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## **THE COMPLIANCE OF THE CITY OF GDAŃSK DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Introduction**

The concept of sustainable development appeared in the public life of states, regions and smaller areas at the end of last century. The concept was used for the first time at a conference in Stockholm in 1972 and it was only in 1992 during the first Earth Summit that it was developed further. Nowadays, the principles of sustainable development determine the direction of the management policy of a growing number of states, regions, and local communities.

The concept of sustainable development, although defined in slightly different ways by various researchers and entities, usually refers to three spheres of public life, which are often called orders, namely: social, economic and environmental. The application of these groups of factors results in the enhancement of the quality of life; '...sustainable development, instead of juxtaposing the objectives of environmental protection with social and economic goals, is based on harmonisation and association of these objectives' [1]. Such an attitude makes it possible to define sustainable development as a process of economic development which takes into account the need to protect the environmental and the natural resources and respects the principles of social equality and justice. The criteria, that is economic efficiency, social acceptance and environmental protection, have also been considered in the following definitions of sustainable development:

- '... the process that comprises social and economic transformations, in which – in order to provide different states and their citizens, both living today and in future, with equal access to the environment – political, economic and social activities are integrated, while maintaining environmental equilibrium and stability of basic social processes' [2],
- '... the socioeconomic development in which political, economic and social activities are integrated while maintaining environmental balance and stability of basic natural processes so as to ensure the possibility of satisfying basic needs of the societies and their members, both present as well as future ones' [3].

The spheres mentioned in the definitions roughly cover the following activity areas:

- social sphere – activities regarding demography, social welfare, education, communication, culture, security, health services, unemployment, housing issues;
- economic sphere – activities related to industry, services, agriculture, labour market, tourism industry, both with regard to the structure as well as growth dynamics;
- ecological sphere – natural environment, spatial development, and the activities that affect their functioning.

The activity which aims at improving the quality of life by influencing the above mentioned areas makes it possible to fully implement the idea of sustainable development

### **1. The properties of the city of Gdańsk development strategy**

The City Of Gdańsk Development Strategy Till 2015 [4] is an update of the document drawn up already in 1998. As has already been indicated, it is a result of a compromise reached by the representatives of different spheres of city life. The city authorities, namely the mayor, the deputy mayor and the members of the city council, were also engaged in the formulation of the document and the overall supervision was conducted by a specially appointed committee. The document comprises four main parts: the description of the current state, the SWOT analysis, the visions and objectives, and the operational programmes. The current state is described as "The tendencies in the development and the transformation of Gdańsk", and has been divided into three thematic sections: citizens, economy, and culture. Although the sections do not correspond directly to the orders of sustainable development, they describe in principle all aspects contained in each of them. Another part is the SWOT analysis, also conducted in the three aforementioned areas. The next element of the strategy is the vision. No mission has been specified yet when the vision is well-formulated it is not regarded as a technical error. The objectives – i.e. the subsequent part of the strategy – are divided into strategic and specific ones. They are presented in the same three major areas as before. The last element of the strategic document comprises operational programmes for the years 2005-2009. Their temporal range has been defined correctly as operational tasks should not exceed 5 years. However, there are some shortcomings: not each of the programmes has its individual coordinator, and when there is no person or entity responsible for supervising the tasks, they are likely not to be performed. Moreover, the cost of the programmes is not specified and there is no schedule for each undertaking. Although it is stated at the beginning of the document that the operational programmes will be

expanded on in the implementation programmes for the strategy, there is no information when those should be introduced or whether they have already been formulated. The website of the City Hall also does not provide information whether the implementation programmes have already been enforced or not. The lack of such programmes makes it practically impossible for any strategic document to be executed. The problem of various self-governmental strategies is the fact that at the end of a year the completed tasks are accommodated to meet the set strategies. We have to believe that it is not and will not be so in the case of Gdańsk strategy and that the shortcomings mentioned here will soon be overcome.

## 2. The analysis of the effect of operational programmes on the particular spheres of development

### 2.1 Research principles

The research was carried out based on the following premises:

1. The analysis was conducted for “Gdańsk Development Strategy Till 2015” operational programmes, or more specifically for one part of each of the programmes – “The predicted measurable outcomes”. Therefore, the research was based entirely on the strategic document. That is why the existing groups of sustainable development indices could not be used, even though it is well known that sustainable development management should be monitored through indices during the implementation and after the completion of a strategy.
2. The author of the research tried to associate each of the measurement criteria with one of the three orders of sustainable development: economic, social and ecological. Whenever there was doubt which sphere a given criterion should relate to, the author applied the “Implementation undertakings” which were also described in the operational programmes but which were not included in the article. In some cases, the measurement criterion referred directly to two or three orders - then it was placed in the table accordingly.
3. The presentation of the effect was limited to the determining whether such an effect does exist. It was not possible to specify the range of the effect.

Based on such premises, it was determined to what extent the principles of the strategy comply with the principles of sustainable development.

### 2.2 The achieved results and their analysis

The determination of the effect of the tasks set to be implemented in the course of the execution of Gdańsk development strategy on the spheres of sustainable development has been presented in the following table.

Table 1: The effects of the results of “Gdańsk Development Strategy Till 2015” implementation programmes on the substantial development spheres

Number and name of the operational programme	Assumed measurable outcomes	Effect on the particular spheres of development		
		social	economic	ecological
1. Healthy Gdańsk Citizens	A decrease in the number of addicts	v		
	A decrease in the number of occurrences of social diseases	v		
	A decrease in the number of new cases of civilisation diseases	v		
	Longer life expectancy	v		
	An increase in the number of people doing sports activities	v		
2. Well-educated Citizens of Gdańsk	An increase in the education level of the citizens	v		
	An increase in the number of citizens who continue their education, enhance or change their qualifications	v		
	A decrease in the number of the unemployed, incl. unemployed graduates	v		
	An increase in the rate of high school leavers who attend undergraduate studies	v		
	An improvement in the results of external examination	v		

3.	Gdańsk science in Europe	An increase in the number of teaching staff	v		
		An increase in the number of students	v		
		An increase in the number of scientific and research projects conducted by Gdańsk universities	v		
		A rise in the education level	v		
		A rise in the position of Gdańsk universities	v		
		An improvement in the international co-operation of Gdańsk universities	v		
4.	Hevelianum	An increase in the area of revitalised land			v
		An increase in the number of new workplaces		v	
		An increase in the numbers of tourists who visit <i>Grodzisko</i>		v	
		An increase in the number of companies located in revitalised areas		v	
		An increase in the number of tourists		v	
5.	e-Gdańsk	An increase in the number of individuals and business who settle formalities via the Internet	v	v	
		An increase in the number of people who visit the official city website	v	v	
		An increase in the number of public Internet access points	v		
		An increase in the number of formalities that can be handled via the Internet	v	v	
6.	Sport in Gdańsk	An increase in the number of citizens who use sport facilities	v		
		An increase in the number of tourists		v	
		An increase in the number of large sport events organised in Gdańsk Metropolis	v		
		An increase in the number of cultural events organised in Gdańsk Metropolis	v		
7.	Gdańsk - a city of equal opportunities	A decrease in the number of socially secluded individuals	v		
		An increase in the number of people facing social seclusion who make use of sport, educational and cultural facilities	v		
		An increase in the social activity of individuals facing social seclusion	v		
		An improvement in the health and safety conditions of the groups in danger of social seclusion	v		
		A decrease in the number of the unemployed	v		
8.	Safe Gdańsk	A decrease in the number of road accident fatalities	v		
		A decrease in crime rate	v		
		An increase in the crime detection rate	v		
		Enhancement of the public confidence in the police and municipal police	v		
		An enhancement of the sense of safety and security	v		
		An increase in the surface water retention capacity	v		
		An increase in the number of illuminated streets and squares	v		
9.	Gdańsk – a green city	An increase in the green areas			v
		A decrease in gas and dust emission			v
		A decline in the water contamination level			v
		A decline in the noise level			v
		An increase in the amount of external funds for environmental protection			v
		An increase in the amount of recycled waste			v
		A modern waste storage and recycling plant			v
10	Gdańsk - a better place for living	An improvement in the housing quality factors	v		
		A decrease in the outflow of wealthy citizens		v	
		An increase in the number of sold flats and houses		v	
		An increase in the number of changed council flats	v		
		A rise in the number of newly built flats	v		
11	Healthy water for Gdańsk	An increase in the number of infrastructure connections	v		
		An increase in the number of citizens using communal infrastructure	v		
		An improvement in the quality of potable water	v		

12	Gdańsk revitalisation programme	An improvement in the housing indices	v		
		An increase in the number of buildings constructed in the revitalised areas	v		
		An increase in the number of renovated buildings	v		
		An increase in the inflow of tourists		v	
		An increase in the revenue on tourism		v	
		An increase in the number of workplaces in the revitalised districts.		v	
13	Gdańsk – a sea of tourist attractions	An increase in the inflow of tourists during the season		v	
		An increase in the number of tourists out of season		v	
		An increase in the revenue on tourism		v	
		An increase in the workplaces in the tourist industry sector		v	
		An increase in the number of moored yachts		v	
		An increase in the number of congresses and conferences organised in the city		v	
14	Gdańsk – smooth communi- cation	An increase in the lengths of the roads	v	v	
		An increase in the length of the roads with improved surface	v	v	
		An increase in the length of modernised roads	v	v	
		An increase in the length of bicycle routes	v		
		An increase in the number of people using public transport	v		v
		An increase in the length of tram tracks	v		
15	Gdańsk Metropolis	An improvement in the accessibility of intracity communication	v		
		Common Public Transport Council	v		
		Common solutions regarding public transport fares	v		
16	Invest in Gdańsk	An increase in the city investments (production, services, housing)		v	
		An increase in the number of people employed in the newly established companies		v	
17	Gdańsk – a city friendly to investors	An increase in the number of small and medium size companies		v	
		An increase in the income of small and medium size companies		v	
		An increase in the employment in small and medium size companies		v	
		A decline in unemployment	v		
		An improvement in the survival rate of the companies		v	
18	Gdańsk – a city of modern technologies	An increase in the number of advanced technology companies		v	
		An increase in the participation of advanced technologies in gross local product		v	
		An increase in the employment in the advanced technology sector		v	
19	Gdańsk – a city open to the sea	An increase in the contribution of logistics to the gross local product		v	
		An increase in the contribution of marine sector to the gross local product		v	
		An increase in the employment in the logistics sector		v	
		An increase in the employment in the maritime sector		v	
		An increase in the accessibility of public transport in Gdańsk Metropolis		v	
		An increase in the value added of transhipped products		v	
20	Gdańsk database	Development of Gdańsk database	v	v	v
		Establishment of a database of Gdańsk districts	v		
		Establishment of an integrated database of Gdańsk Metropolis	v	v	v
		Creation of a comparison database	v	v	v
21	Gdańsk – an international city	An increase in the number of foreign investments		v	
		An increase in the number of tourists		v	
		An increase in the number of joint development projects	v	v	
22	Gdańsk as a Cultural Capital of Europe	An increase in the number of cultural events	v		
		An increase in the number of participants of cultural events	v		
		An increase in the number of tourists due to an enhancement of the cultural offer		v	
		An increase in the profits from cultural and paracultural activities		v	
		An increase in the significance of cultural events organised in Gdańsk	v		
		Nomination of Gdańsk as the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2016	v		
		Gdańsk City Centre on the UNESCO World Heritage List	v		
		New cultural sites	v		
Total: 122, incl.:			65	45	12

The analysis of the measurement criteria selected for the estimation whether the objectives set in the Gdańsk development strategy have been met leads to the following conclusions:

1. The strategy comprises 22 operational programmes.
2. Slightly more than half of all the operational programmes concern just one area. This should not be treated as a mistake. It seems that some of the operational programmes were deliberately narrowed down so that they would relate to one of the substantial development orders only. A good example is programme number 9 – “*Gdańsk – a green city*”, or no. 7 – *Gdańsk – a city of equal opportunities* – which deals with the problems of social seclusion and its consequences. The idea of sustainable development implies the necessity of simultaneous consideration of social, economic, as well as ecological factors to ensure that the operations in one sphere do not deteriorate the state of the other sphere; they can be neutral in relation to one another, though.
3. In the sphere of ecology, the measurement criteria are far more seldom used than in the other two. Only every tenths measurement outcome concerns the environment.
4. As regards the two other orders, the distribution is more or less even. The greatest attention is devoted to the social sphere – 65 out of 122 undertakings, which is slightly more than 50%. This is satisfactory, especially bearing in mind the fact that a local self-government operates within the borders specified by law and needs to implement the tasks which are its statutory obligations. A great number of the tasks are related to the social sphere, such as public transport, health protection, social welfare, public education, and council housing.
5. The measurements regarding the economic sphere are conducted slightly less often, yet this frequency should also be considered satisfactory. It can be safely assumed that every third examination of the outcomes of the strategy implementation will be of economic character.

## Summary

The development strategy of the city of Gdańsk was created to enable the implementation of the idea of sustainable development. The fact was emphasized on numerous occasions in the text of the document, for example in the introduction, in which the authors explain the assumed directions of transformation of Gdańsk, or in the description of the state of the environment and the natural advantages of the city. One of the stages of the audit of sustainable development is the evaluation of the strategic plans of the territorial units based on the following two criteria: the first one is the evaluation of the document with regard to its structure and clarity, the second - the degree of its compliance with the principle of sustainable development [5]. The fulfilment of the first criterion, apart from the issues mentioned in chapter 2, is not questioned as the strategy is presented using clear terms and the complies with the rules of strategic planning. What is even more important, the process of its formulation was public in its character - which means that numerous groups were involved in it: local communities, authorities, local leaders. However, the second criterion has not been satisfied completely. Not enough attention is paid to the ecological sphere, especially bearing in mind the fact that some activities, such as an increase in the inflow of tourists, the number of yachts moored in the marina, the total length of the roads, the number of production investments, etc., involve an increase in the exploitation of natural resources. In such a situation, in the future years of the implementation of the strategy, special attention should be paid to the sphere. It is necessary to conduct regular monitoring of the state of the environment in Gdańsk, not only with regard to the pollution level (which has already been planned in the strategy), but also with regard to the effect of the undertaken activities, especially the economic ones, on the state of the environment.

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## **Abstract**

This article aims at presenting the development strategy of the city of Gdańsk, which is then analysed with regard to the compliance with the principles of sustainable development. The first part of the article presents the basic principles of sustainable development; which can be summarised as activities that are economically sound, socially acceptable and friendly to the environment. The second part of the publication discusses the main directions of the development of Gdańsk – the capital of Pomorskie province, a city located at the sea and dominated by shipbuilding and advanced technology industries as well as well-developed tourism. Finally, having compared the directions of the city development and the principles of sustainable development, the author draws conclusions regarding the compliance of these directions with the principle of improvement of the quality of life, which takes into account social, economic and ecological factors.

*Keywords: strategic planning, sustainable development, development strategy, local development*