

Krzysztof Rosenkiewicz

## **Contemporary Polish suburbs in view of sustainable development concept**

PhD Thesis summary

Keywords: sustainable development, suburban zone, suburb, sustainable suburb development model, retrofit, human needs

Dissertation was aimed at developing an ex ante model of sustainable suburb development and its verification. Theoretical aspect was related to linking retrofit (retrofitting suburbs) concept to European state of art and also to author's ex ante model.

In its empirical part this dissertation is based on four case studies of suburbs neighbouring to big cities and also to small towns: Osada Leśna near Poznań, Osiedle Książenice near Warsaw, Osiedle Moczkowo by Barlinek and Czołowo-Kolonia by Koło. Cases were selected according to replication logic (Yin 2015) in order to show diversity of the subject studied.

The thesis has also an application context. Solutions in order to reorder / retrofit and thus to achieve higher level of sustainability of suburbs were suggested with reference to sustainable development concept, which is contemporary paradigm of development policies, according to its aims, especially optimal human needs fulfilment along with retaining natural resources and economic reality.

The thesis consists of eight chapters and also lists and appendixes. During the research several quantitative and qualitative methods were implemented (mixed method design - Creswell 2013). Four cases descriptions derived from long insidership, 235 surveys, numerous analyses, maps and calculations, based on author's sustainable suburb model and widely known research methods, like G. Tachieva's *Sector mapping* (Tachieva 2010).

The empirical component gave an opportunity to verify some theoretical positions and indicators.

Dissertation's aims were achieved. As a result of study carried out, diversity of particular suburbs in terms of sustainable development (and also designed sustainable suburb model) was revealed. The research stated also that in some cases achievement higher level of sustainability is not possible and such cases should be a concern of public politics. Differences between theoretical concepts and practice of foreign original and relevant situation in Poland also emerged.

Translation of many specialistic English terms to Polish was an additional result of research conducted.