

Key concepts creating modern cities – Introduction

These materials presented by *Studia Regionalia* are the result of a colloquium entitled *The Future of Polish Cities. Key Concepts Creating Modern Cities (Przyszłość śląskich miast. Kluczowe koncepty kształtujące współczesne miasto)*, held on 22 February 2017 in Katowice. The event was under the auspices of Wojciech Saługa, Marshal of Śląskie Voivodeship; prof. Józef Dubiński, President of the Katowice Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences; and prof. Tadeusz Markowski, President of the Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The scientific director of the conference was prof. Andrzej Klasik, President of the Committee for the Studies on the Future of Upper Silesia.

The main objectives of the conference focused on two key thematic areas:

- Comparative analysis and evaluation of application values of key concepts creating the future of cities;
- Debate on the future of Silesian cities in the interdisciplinary and international context.

The following four discussion panels were held under the colloquium:

- Compact city;
- Vital city;
- Smart city;
- Creative city.

Panel participants included both academics representing the University of Economics in Katowice, Silesian University of Technology, University of Opole, University of Silesia, and representatives of city authorities of Katowice, Bytom, Zabrze, and Dąbrowa Górnicza.

The publication consists of nine articles. As they had been written by scholars in various academic disciplines (architecture, economy, sociology, management), it is of interdisciplinary nature.

Studia Regionalia publications are addressed to academics, *i.e.* researchers analysing matters related to cities and processes in urban areas, as well as to practitioners, *i.e.* local politicians and managers, who make strategic decisions creating urban space. The presented theses and concepts can be applied and used

in practice. They may thus serve as a source of inspiration and scientific research, but also as guidelines for potential actions in support of urban development. The publication may be also of interest for university students of faculties and specialisations related to urban development and urban policy.

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