

The state and prospects for the development of railway transport infrastructure in Eastern Poland – secondary data analysis

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Abstract: According to the World Economic Forum, the transport infrastructure is one of the twelve pillars of every economy's competitiveness. Well-developed transport infrastructure affects a business location, integrates the national market and reduces the effect of distance between regions. Furthermore, the quality and extensiveness of infrastructure (both road and rail), determine the economic growth of the country and its particular regions. The aim of the article is to present the state of development of railway transport infrastructure in Eastern Poland (including five provinces located close to the eastern border of the country), as well as the analysis of basic indicators characterizing this aspect of the regional development of the analysed area in comparison to other Polish regions. The main directions of development of the railway transport infrastructure in Eastern Poland, which are described in both the national and EU strategic documents, will also be analysed. The research method that will be used to achieve the purpose of the article is the analysis of secondary data, including statistical data obtained from the Central Statistical Office in Poland as well as analysis of strategic documents, where the crucial directions of development of Eastern Poland are described. We also put forth our own concept of ranking voivodships based on available statistical data whose aim was to show the level, to which the various regions of Poland differ from each other when it comes to the development of rail infrastructure. The results of the analyses will have managerial implications. They will provide the source of considerable information for regional authorities of the eastern region of Poland in terms of differences in the level of development of the railway infrastructure of Eastern Poland and other regions of Poland.

Keywords: railway transport infrastructure; transport policy; Eastern Poland; regional development; transport accessibility.

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