



*Abstract for OPEN DAYS debate:*

*Across and within borders – regional solutions for spatial challenges  
in urban-rural areas, 9th October 2013*

## **Territorial dimension of strategic planning – balancing the rural and the urban issues**

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The region of Lower Silesia is one of the most dynamically developing regions of Poland. It is very diverse in terms of spatial characteristics, with a very well developed polycentric settlement system based on the historical structure. However, contemporary global and European challenges, including strong economic competition among “places” call for new approaches to the socio-economic development concept for 92 Lower Silesian small and medium size towns and their rural surroundings.

In 2013 the new Lower Silesia Regional Strategy 2020 was completed. It is a new type of strategic regional document that highlights the territorial dimension of development, as put forward in the Report of Fabrizio Barca (2009) as well as the recent Polish National Spatial Development Concept 2030 (2012).

This territorial approach to the strategic planning process now recognises the specific needs of cities and villages and their surrounding landscapes. Therefore it enables us to re-think the primacy of the urban focus, so characteristic of modern development, where the rural areas are often considered only from the perspective of urban priorities. The Lower Silesia Strategy 2020 recognises the specificity of mixed urban – rural areas and the challenges posed by the “soft spaces and fuzzy boundaries” of functional sub-regions, and consequently it offers a number of instruments for their better governance. It focuses on maintaining the development equilibrium of the entire region, prioritising multilevel governance in functional urban-rural areas. The Strategy will be in line with the new Regional Spatial Development Plan, which has been recently completed and which is currently undergoing the procedural process of formal acceptance.

### **More information:**

- [www.irt.wroc.pl](http://www.irt.wroc.pl)
- <http://www.umwd.dolnyslask.pl/rozwój/strategia-rozwoju-województwa-dolnoslaskiego-2020/>