

## **STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM**

### **Sustainable Urban Development is a Key Factor in Improving the Quality of Life for Citizens**

Cities are inherently linked to the settlement of large numbers of people in spatially limited areas. However, the growth of modern cities generates several problems, including environmental degradation, noise pollution, traffic congestion and the intensification of the suburbanisation process. These issues lead to a reduction in the perceived quality of life for residents. This poses a significant challenge for urban authorities in managing the city and minimising the adverse effects of these problems.

The problems cities face are intensified by demographic changes: an ageing population and low fertility rates. These changes require the adaptation of public services to the needs of specific stakeholder groups. The answer to these challenges is to implement the principles of sustainable development. The aim of this concept is socio-economic development that respects the environment, adapts to change and addresses urban policies accordingly. Ethical and moral considerations drive the implementation of these principles. The concept of sustainable development first appeared in the Brundtland Report in the late 1980s. Since then, the idea has been present in national, regional and local policies and is essential to European Union policy. Implementing the principles of sustainable development and achieving a high quality of urban life is made possible by the concept of the doughnut economics. The author of this concept, Kate Raworth, refers to alternative economics and the critique of unlimited economic growth.

This dissertation aimed to develop a model for implementing sustainable development principles based on the doughnut economics model applied in Amsterdam, taking into account the experiences of other European cities. The dissertation discusses issues related to: (1) the challenges of contemporary cities, (2) quality of life, (3) defining sustainable development, (4) the doughnut economics model, and (5) the role of public participation in the implementation of this model.

The main hypothesis assumes that the involvement of different stakeholder groups supports the implementation of sustainable development principles in cities and improves the quality of life of their residents. Additionally, the detailed hypotheses propose that the challenges of contemporary cities intensify the challenges of shaping the quality of life level, and that the role of city authorities is to implement the principles of sustainable

development based on the city development strategy and public participation using appropriate tools and instruments.

The verification of these hypotheses required a triangulation of quantitative and qualitative methods. The methods used included: critical analysis of literature and document content; analysis of statistical data; case studies of Gdańsk and Amsterdam; a CAWI survey of selected Polish cities of all sizes, residents of Gdańsk and selected municipal units and NGOs in Gdańsk; and individual in-depth interviews with representatives of selected Polish cities, municipal units in Gdańsk and NGOs.

The results of the research permitted the formulation of conclusions. Public participation is a crucial element in implementing sustainable development principles in cities and can determine the success of actions taken. The level of public participation depends on the size of the city. The larger the city, the more active the stakeholders, possibly due to more local leaders and NGO activities. Quality of life is also determined by the place of residence, which depends on neighbourhood, assessment of neighbourhood relations and sense of empowerment. An important factor is assessing the quality of life in a neighbourhood. The higher it is, the lower the participation in participatory processes. A low level of public participation can result in insufficient recognition of stakeholder needs, which can lead to slower implementation of measures due to protests and conflicts.

This dissertation proposes a model for implementing the doughnut economics adapted to Polish conditions, particularly in Gdansk. The role of stakeholder participation in the process of implementing sustainable development principles in cities is often marginalised in the literature. This research gap has been filled by the author in this dissertation. Additionally, the research carried out provides motivation for further studies.

**Keywords:** *city development, sustainable development, doughnut economics, public participation, urban policy*