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Challenges of territorialization of the development policy of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship related to adaptation and mitigation of climate change

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One of the most important (but not the only) development challenges is climate change and its effects affecting society and the economy. This is a global challenge characterised by large spatial variations in terms of scale and type of impact on society and the economy. This is because, despite major technological advances, humans are steadily increasing their dependence on the natural environment.

The main objective of the conducted research procedure, which is described in the paper, is to identify and evaluate the local government's activities in the field of development policy related to climate change adaptation and mitigation in territories vulnerable to climate change. The proposed main objective was detailed by a set of objectives of theoretical, methodological, cognitive and applied nature. In carrying out the planned research procedure, both quantitative methods (indicator methods, questionnaire) and qualitative methods (desk research, individual in-depth interviews) were used.

In the first stage of the research procedure, which realised the theoretical objective, literature studies were conducted that allowed to organise the current state of knowledge on the impact of climate change on the spatial differentiation of socio-economic development and the targeting of development policy interventions, including regional policies. This allowed the development of a theoretical and conceptual model of the impact of climate change on socio-economic development and development policy. In the second stage of the research procedure, which fulfils the assumed methodological and cognitive objectives, it was possible to propose the author's method of selecting spatial units that could be considered vulnerable to climate change due to their socio-economic characteristics. Spatial units characterised by the relatively highest level of socio-economic vulnerability to climate change were selected for further study. In the third stage of the study, the operationalisation of the model allowed a review and evaluation of local climate policies in terms of their programming and implementation. This served to identify the current state and additional challenges that arise in the practice of programming the implementation of regional policies aimed at addressing climate change and allowed for empirical verification of the theoretical and conceptual assumptions made. The implementation of the third stage of the research procedure made the cognitive objectives of the study more effective. On the basis of the results obtained during the research procedure, it was also possible to develop a set of recommendations for the programming and implementation of territorialization of development policy related to adaptation and mitigation of climate change. This also made it possible to achieve the purpose of the study application, as set out earlier.

The study is part of a broader discussion on the state and challenges of regional policy with a particular focus on the challenge of anthropogenic climate change.