

Functional-spatial linkages of the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia in the aspect of culture

Summary

The purpose of the work is to study the potential and structure of culture, the resulting functional-spatial linkages and the delimitation of its zones of influence in the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia.

The work is based on three hypotheses. The first hypothesis assumes that the functional-spatial structure of cultural institutions in the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia refers to the complex settlement pattern of the region, creating an atypical and multicenter area with a distinct center and a zone of direct and indirect cultural influence. The second hypothesis assumes that the cities forming the core of the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia also form a cultural center. The third hypothesis, on the other hand, assumes that the cultural institutions being established in the revitalized post-industrial facilities of the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia form creative cultural spaces and fit into the European model of building cities "Creative Europe."

The study uses various research methods, belonging to tools from the group of typology, classification, regionalization and qualitative methods. Among the tools were the rank method, the table of signs, the index of point bonitation used by Z. Kaminski, the method of surplus meaning by E. Jakubowicz, and W. Reilly's gravity model. A survey method was also used to determine functional-spatial relationships in the Katowice Cultural Zone.

The results of the study indicate the average potential of high cultural institutions in the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia compared to other metropolitan centers in the country, and the low accessibility to audiences in the region. The GZM is characterized by the lowest percentage of institutions in relation to all cultural facilities. The institutional base of the study area consists of 299 facilities belonging to both high culture institutions (74 facilities) and other cultural institutions. The first group is made up of facilities for stage activities (theaters, opera houses, philharmonic halls), museums and paramuseums, and exhibitions (art galleries). The second group, in turn, consists of cultural centers, cinemas and libraries. Most of them, as many as 199, are located within the boundaries of the 13 cities of the GZM administrative core.

The structure and distribution of cultural institutions shows a wide variety of facilities and dispersion characteristics. Delimitation of the area of high culture, as well as the cultural core of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębiowska Metropolis allows to identify the area of 17 municipalities. These are: Katowice, Sosnowiec, Gliwice, Tychy, Chorzów, Zabrze, Bytom,

Ruda Śląska, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Mysłowice, Siemianowice Śląskie, Świętochłowice, Tarnowskie Góry, Będzin, Mikołów, Czeladź and Łaziska Górne. Among them, seven cities form the cultural core. It consists of cities with county rights, which is characterized by spatial continuity in terms of access to high culture. It is formed by Katowice, Chorzow, Gliwice, Sosnowiec, Tychy, Zabrze and Bytom. These cultural centers are classified as first-, second- and third-tier cities. This means that in their territory there are 3 or 2 categories of high culture institutions, respectively, and a corresponding number of these facilities. At the same time, the structure of the Upper Silesian-Zagłębi Metropolis consists of a cultural center (Katowice), a zone of direct, indirect and dependent culture.

Cultural institutions identified within the administrative core show varying degrees of centrality. The following are considered the most central cultural institutions: choir, symphony and chamber orchestra, puppet theater, opera theater. The least central or least important, on the other hand, are museums including their branches.

The largest number of cultural facilities with the highest degree of centrality is characterized by Katowice, which is also a cultural center. In the area of high culture, cultural creative spaces have been identified. These include the Katowice Cultural Zone, as well as the underground space of the “Guido” Mine. They are an example of successful revitalization processes in post-industrial, post-mining areas and are part of the European model of city building “Creative Europe”.

The Upper Silesian-Zagłębów Metropolis is a complex, multi-center cultural area. The institutions operating in its space shape a specialized area of high culture, with a distinctive core and cultural center in Katowice. The area exhibits functional-spatial linkages both locally and regionally, and through the presence of rare high culture institutions, nationally and internationally.