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RECREATIONAL SPACE VALORISATION IN WESTERN POMERANIA DISTRICT

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Abstract. The paper has been aimed at finding agrotourism development opportunities in particular municipalities of Western Pomerania district. A Drzewiecki's method, comprising seven criteria scale for agro tourism attractiveness for each municipality, was used to valorise recreational space in there. According to Drzewiecki a rural or urbanrural municipality can be regarded as a rural recreational space only if three, out of seven criteria, are met. In case of Western Pomerania region, municipalities happen to meet the criteria of agrotourism attractiveness mainly due to small population density (89% of municipalities), high individual agriculture rate (52% of municipalities), and last but not least, high forest to overall area rate (47% of municipalities). Specifically, 41 municipalities shall be regarded as country recreational space since they meet at least three, out of the seven concerned, criteria. Country recreational space in the Western Pomerania district amounts to 10 700 km² (47% of the total district area), which is inhabited by 206 000 people (12% of the district population). The area does not provide a compact space, though the agrotourism oriented municipalities tend to conglomerate in Drawskie Lakeland (namely Drawsko, Łobez, and Szczecinek counties), as well as in Goleniów county. Four criteria (maximum) are met, however, only by 14 municipalities of Western Pomerania (zachodniopomorskie) District, most frequently in Drawsko, Goleniów, and Stargard Szczeciński counties.

Key words: rural recreational space, valorisation, Western Pomerania district

INTRODUCTION

Among Polish macroregions known as attractive with regards to their agrotouristic profile Pobrzeże Szczecińskie, Pobrzeże Koszalińskie and Pobrzeże Gdańskie, selected mezoregions of Pojezierze Pomorskie, Pojezierze Mazurskie, Pojezierze Suwalskie, Pojezierze Lubuskie, Przedgórze Sudeckie and Sudety, Wyżyna Krakowsko-Częstochowska, Roztocze, Podkarpacie and Karpaty [Młynarczyk 2002] can be found. Naturally,

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occurrence of rural areas attractive for tourism, landscape diversity related to dispersed agrarian structure, traditional methodology in agricultural production, as well as abundant country cultural heritage provide perfect agrotourism development opportunities [Strzembicki 2002, Krupińska 2003, Sikorska-Wolak 2006]. Though as Sikorska-Wolak [2006] study provides, over the last few years the number of agrotourism farms in the Western Pomerania district has nearly tripled, it is still just the initial development phase of agrotourism in this region according to Bott-Alama [2005]. Such numbers in the region tend to vary greatly between counties, and range from below 5 in Pyrzyce, Świdwin and Police county, just to over 50 in Drawsko and Sławno counties. Municipalities with the highest number of agrotourism farms are Darłowo, Czaplinek and Wolin [Krupińska 2003]. Still, significant part of rural areas in Western Pomerania district are destined to develop a tourist function, which in turn could provide a chance both for career and economy development in the region. It shall be noted, however, that though many municipalities all over Poland trust to base their development on tourism profiles, not everywhere such development proves effective. Valuation of specific municipality as viable for effective agrotourism development escapes simple standards; data provide a margin of 30 to 55% of all the municipalities in Poland [Drzewiecki 1992, Sikorska-Wolak 2006]. Nevertheless, valorisation of agricultural and agrotourism related profile shall prove valuable and helpful in identifying potential agrotourism chances and opportunities.

The paper has been aimed at determining agrotourism development opportunities in particular municipalities of Western Pomerania district.

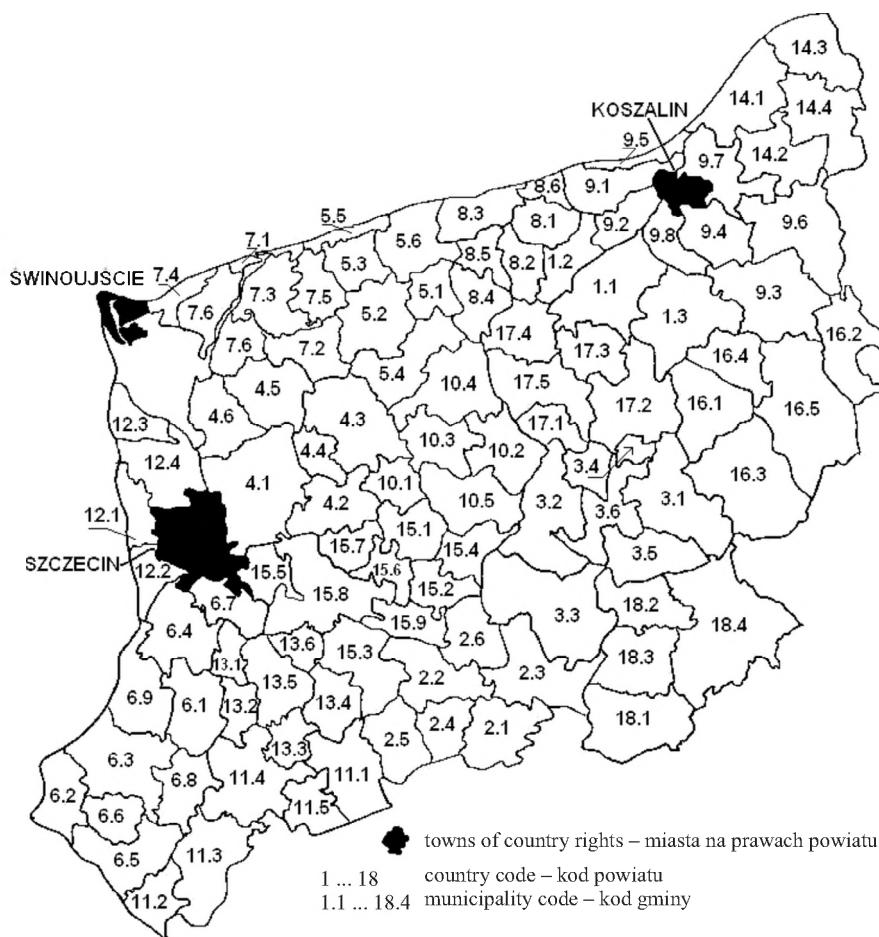
MATERIAL AND METHODS

Rural recreational space in particular Western Pomeranian municipalities (fig. 1) has been valorised with Drzewiecki's method [1992, 2002], which defines 7 criteria for assessing agrotouristic attractiveness of a municipality, namely 1) population density per 1 km² of arable land, 2) individual farming to global arable land ratio, 3) meadows and pastures to arable land ratio, 4) forests to global municipality area ratio, 5) waters to global municipality area ratio, 6) rural settlement profile, 7) percentage of people living on nonagricultural or forest related recourses.

A criterion was considered met by a municipality only if each of the determinants specific for a profile (apart from 6 which escapes measurement) reached a certain level, whereas a municipality was defined as meeting the criteria, only if at least 3 characteristics were ranked above the specific limit.

Drzewiecki adapted the border values for each characteristics as:

- 1 – less than 80 people per 1 km² of arable land,
- 2 – individual farming percentage higher than 60%,
- 3 – meadow and pasture percentage higher than 30%,
- 4 – forests percentage between 30–60%,
- 5 – lake waters percentage in municipality area higher than 5%,
- 7 – percentage of people living on non agricultural/forestry resources lower than 60%.



1) **bialogardzki**, 1.1. Białogard, 1.2. Karlino, 1.3. Tychowo, 2) **choszczeński**, 2.1. Bierzwnik, 2.2. Choszczno, 2.3. Drawno, 2.4. Krzęcin, 2.5. Pełczyce, 2.6. Recz, 3) **drawski**, 3.1. Czaplinek, 3.2. Drawsko Pomorskie, 3.3. Kalisz Pomorski, 3.4. Ostrowice, 3.5. Wierzchowo, 3.6. Złocieniec, 4) **goleniowski**, 4.1. Goleniów, 4.2. Maszewo, 4.3. Nowogard, 4.4. Osina, 4.5. Przybierów, 4.6. Stepnica, 5) **gryficki**, 5.1. Brojce, 5.2. Gryfice, 5.3. Karnice, 5.4. Ploty, 5.5. Rewal, 5.6. Trzebiatów, 6) **gryfiński**, 6.1. Banie, 6.2. Cedynia, 6.3. Chojna, 6.4. Gryfino, 6.5. Mieszkowice, 6.6. Moryń, 6.7. Stare Czarnowo, 6.8. Trzcińsko-Zdrój, 6.9. Widuchowa, 7) **kamięcki**, 7.1. Dźwińow, 7.2. Gólczewo, 7.3. Kamień Pomorski, 7.4. Międzyzdroje, 7.5. Świerzno, 7.6. Wolin, 8) **kolobrzeski**, 8.1. Dygowo, 8.2. Gościno, 8.3. Kołobrzeg, 8.4. Rymań, 8.5. Siemyśl, 8.6. Ustronie Morskie, 9) **koszaliński**, 9.1. Będzino, 9.2. Biesiekierz, 9.3. Bobolice, 9.4. Manowo, 9.5. Mielno, 9.6. Polanów, 9.7. Sianów, 9.8. Świeszyno, 10) **łobeski**, 10.1. Dobra, 10.2. Łobez, 10.3. Radowo Male, 10.4. Resko, 10.5. Węgorzyno, 11) **myśliborski**, 11.1. Barlinek, 11.2. Boleszkowice, 11.3. Dębno, 11.4. Myślibórz, 11.5. Nowogrodek Pomorski, 12) **policki**, 12.1. Dobra (Szczecńska), 12.2. Kołbaskowo, 12.3. Nowe Warpno, 12.4. Police, 13) **pyrzycki**, 13.1. Bielice, 13.2. Kozielice, 13.3. Lipiany, 13.4. Przelewice, 13.5. Pyrzycy, 13.6. Warnice, 14) **sławieński**, 14.1. Darłowo, 14.2. Małeczowo, 14.3. Postomino, 14.4. Sławno, 15) **stargardzki**, 15.1. Chociwel, 15.2. Dobrzan, 15.3. Dolice, 15.4. Iłisko, 15.5. Kobylnica, 15.6. Marianowo, 15.7. Stara Dąbrowa, 15.8. Stargard Szczeciński, 15.9. Suchań, 16) **szczecinecki**, 16.1. Barwice, 16.2. Biały Bór, 16.3. Born Sulinowo, 16.4. Grzniąca, 16.5. Szczecinek, 17) **świdwiński**, 17.1. Brzeźno, 17.2. Polczyn-Zdrój, 17.3. Rabino, 17.4. Sławoborze, 17.5. Świdwin, 18) **walecki**, 18.1. Człopa, 18.2. Miroslawiec, 18.3. Tuczno, 18.4. Walcz

Fig. 1. Administrative division of the Western Pomerania district into counties, rural and urban-rural municipalities

Rys. 1. Podział administracyjny województwa zachodniopomorskiego według powiatów oraz gmin wiejskich i miejsko-wiejskich

As provided by the statistical data [Statistical Annals GUS, WUS... 2001, 2005] the following characteristic values were examined: 1–4 and 7 taken into account while valorising. A topographic map of Western Pomerania and administrative map of Poland were used to determine lake waters to overall municipality area ratio, as well as a compact or dispersed type of development; results were compared to Kielczecka-Zalewska [1973–1978] report. Rural development (of settlement type) is important with regards to landscape qualities and when regarded as noise and pollution source. Rural development dispersed in a significant degree, adversely influence economical factors, since it impacts infrastructure networks and services availability for both the inhabitants and visitors. Still, a dispersed settlement pattern seems to be favoured by big town dwellers, who tend to seek peace and quiet, natural refuge. Since it just them who are potential customers for agrotourism-oriented farms, for the purpose of the current study a moderately dispersed development type has been considered a favourable factor.

The obtained results have driven the qualification criteria of meeting/failing to meet the concerned criterion by a specific municipality. Such assessment has disregarded the environmental issues, thus – municipalities located within ecologically endangered areas shall be excluded from the presented classification. Municipalities which satisfy less than 3 criteria, despite displaying some recreational qualities, in general tend not to meet the conditions for agrotourism development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Each of 7 criteria for valorising agricultural recreational space were analysed for each municipality out of 103 municipalities within the Western Pomerania district. The first criterion, i.e. population density per 1 km² of arable land lower than 80% – was met in nearly all rural and urbanrural municipalities (92) of the district, apart from 11 municipalities located either in big cities vicinity, such as Szczecin, Świnoujście and Koszalin, or along the Baltic Sea coastline (fig. 2). The average population density in municipalities that met low population density condition amounted to 46 inhabitants, and was lower than 40, ranged between 41 and 60, and exceeded 60 people per 1 km² of arable land in respectively 33, 45 and 14 municipalities.

The second criterion – individual farming percentage higher than 60% of the overall arable land area – which classified a municipality as a rural recreational space, was met by a bit more than half number of the municipalities (54) of the district, and they tend to be located mainly in Białogard, Drawsko, Goleniów, Kamień Pomorski, Kołobrzeg, Koszalin, Myślibórz, Police and Sławno counties (fig. 3). The average value for this indicator in these municipalities reached 74%, and ranged from about 60.6% in Sławno and Polanów municipalities, to nearly 100% in Resko and Dobra municipalities (Łobez county).

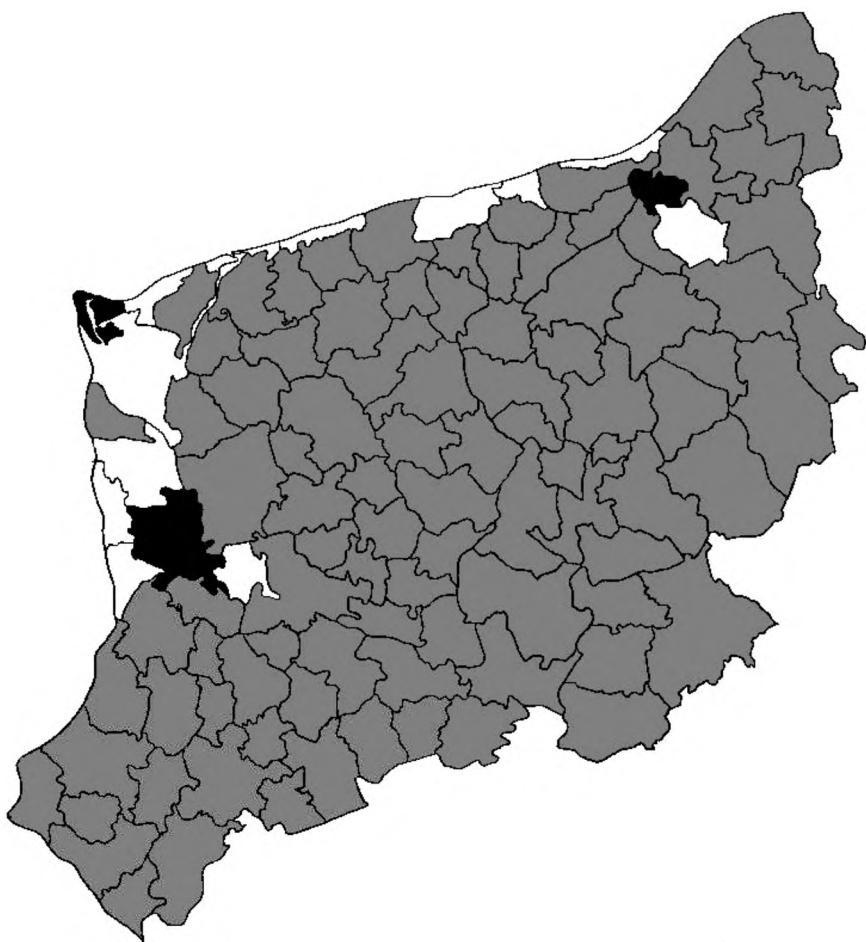


Fig. 2. Municipalities with population density lower than 80 inhabitants per 1 km² of arable land

Rys. 2. Gminy o gęstości zaludnienia poniżej 80 mieszkańców na 1 km² użytków rolnych

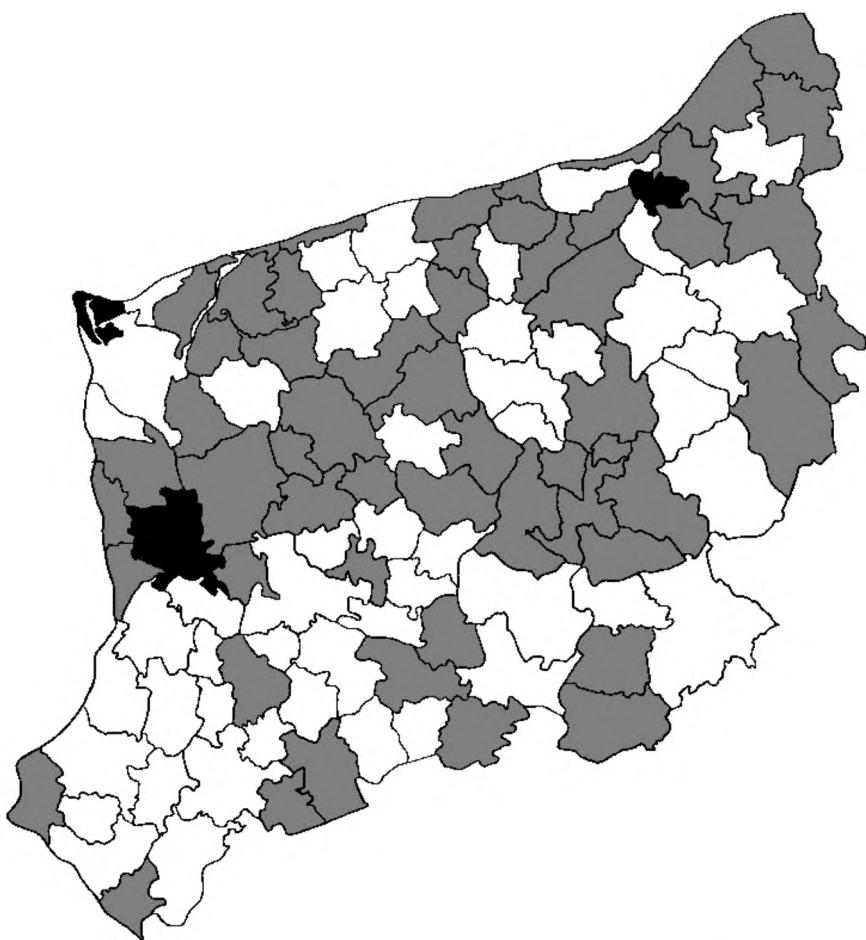


Fig. 3. Municipalities with individual farming percentage higher than 60% of arable land
Rys. 3. Gminy, w których udział rolniczej gospodarki nieuspołecznionej stanowi ponad 60% powierzchni użytków rolnych

The next of the concerned criteria – meadow and pasture percentage higher than 30% of the arable land area – was met in only 17 municipalities out of 103 analysed ones. They tend to group in the northern part of the district, the highest number of them – 3 each – in Goleniów, Gryfice and Kamień Pomorski counties (fig. 4). Average grassland area in these municipalities amounted to 43% and ranged from 30.1% to nearly 76% in Manowo and Świeszyno (Koszalin county) and Nowe Warpno (Police county) municipalities, respectively.

The fourth criterion, i.e. forests to the total area fraction ranging between 30–60%, was met in 48 municipalities, which tend to be located in the eastern and southern part of the district (fig. 5), most of them – namely 5 in each county – in Gryfino and Szczecinek counties. Average forestness in municipalities that met the criteria reached 42.4% and varied from 30.3% for Świerzno municipality (Kamień Pomorski county) to 57.2% in Borne Sulinowo municipality (Szczecinek county). In 51 municipalities of the district the forestness fell below 30%, while only in 4 municipalities it was found higher than 60%.

The next 2 criteria, namely lake waters percentage in the total municipality area higher than 5%, and moderately dispersed type of rural settlement, were met in respectively 20 and 15 municipalities of the district (fig. 6 and 7). The highest number of lakes have Drawsko, Szczecinek and Pyrzyce counties, while dispersed rural settlement pattern most frequently occurs in Koszalin and Drawsko counties.

On average a percentage of people living on non agricultural/forestry resources lower than 60% of the overall employment number, reached 44.4%, with the smallest and highest fractions in Kalisz Pomorski (10.6%) and Dobra (58.3%) municipalities, respectively. The concerned criterion was met in only 12 municipalities, mostly located to the south and southeast of Szczecin (fig. 8).

According to Drzewiecki [1992, 2002] a rural or urbanrural municipality can be regarded as a rural recreational space when it meets at least three out of the seven concerned criteria. In Western Pomerania district 42 municipalities shall be classified as ones meeting the condition. Police municipality despite meeting the condition, was excluded from rural recreational space, since it is located in the ecologically hazardous area (fig. 9). The area of 41 municipalities of the district, that comprise 10 700 km² (46.7% of the district area) is inhabited by nearly 206 000 people, which corresponds to circa 12% of the overall district population. The agrotourism oriented municipalities do not always form compact regions, and quite frequently are irregularly dispersed all over the district (fig. 9a). Drawskie Lakeland tend to group most of them (Drawsko, Łobez and Szczecinek counties), as well as Goleniów county. Among all seven Drzewiecki's criteria subject to the analysis, the first criterion was met by the highest number of municipalities (39), then the second and fourth (26 municipalities each), whereas the seventh and third criteria were found to be least frequently fulfilled, namely in only 4 and 5 municipalities, respectively.

Taking into account four Drzewiecki's criteria, only 14 municipalities within the district can be classified as a rural recreational space, and they cover 3 700 km² and group 67 400 inhabitants, i.e. circa 4% of the entire district population. Drawsko county is the richest one in such municipalities (3), whereas Goleniów and Stargard Szczeciński counties have 2 such municipalities each (fig. 9b).

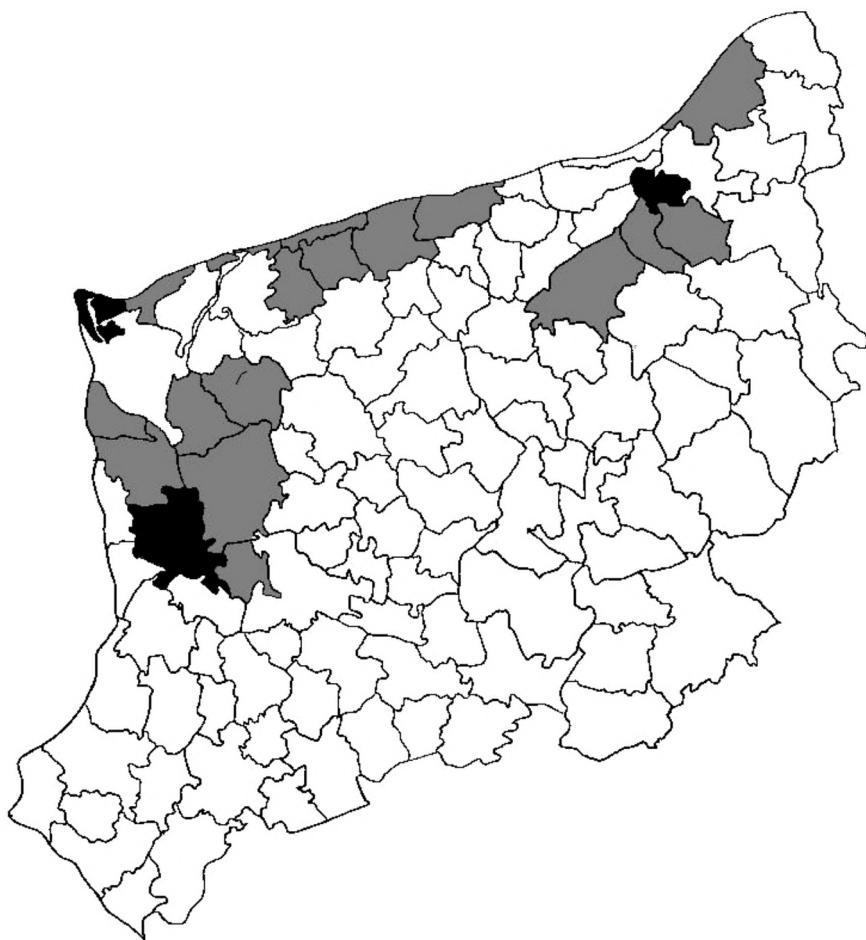


Fig. 4. Municipalities with meadow and pasture percentage higher than 30% of arable land
Rys. 4. Gminy, w których udział łąk i pastwisk stanowi ponad 30% powierzchni użytków rolnych

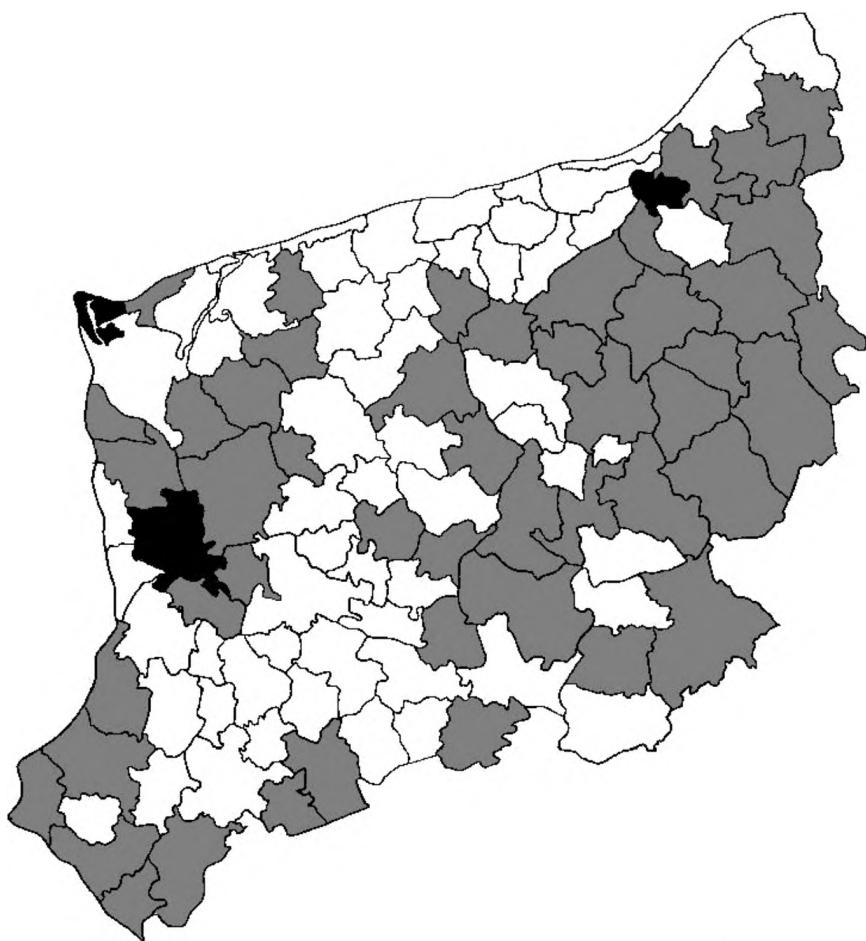


Fig. 5. Municipalities with forests percentage between 30 and 60% of the overall municipality area

Rys. 5. Gminy, w których udział lasów stanowi od 30 do 60% powierzchni całkowitej gminy

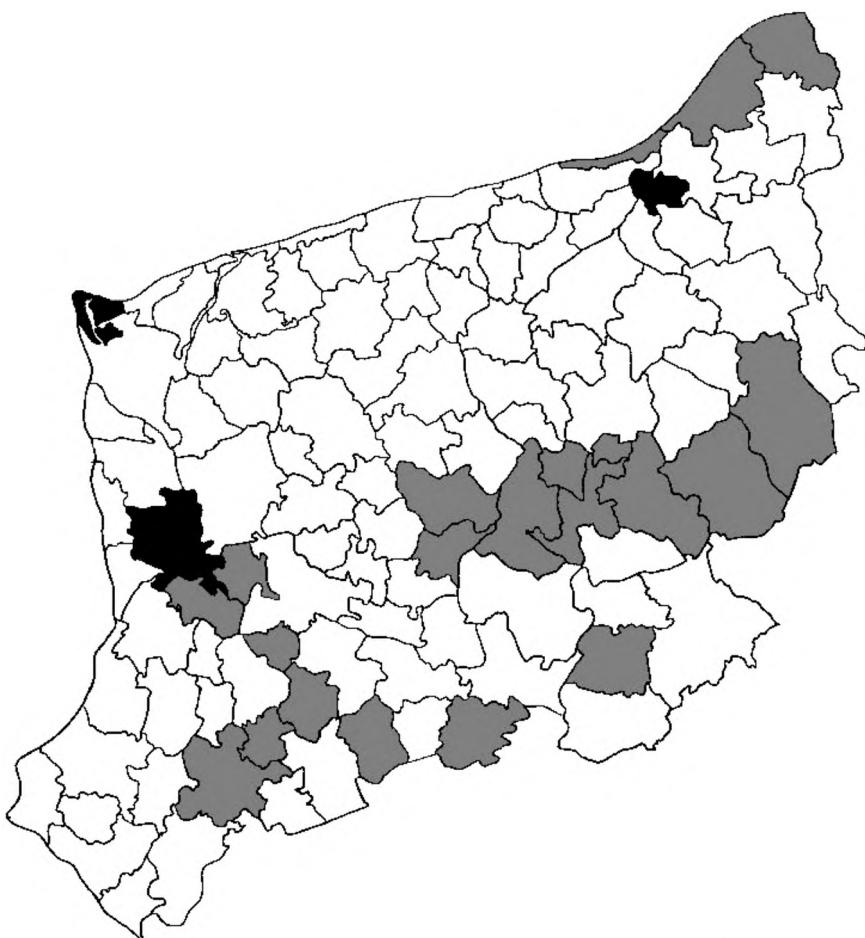


Fig. 6. Municipalities with lake waters percentage higher than 5% of the overall municipality area

Rys. 6. Gminy, w których udział wód jezior stanowi ponad 5% powierzchni całkowitej

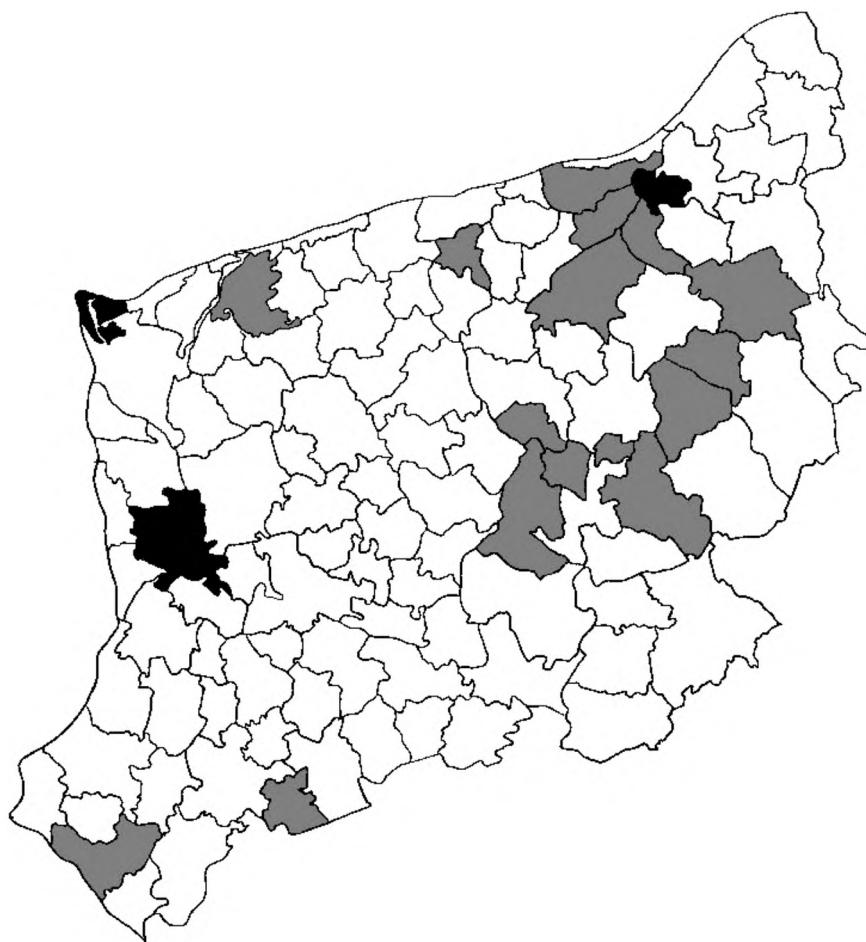


Fig. 7. Municipality of moderately dispersed rural settlements type
Rys. 7. Gminy o średnio rozproszonym osadnictwie wiejskim

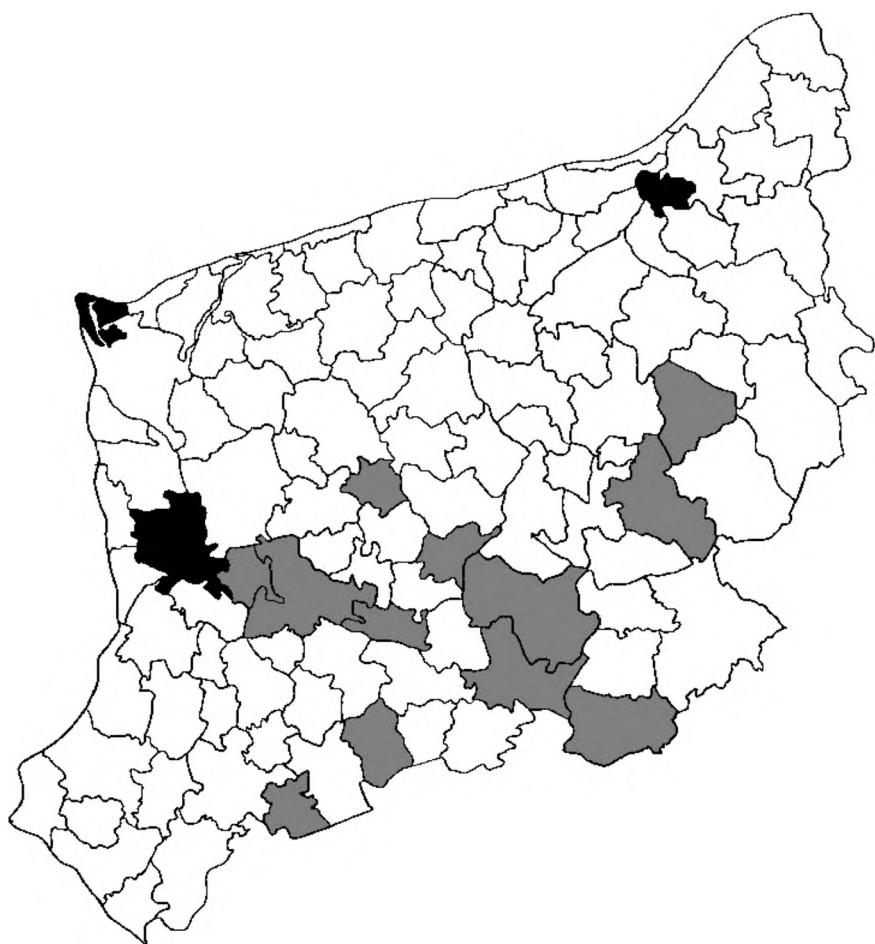
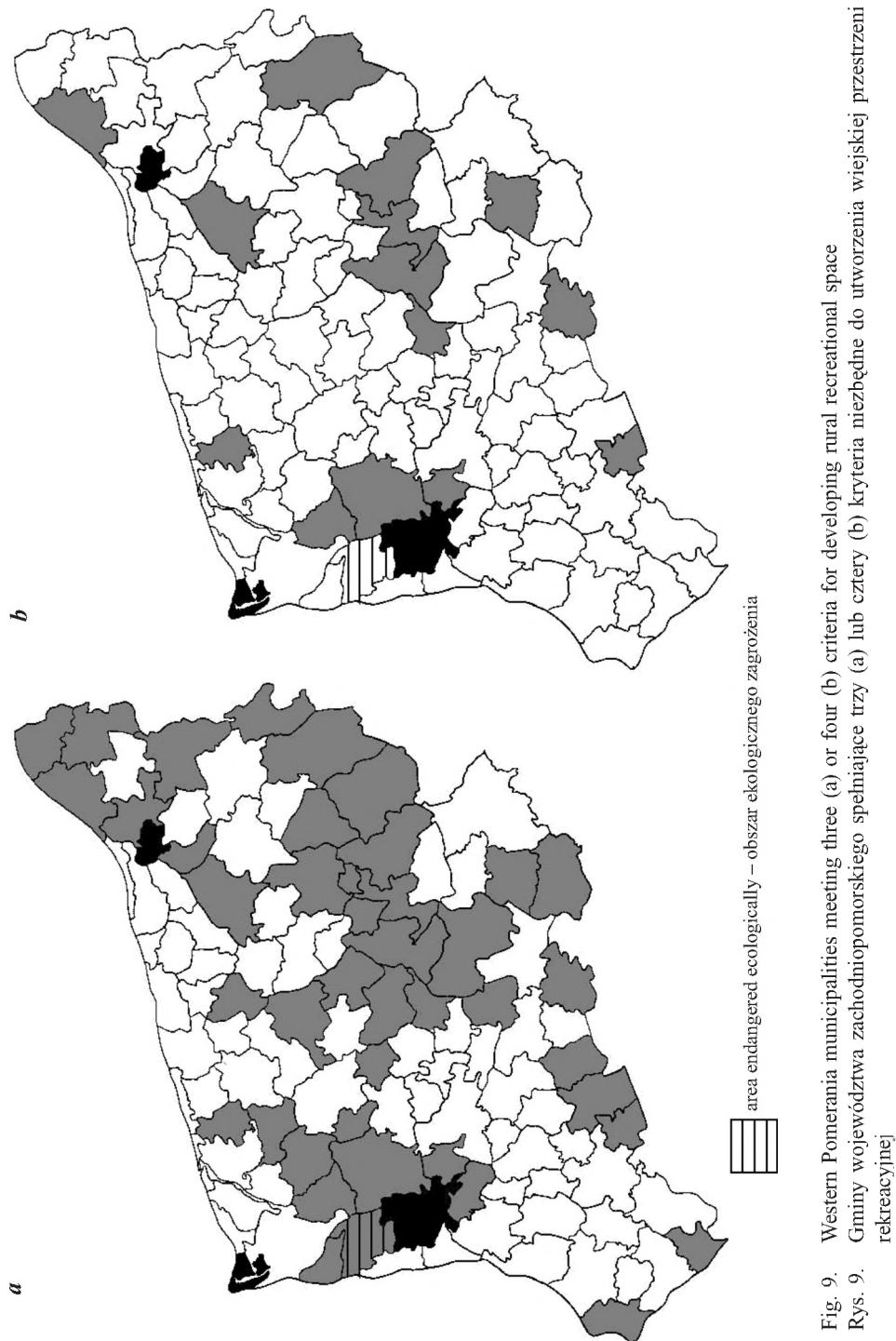


Fig. 8. Municipalities with percentage of people living on non agricultural/forestry resources lower than 60% in the overall employment number

Rys. 8. Gminy, w których udział osób utrzymujących się ze źródeł pozarolniczo-leśnych stanowi poniżej 60% ogółu zatrudnionych



The first criterion was observed as contributing to the greatest differences between municipalities qualified as a rural recreational space by meeting three and four criteria. In municipalities meeting 3 criteria the average population density fell below 80 inhabitants per 1 km² of arable land and equalled nearly 56 inhabitants per 1 km², whereas in municipalities meeting four criteria the number was 39 inhabitants per 1 km² of arable land. The second criterion, i.e. individual farming percentage higher than 60% of the arable land area, was found least differentiating. Within the presented valorisation rules none of the municipalities of the district was found to meet more than 4 criteria. In Drzewiecki's assessment [1992] dated 1986, within the present boundaries of Western Pomerania district municipalities meeting 5 criteria were identified, and 1 municipality met even 6. In total the determined then rural recreational space within the boundaries of no longer existing Szczecin and Koszalin districts, covered 15 300 km² (83%), which used to be inhabited by 361 000 people. Bott-Alama [2005] prioritised the lakeland belts (counties located south and south east within the district), as crucial for recreational space development. These belts comprise municipalities in Gryfino, Choszczno, Myślibórz, Stargard Szczeciński, Drawsko, Szczecinek and Wałcz counties. Central and eastern parts of the region were also destined to discover agrotourism development opportunities, though within longer time frames. Legienis [1998] identified 15 western Pomeranian counties, distributed over different parts of the district, as likely to provide agrotourism oriented products.

CONCLUSIONS

Municipalities of the Western Pomerania district were found to meet the requirements of agrotourism attractiveness mainly due to their low population density (89% of the municipalities), high individual farming share (52% of municipalities), and last but not least, favourable forest fraction in the total municipality area (47% of municipalities). 41 municipalities are rural recreational space classifiable, since they met at least tree out of seven analysed criteria. Rural recreational space in the Western Pomerania comprises 10 700 km² (47% of the total district area) and it is inhabited by 206 000 people (ca 12% of the overall district population). It does not form a compact region, though agrotourism oriented municipalities tend to group mainly in Drawskie Lakeland (Drawsko, Łobez, and Szczecinek counties) and Goleniów county. The maximum number of 4 criteria met within one classification run, was identified in 14 municipalities of the Western Pomerania district (mainly in Drawsko, Goleniów and Stargard counties).

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WALORYZACJA WIEJSKIEJ PRZESTRZENI REKREACYJNEJ WOJEWÓDZTWA ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIEGO

Streszczenie. Celem pracy było określenie możliwości rozwoju agroturystyki w poszczególnych gminach województwa zachodniopomorskiego. Waloryzację rolniczej przestrzeni rekreacyjnej poszczególnych gmin województwa przeprowadzono w oparciu o metodę Drzewieckiego siedmiu kryteriów oceny atrakcyjności agroturystycznej gmin. Według Drzewieckiego gminę wiejską lub miejsko-wiejską można zaliczyć do wiejskiej przestrzeni rekreacyjnej wówczas, gdy spełnia co najmniej trzy kryteria spośród siedmiu rozpatrywanych.

Gminy województwa zachodniopomorskiego spełniają wymogi atrakcyjności agroturystycznej przede wszystkim dzięki małej gęstości zaludnienia (89% gmin), dużemu udziałowi rolnictwa indywidualnego (52% gmin) i korzystnemu udziałowi lasów w całkowitej powierzchni gminy (47% gmin). Do wiejskiej przestrzeni rekreacyjnej można zaliczyć 41 gmin, które spełniają co najmniej trzy kryteria spośród siedmiu rozpatrywanych. Wiejska przestrzeń rekreacyjna województwa zachodniopomorskiego zajmuje 10,7 tys. km² (47% powierzchni województwa) i zamieszkała jest przez 206 tys. osób (około 12% ludności województwa). Nie tworzy ona zwartej przestrzeni, choć największe skupienie gmin agroturystycznych można zauważać na Pojezierzu Drawskim (powiaty: drawski, łobeski, szczecinecki) oraz w powiecie goleńiowskim. Maksymalnie, cztery kryteria równocześnie, spełnia tylko 14 gmin województwa zachodniopomorskiego (najczęściej w powiatach: drawskim, goleńiowskim i stargardzkim).

Slowa kluczowe: wiejska przestrzeń rekreacyjna, waloryzacja, województwo zachodniopomorskie

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