

ABSTRACT

The Synthesis. Conditions, Effects and Improvement Proposals of Spatial Chaos. The monography has been finalized by a three-volume in the series of Studies of the Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning of the Polish Academy of Sciences (CSERP PAS) under the common title “Study on spatial chaos”. It is a synthesis which extract and organize the key findings of the individual volumes and chapters multi-authorial team and creates a comprehensive and multifaceted overview of the conditions, reasons, external effects and social and economic costs of spatial chaos. Equivalent intention is also to present strategic recommendations for conducting interventions as part of spatial policy and systemic legislative activities. They are to serve the fight against the deepening crisis in spatial economy and spatial chaos, the most visible effects of which are the growing dysfunctionality of various structures; natural, socio-economic and built environment.

The monography consists of 5 chapters. The first one presents the goals and assumptions underlying the multi-authorial activities undertaken at the CSERP PAS in the years 2016-2018 and then became the subject of a three-volume publishing series. The most important definitions and discussion on the concept of spatial chaos are also presented. Chapters 2 and 3 present a general systematics of the most important conditions and causes of the crisis in spatial economy and spatial chaos. The sources of the problems comes from the history of the Polish state, and today we can talk about conditions of modernization (in the sense of modernization processes), laying in cultural, social, economic, urban and physical development as well as organizational and legal aspects. The latter issue the authors seek to expose in a separate chapter, because they came to the conclusion that it was flawed, poorly constructed law on human activity in space is the main source of all kinds of conflicts, tensions, dysfunctions *etc.*, the ultimate result is spatial chaos (disorder), generating enormous social costs and losses in the environment and economy.

Authors pointed also at the failures of undertaken legislative initiatives toward reform of binding laws of spatial economy and planning. They enter on the reasons of these failures, being convinced that identification of social and political obstacles is the precondition of proper formulation of necessary improvements of faulty law. Finally they also strongly recommend to commence extensive scientific studies on this issue.

The next chapter 4 (“Costs and losses of spatial chaos”) is the most comprehensive of all and constitutes a fundamental, empirical part of “Synthesis”. It has been developed mainly on the basis of volume 2 “Studies on spatial chaos”. This volume contains 14 chapters written by 25 experts representing 10 institutions (Polish Academy of Sciences, universities, the Central Statistical Office and the offices of urban planning. These studies were designed to answer the question about the causes, effects and costs of spatial chaos and dysfunctional physical planning in different spheres of human activities and in different types of geographical and socio-economic systems (cost of natural landscape, the real estate markets in agricultural

activities, transport, for settlements, infrastructure, households, *etc.*). In the chapter about 100 specific arrangements – in which the dysfunctionality of territorial systems, generating enormous environmental, social and economic costs, has been presented in a quantitative, qualitative and often in monetary manner.

The last, 5th chapter is a summary and a list of recommendations. In this last point the authors are trying to combine and justify dozens necessary recommendations, whose introduction presumably would reduce the crisis in the spatial economy, as well as significantly reduce – if not eliminate, in some cases, the losses generated by the dysfunctional planning and spatial chaos.

Keywords: Externalities, spatial chaos, spatial disorder, spatial law and policy, spatial order, spatial organization, spatial planning.