



An overview of regional territorial observatories – common elements and substantial differences. Territorial observatories and their role in shaping the defence capability and security of a region

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ABSTRACT

In order to increase the quality of management at the supra-local (national and provincial) level, a special system - of constant monitoring, of evaluation of regional development processes, and of regional policy's effects in the form of territorial development observatories - was created. The system of the above-mentioned observatories is designed to improve the monitoring as well as to evaluate the public policies by creating a flexible system of acquisition and aggregation of data and by the elaboration of standards of replacing them. The aim of creating of observatories is also to increase the usefulness of evaluation by using the feedback obtained in the process of the permanent collection, compilation and sharing of the data which illustrate both the course of public intervention and the development of the socio-economic situation in the areas of the strategic state intervention. In this respect, this article constitutes an attempt to compare both the scope of tasks and the areas of activity of Regional Territorial Observatories ("RTO") functioning on the territory of Poland in different provinces. This is all the more important since at the moment there are no formally defined standards for both the collection and the processing of data in the above-mentioned Observatories.

Keywords: National Territorial Observatories ("NTOs"), Regional Territorial Observatories ("RTOs"), monitoring, evaluation, strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

A regional policy monitoring and evaluation system [1-13] is part of a wider development policy monitoring system, the framework of which is set out in *the National Strategy of Regional Development* (NSRD). This system consists of:

1. National Territorial Observatories (“NTOs”),
2. Regional Territorial Observatories (“RTOs”).

“NTOs” fall under the responsibility of the minister in charge of regional development (currently the Minister of Economic Development and Finance). However, “RTOs” fall under the responsibility of individual Voivodship Boards.

The *Responsible Development Strategy until 2020 [with a prospect until 2030]*, (Annex to Resolution No. 8 of the Council of Ministers of 14 February 2017) adopted by the Council of Ministers sets out the scope of activities aimed at “NTOs” and “RTOs”, which refers to the strengthening of a strategic debate on regional and territorial development as part of the National Territorial Forum and Regional Territorial Forums (“NTF” and “RTFs”) and better adaptation of the studies prepared by “NTOs” and “RTOs” to the analytical needs of the development policy and the assessment of the situation at the local level and in functional areas.

The purpose of this system is to collect, gather and analyse data in order to generate and provide diagnostic and evaluation information which serves to verify the development policy launched and its modifications.

The objectives set to the above Observatories and the above Forums include:

1. the improvement of the quality of strategic planning and operating activities,
2. the creation of a flexible system for gathering and aggregating data,
3. the development of standards and data exchange between the Government and the Local Government,
4. the dissemination of knowledge on regional development,
5. the creation of a system for the rapid and efficient flow of information between entities responsible for policy development,
6. increased interest in strategic thinking about development at national, regional and subregional levels,
7. initiation of debates on the strategic directions of regional development.

“RTOs” are, therefore, responsible for the flow of information between major public bodies involved in the implementation of development at regional levels, in order to monitor and perform an evaluation having a territorial impact [1].

2. AN OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL TERRITORIAL OBSERVATORIES (“RTOs”)

The system of the Observatories discussed in this paper is designed to improve the monitoring and evaluation of public policies having a territorial impact through the creation of a flexible system for gathering and aggregating data and through the development of standards for data exchange.

The establishment of the Observatories is to increase the usefulness of evaluation studies through the use of feedback obtained in the process of constant data collection,

compilation and sharing, illustrating both the course of public interventions and the development of the socio-economic situation in the areas of strategic intervention of the State.

Analysing “RTOs”, it is concluded that there is no single standard of their structure and functioning. There is no specific set of parameters that would ensure an adequate level of their quality. The structure of „RTOs” is diverse, both in visual terms and in terms of data content. Tables No. 1-16 below show the subject matter of interest of “RTOs”.

Table 1. Territorial observatory of the Łódź Province.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://www.rot-lodzkie.pl/) | Own studies. Concept papers. Expert opinions. Reports (of drawing up individuals cooperating from Oaths) Database. Additional information. |

Table 2. Podlasie Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://rot.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/wizytowka_rot.htm) | Monitoring system. and of evaluation of the regional policy. Evaluation examinations. Analyses and thematic examinations. Database. Cohesion policy 2014-2020. Archive 2007-2013. |

Table 3. Wielkopolski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://www.wrot.umww.pl/) | Vital statistics about the region. Knowledge base. |

Table 4. Zachodniopomorski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|----------|
| (http://eregion.wzp.pl/zachodniopomorskie-regionalne-observatorium-terytorialne) | Reports. |

Table 5. Kujawsko-Pomorski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (http://www.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl/regionalne-observatorium-terytorialne) | Kujawsko-Pomorski province in numbers. Reports and analyses. Useful links. |

Table 6. Mazovian Territorial Observatory

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (http://mrm.wrotamazowska.pl/gorne-i-dolne-menu/o-monitorowaniu/mazowieckie-regionalne-observatorium-terytorialne) | Monitoring KSRR indicators. Monitoring the development strategy of the Province. Own examinations and orders of the Board of the Province. Permanent observation of the development of Mazovia. TRM examinations, service "monitoring the Development of Mazovia". |
| (www.mbpr.pl/mazowieckieobservatoriumterytorialne) | Role of Mazovia of the Territorial Observatory in managing the development of the province in the opinion of stakeholders. Mazovian Territorial Observatory – presentation. Inspection of the social-economic situation of the Province (Mazovia Province). Examining potentials and the specialization of the Province (Mazovia Province). |

Table 7. Świętokrzyski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (http://www.rot-lodzkie.pl/) | Module of data. Documents. Questionnaire form. |

Table 8. Silesian Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://rcas.slaskie.pl/) | Information. about RCAS (regional centre of Analyses and of strategic planning). Monitoring of the development of the region. Regional planning. RCAS analyses. Questionnaire forms. EU projects. |

Table 9. Lublin Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://www.lubelskie.pl/?pid=3150) | Lublin metropolitan area. Cross-border strategy. |

Table 10. Lubuski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (http://obserwuj.lubuskie.pl/) | Areas of monitoring. Development strategy of Lubuski Province 2020. |

Table 11. Malopolski Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (https://www.malopolska.pl/rozwoj-regionalny/malopolskie-observatorium-rozwoju-regionalnego) | |
| http://www.observatorium.malopolska.pl/ | Examinations. Events. Library. Visualisation. |

Table 12. Opole Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| http://www.nto.pl/artykul-sponsorowany/art/9030868,opolskie-observatorium-terytorialne-od-baz-danych-do-rozwoju-regionu,id,t.html | |
| http://maps.opolskie.pl/start/ | Reference data. Thematic maps. Safety. Statistical data. Information. |

Table 13. Podkarpacki Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://rot.podkarpackie.pl/) | Database. Monitoring the strategy. Programming documents. Own studies. Other studies. |

Table 14. Dolny Śląsk Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (https://www.irt.wroc.pl/) | Monitoring the strategy. Programming documents. |

Table 15. Pomeranian Regional Territorial Observatory – Pomeranian System of the Monitoring and the Evaluation.

| web page | content |
|---|---|
| (http://psme.pomorskie.eu/) | PSME. Pomeranian Territorial Forum. Examinations and Reports. Monitoring the implementation of strategies. Virtual Atlas of Pomerania. Social-economic profiles. Gallery of the photograph of the province. |

Table 16. Warmian-Mazurian Regional Territorial Observatory.

| web page | content |
|---|--|
| (http://bip.warmia.mazury.pl/urzed_marszalkowski/544/Departament_Polityki_Regionalnej/) | Bookmarks concerning the RPO WWM evaluation for years 2014-2020. Interim reports from the realization of the development strategy of the social-economic Warmian-Mazurian province. Information about the monitoring system of the Strategy. Regional Territorial Observatory - Observatory of the social policy. |

The common elements of “RTOs” include the posting on the Observatory’s website (or subsite) of Marshal Offices and subordinate units’ own studies, commissioned studies and strategic (sector) and planning documents.

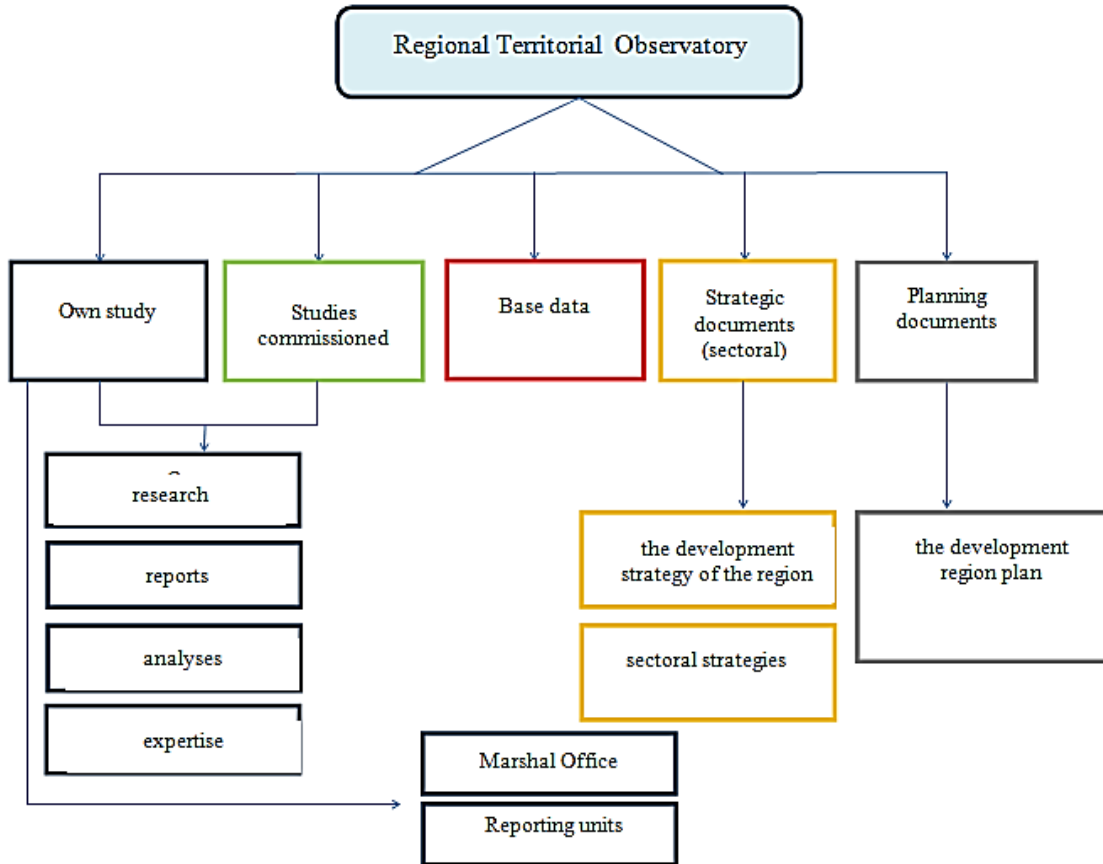


Figure 1. The Structure of Regional Territorial Observatories

3. TERRITORIAL OBSERVATORIES AND THEIR ROLE IN SHAPING THE DEFENCE CAPABILITY AND SECURITY OF A REGION (ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION)

When analysing the presented, indeed very different models of migration, one should pay attention to some fundamental causes of contemporary immigration:

1. Economic factor.
2. Political situation, including religion.
3. Need to improve life status.
4. Safety aspect stimulated by wars, dictatorships, humanitarian crises, natural disasters.

The above and a number of other factors arising from the situation in the country of origin affect subjective decision-making of individuals [5].

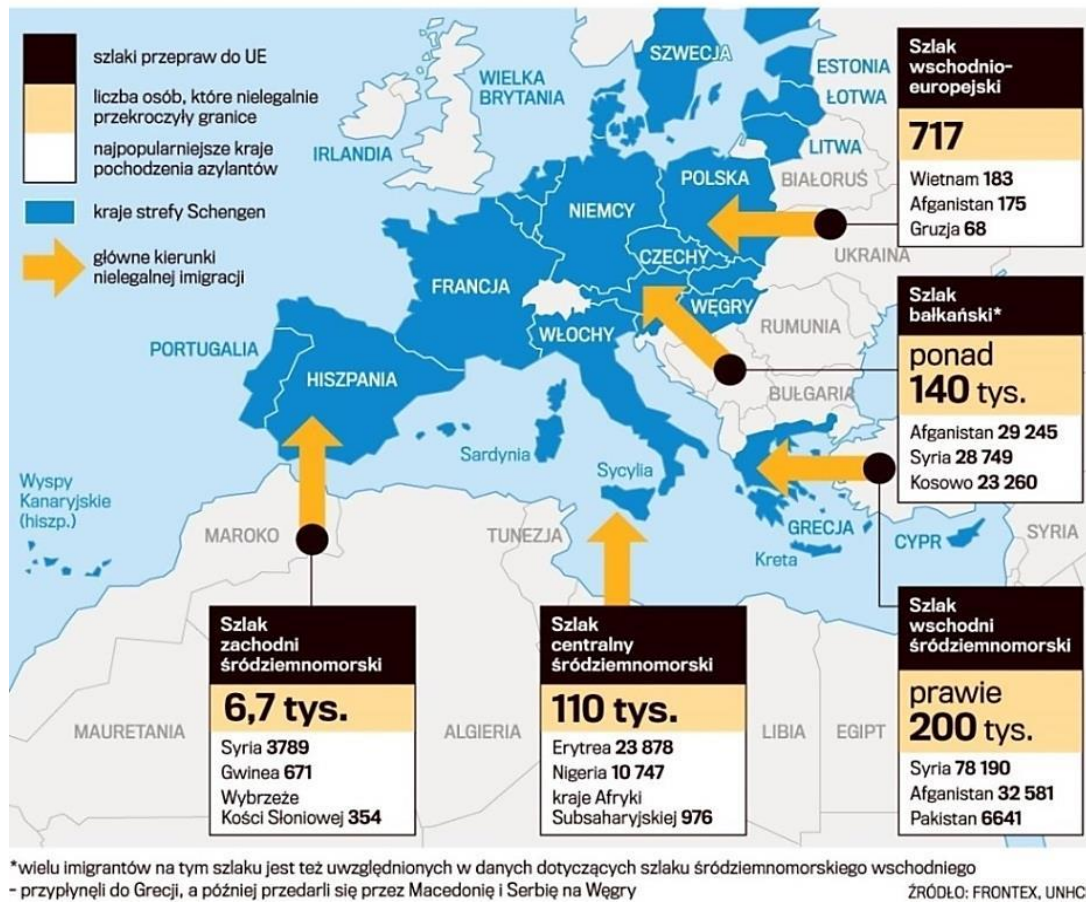


Figure 2. The “old” and “new” immigration route to EU countries

The presented immigration processes have in turn an effect on the internal security of host countries. It seemed that the unlimited processes of globalization will be one of the cornerstones of ensuring internal security and the market itself will shape the socio-economic relations. However, this is not the case. As pointed out by B. Wiśniewski, the political and military shape of the world after the dissolution of its bipolarity has not brought the projected expectations in this respect [6,7]. An important factor affecting internal security in terms of migratory movements is the homogeneity of the social structure, evaluated on the basis of wealth, education, class/religion/race system, linguistic community, attitudes and values, ethnic identity, and the nature of the group [2]. This is of course one of many factors that shape internal security in this context. Today, illegal immigration can be located at the meeting points of threats to both internal and external security. Such a claim is largely based on views suggesting that it is the state border (the EU border) which should prevent illegal immigration, providing a reference point to the division of national security into international security (the external borders of the EU) and internal security – regional and local [state borders] [3]. In the aspect of the issue of the security and defence capability of a region, an attempt to define the role to be played by “RTOs” in this regard becomes crucial [4]. According to the authors of the paper, in the tasks of Territorial Observatories a greater

emphasis should be put on the issues related to immigration, including illegal immigration. It should be stressed that the problem of illegal immigration will continue to grow- apart from the inflow of illegal immigrants from African countries (*inter alia* from Syria), an increasing problem for Poland seems to be the (still) controlled inflow of immigrants from the East and the inflow of immigrants from Africa through the so-called “*new route*” leading just through Poland. This situation is shown in Figure 2.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Contemporary challenges in the field of the security and defence capability of a State must be pursued in local communities, at Local Government level. In this regard, “RTOs” must- as part of their tasks- observe, analyse and prepare recommendations for the Boards of individual voivodeships relating to the quantitative and national structure and the territorial distribution of immigrants, including also (and perhaps primarily) illegal immigrants.

This situation points to the need to enhance cooperation of the services responsible for defence and security matters with the authorities of Local Government units of various levels at organisational, political, legal and financial levels. Such a structure of cooperation results from a new approach to the issue of the defence capability and security of a State and the necessary participation of public authorities and local communities in this process, and can be- if the above demands are met- an effective response of a State to the risks arising from the changing reality of the early 20 Century.

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