FACTORS AND BARRIERS AFFECTING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY
OF RURAL AREAS IN POLAND

Key words: diversity of local development, social capital, rural politics, local development

SUMMARY

Agriculture is most important, but not the only direction of economic activity in rural areas. Diversification of local economy i.e. the development of many non-agricultural functions becomes an important problem in view of the increasing number of people not associated with agriculture, decreasing role of agriculture and large unemployment. So understood multi-functional development should prevent populations in rural areas from becoming a recipient of the social welfare. Undertaking new non-agricultural functions in traditional countryside should result in minimising unemployment and in the enhancement of business activities which are a prerequisite of every economic growth. Multifunctional development will not solve all difficult problems of Polish village but is one of many possibilities to improve the situation in rural areas.

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