

How to slip out of the inner periphery - a qualitative study of development factors and barriers

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Agenda

The TIPERICO project:
Objectives, Stages and Research Outcomes

Determinants and constraints
in the development of inner peripheries

Case studies. The results of qualitative research

Key factors driving the development of inner peripheries
overcoming the major barriers to growth

Tiperico objectives



The objective of the project is to **identify the regularities of changes to the socio-economic development in selected inner peripheries in Poland with special attention given to their sensitivity and resilience to the consequences of the SARS-CoV-2 crisis**, and the resulting recommendations for the changes in the development policy interventions. The main goal of the project has been broken down to specific objectives of cognitive, methodological and application-related nature.

The application-related goal of the project refers to recommendations on the **direction and ways of making developmental intervention (including the choice of instruments) in inner peripheries in Poland** with special emphasis placed on the importance of the local cities to creating conditions for networking and diffusion of developmental processes.



Tiperico Phases



Delimitation and typology
of inner peripheries
among the functional
urban areas

Case studies of four
selected inner peripheral
FUAs and their main cities

Development of systemic tool
for monitoring the dynamics
of transformations
of the inner peripheries
during crisis

Peripherality is multidimensional



Inner peripheries in Poland



In our way of thinking, we understand the inner peripheries as areas with dormant or lost development potentials, due to their social or economic peripherality, caused in particular by low communication accessibility and a relatively long-time distance to economic centers, a limited range of functional connections and the lack of abilities or difficulties in establishing them permanently.

Their characteristic features are:

- relatively low efficiency of the territorial socio-economic system,
- relatively low access to public goods and services,
- relatively low quality of life (wellbeing).

Identifying Inner Peripheries in Poland



Delimitation of 413
functional urban areas (FUAs)

Identifying Inner Peripheries in Poland



Delimitation of 413
functional urban areas (FUAs)



Classification based on
47 indicators of
9 dimensions of peripherality
(Accessibility, Economy, Finances,
Demography, Housing, Health and security,
Education, Leisure and social activity,
Ecosystem services)

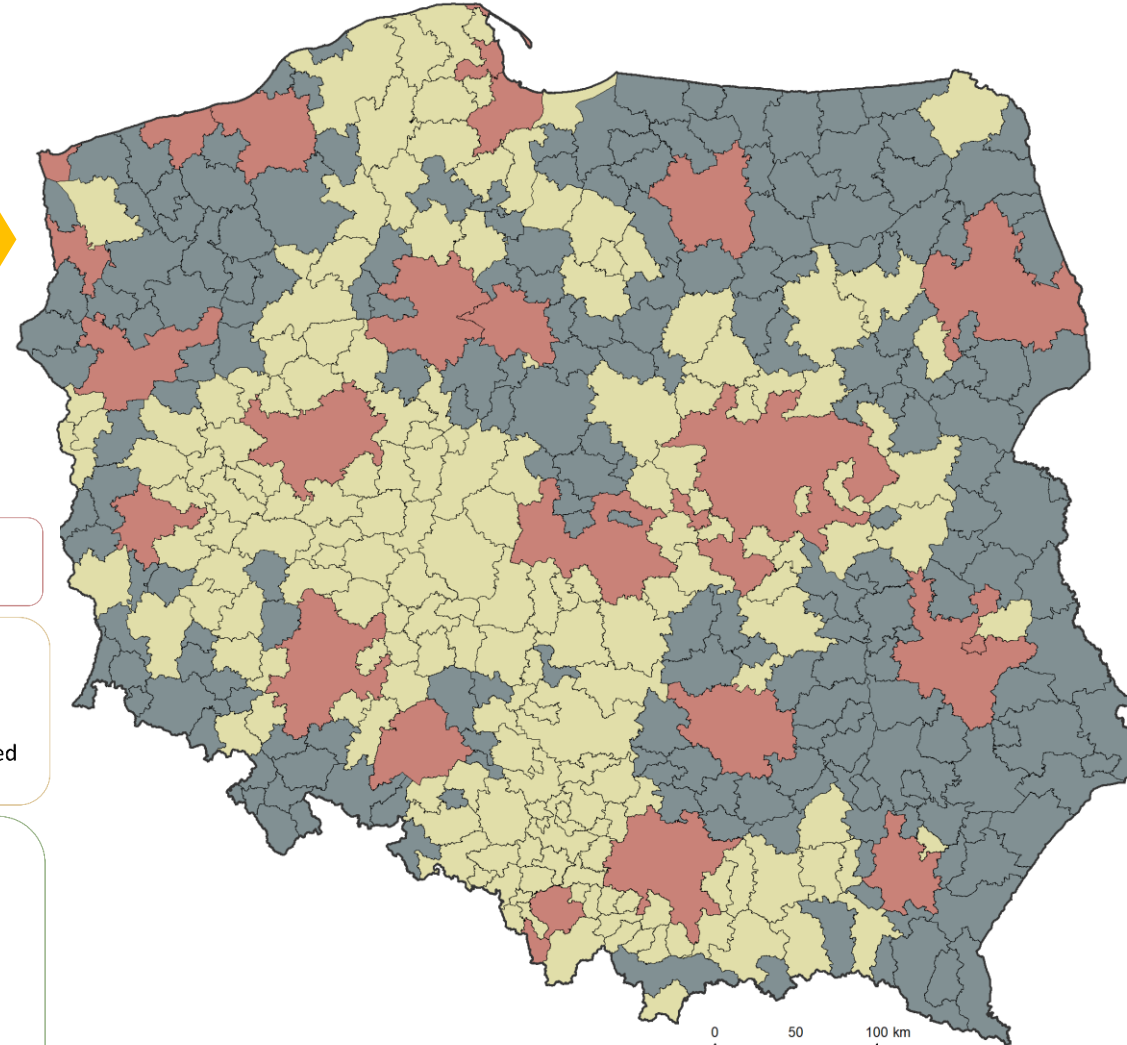
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0 50 100 km

Core

- 484 communes located within 25 functional urban areas of large cities (above 150,000 inhabitants) and regional centers

Intermediate

- 250 communes located within 39 functional urban areas of large and medium sized cities, mainly industrial cities in the Upper Silesian conurbation
- 781 communes located within 141 functional urban areas of middle-sized and small cities/towns, located primarily in the western part of the country

Peripheral

- 467 communes located within 112 functional urban areas classified as second-order inner peripheries, located in north-eastern and north-western Poland, strongly experienced through the system transformation
- 495 communes located within 96 functional urban areas classified as first-order inner peripheries, located mainly in eastern part of the country, on the geographical peripheries of the European Union

Factors and barriers to the development of inner peripheries



Definitions

- A **development factor** is a component, attribute, or event that influences changes in the state of a given territory, thereby impacting its socio-economic development. This factor can be located either within the boundaries of the territory, acting as an endogenous determinant of development, or in its surroundings, serving as an exogenous cause of developmental changes occurring within that territory.

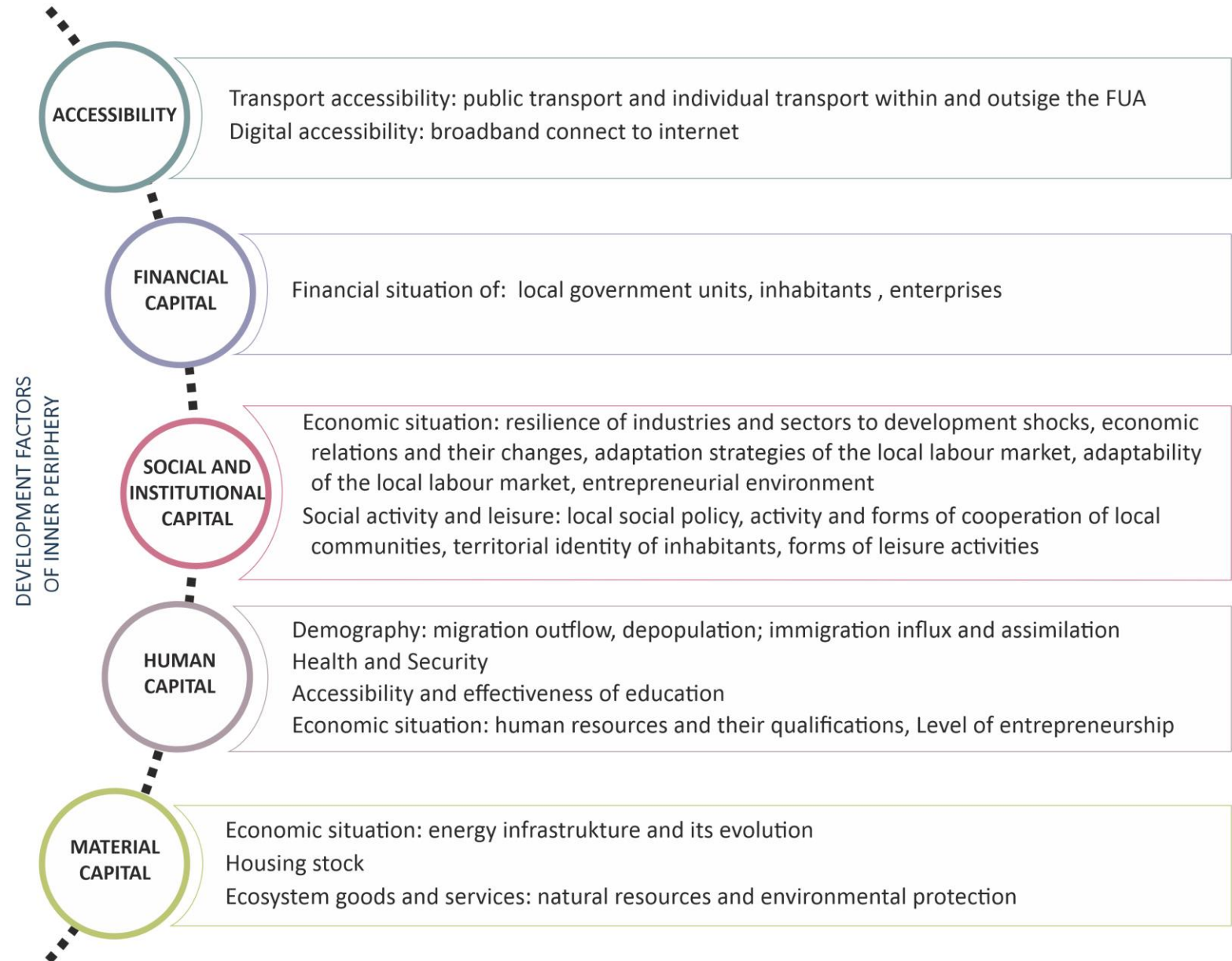
(Churski et al., 2020)

- Consequently, a **developmental barrier** should be understood as a development factor that negatively impacts the process of socio-economic development. This may result from the absence of a component, dysfunction of an attribute, or the negative influence of an event.



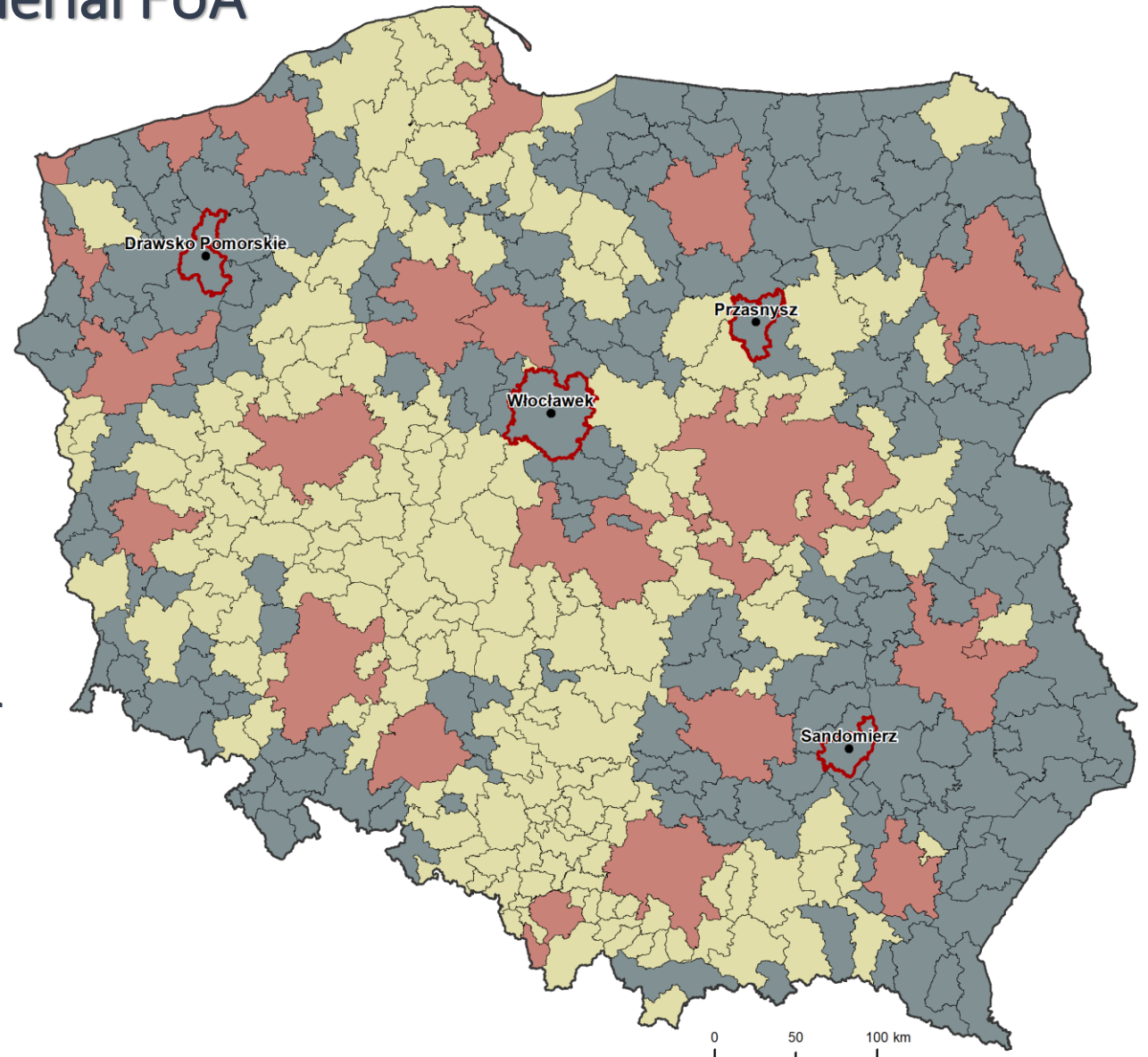
Redefinition of the development factors of Inner Peripheries

Our findings from the study of development processes in the inner periphery have led us to redefine development factors, which in this context change their scope, interpretation and mechanism of influence.



Case Studies of 4 selected Inner Peripheral FUA

1. Four case study areas.
2. From different regions of the country, representative for large areas of inner peripheries in Poland.
3. Diverse size of FUA.
4. Diverse size of central city.



TIPERICO Project: Qualitative Research

- ❖ **8 Focus Group Interviews (FGI)** - were conducted in each of the examined Functional Urban Areas (FUAs), with participation from entrepreneurs, activists, local authorities, and non-governmental organization representatives. The number of FGIs conducted varied depending on the size of the FUA: 3 in FUA Włocławek, 2 in FUA Przasnysz, 2 in FUA Sandomierz, and 1 in FUA Drawsko Pomorskie.
- ❖ **4 Individual In-Depth Interviews (IDI)** - were also conducted in each of the examined FUAs with either the presidents or mayors of the urban centers that serve as the capitals of the FUAs.
- ❖ The FGIs and IDIs covered three main topics: **accessibility, economy, the inhabitants and living conditions**. The discussions aimed to identify and evaluate developmental changes within these areas, especially focusing on the period **following the COVID-19 pandemic**. Respondents were also queried about effective practices in addressing identified **developmental challenges**.



Case study research



Focus groups



One-on-one interview

Case Studies of Drawsko Pomorskie & Włocławek



- It is composed of two municipalities and is geographically located on the periphery.
- Distant from large urban centers, squeezed between a military training ground and areas of environmental significance.

- It comprises many extensive municipalities located in the country's center.
- In the sphere of influence of other cities with over 100,000 inhabitants

- Industrial traditions and the presence of industrial enterprises today (Industries: chemical, ceramic, food, wood, electronic).
- Incomer population – a low sense of territorial belonging.

Case Studies of Przasnysz & Sandomierz



- It is located within the socio-economic influence zone of Warsaw (the regional and national capital).
- Underdeveloped local cooperation, dependent on Warsaw, could pose a risk of further workforce drain.

- Outside the direct influence of the regional center.
- Pursuing cross-regional collaboration with neighboring urban functional areas.

- There is a significant labor market mismatch.
- The local community shows limited engagement in the development process.

Key factors driving the development of inner peripheries overcoming the major barriers to growth



Accessibility

- Lack of public transportation or insufficient connection frequency leads to transportation exclusion.
- Inadequate infrastructure for broadband internet access.
- Conduct continuous monitoring of the population's transport behaviors and transport demand – pilot program for on-demand transportation.
- Utilize existing transportation for schools, individuals with special needs (whose organization is a statutory responsibility of local government), and collective transportation for company employees.
- Provide mobile official services.

Financial capital

- Unstable and unpredictable local government budgets due to changes in central legislation.
 - Increased scope of local government responsibilities without a corresponding increase in budgetary resources.
 - High taxes and employment costs impacting entrepreneurs.
 - Low wages and unemployment.
- Joint local government initiatives, including cross-regional ones, to enhance credit capacity.
 - Create a platform for promoting public-private partnerships.
 - Assist in the efficient application for Cohesion Policy funds.

Social and institutional capital 1'

- **Institutional weaknesses resulting from:**
 - Low social prestige of public officials.
 - Low salaries for public officials.
- **Consequently, there is a lack of trust in institutions poor communication between stakeholders, leading to:**
 - Misplaced investments, unconsulted local government investments.
 - Bureaucracy that hinders collaboration.
 - Lack of an entrepreneurial climate in the urban functional area.
 - Weak cooperation between local governments at the same and higher levels.
- Improving the working conditions of local government officials with access to training including soft skills that can lead to greater respect for their work.

Social and institutional capital 2'

- Limited community involvement in development processes.
 - Social capital in rural areas better than in towns.
- Increase the role of the community in local decision-making (social participation, participatory budgeting).
 - Organize collective actions to strengthen the sense of local community rootedness.

Human capital

- Depopulation and an aging society.
- Mismatch in the labor market (insufficient supply of individuals with technical education).
- Vocational, technical, and lifelong education offerings in collaboration with labor market management institutions.
- Offer vocational classes directly cooperating with employers (human resources training).

Material capital

- Presence of special areas limiting development: protected areas, flood-prone areas, heritage protection sites, military training grounds, and military zones.
- Poor road conditions, especially on regional roads, and safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Insufficient housing supply, particularly for public housing and rental units.
- Poor spatial planning, with inadequate documentation hampering investor acquisition.
- Turning spatial limitations into development opportunities, such as leveraging the presence of U.S. soldiers as customers for transportation, housing, and promoting tourism based on valuable natural and cultural areas.
- Joint investments (with other local governments) in safe multimodal transport and Internet infrastructure using EU cohesion policy funds.
- Construction of rental housing, including rent-to-own options.
- Ensure the quality of local regulations and a high degree of land coverage with planning documents.

How to slip out of the inner periphery?

- **Prioritize the quality of social and institutional capital:**
 - Lead to institutionalizing stakeholder (local government units, businesses, NGOs, and residents) cooperation in supra-local strategies in functional areas.
 - Implement procedures to ensure the transparency of the development process, control and promptly detect abuses in the care of the institution's reputation.
- **Promote continuous improvement of human capital to:**
 - Improve the living conditions and quality of life for residents.
 - Provide opportunities for professional retraining by offering tailored vocational courses.
- **By focusing particularly on these two key development factors, material and financial capital, along with accessibility, will be effectively managed.**



Thank You for Your Attention



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