the documentation and realisation of given policies on the base of the evaluation of their actions do not guarantee a successful return to the development path, they define the risk of diminishing factors that hold back the development.

In addition to aforementioned actions, the key factor is cooperation with inhabitants, sometimes the support of inhabitants and other subjects actively involved in the development of the community for the actions encouraged by local authorities, has crucial meaning in the crisis. A perfect example for that is the Community of Nowe Warpno, profiled in the 1990s. A few years its authorities with the support of all of the local society came from a state of fall – back to full development.

References

- 1) Krystian Heffner, 2000, Funkcjonowanie miast małych w systemie osadniczym Polski
- 2) Terje Kleven, 1996, Environment and planning – norms and realities. Scandinavian Journal of Planning Research,
- 3) Central Statistical Office, 2014, Demographic Yearbook of Poland
- 4) Natalia Szajewska, Małgorzata Lipińska, 2013, Zarządzanie rozwojem miast o zmniejszającej się liczbie mieszkańców (w kontekście perspektywy finansowej 2014–2020)
- 5) Jakub Ignacy Gołbiewski, Katarzyna Krasowska, Rewitalizacja obszarów wiejskich w miastach na Zachodniopomorskim Szlaku Eglarskim, in: Rewitalizacja redniowisk w miastach Pomorza Zachodniego, Szczecin 2014