



Resituating the Local in Cohesion and Territorial Development



**Case Study Report**

**The Development of Rural Public Places in the  
Villages of Domachowo, Potarzyce and Stara Krobia  
Poland**

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## Table of Contents

<b>List of Figures .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>List of Maps .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>List of Tables.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Methodological Reflection .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. The Locality of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Territorial Context and Characteristics of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca .....	6
3.2 Spatial (in-)justice and territorial governance within Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca .....	12
<b>4. The Action.....</b>	<b>22</b>
4.1 Basic Characteristics of the Action .....	22
4.2 Evaluation of the Implementation of the Action in Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca .....	25
<b>5. Final Assessment: Capacities for Change .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>6. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>7. References .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>8. Annexes.....</b>	<b>37</b>
8.1 List of Interviewed Experts.....	37
8.2 Stakeholder Interaction Table .....	37
8.3 Map(s) and Photos.....	38
8.4 Additional information.....	48

## List of Figures

		Title page
Figure 1	<i>Rural renewal model</i>	3
Figure 2	<i>Investigation in a case study Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca</i>	3
Figure 3	<i>Focus group in progress</i>	4
Figure 4	<i>Investigative walk</i>	5

## List of Maps

Map 1	<i>Location of the municipality of Krobia in Poland</i>	9
Map 2	<i>Location of the villages considered in the municipality of Krobia</i>	10
Map 3	<i>Spatial pattern of the developments in Domachowo: A – 1933, B – 2018</i>	10
Map 4	<i>Spatial pattern of the developments in Starej Krobi: A – 1933, B – 2018</i>	11
Map 5	<i>Spatial pattern of the developments in Potarzyca: A – 1933, B – 2018</i>	11
Map 6	<i>Centres of the village of Domachowo</i>	16
Map 7	<i>Perception of characteristic and important places in Domachowo</i>	17

## List of Tables

Table 1	Schedule of stages and tasks	3
Table 2	Basic socioeconomic characteristics of the Domachowo Village (various sources)	11-12
Table 3	Basic socioeconomic characteristics of the Stara Krobia Village (various sources)	12
Table 4	Basic socioeconomic characteristics of the Potarzyca Village (various sources)	12-13
Table 5	Assessments of spatial injustice in the strategic documents of the City and Municipality Office in Krobia	19-20
Table 6	Projects implemented in Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca	23-25

## Abbreviations

EFRD	European Fund for Regional Development
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

## Executive Summary

Shaping of the rural public space, with determination of the joint practices, linking this process, as occurring in the three villages – Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca – constitutes the action, whose effects concern the local scale, the level of neighbourhood and of the local community. These effects have, therefore, not only the character of the social consequences, but also of the ones understood more broadly in cultural and (primarily) in spatial dimensions. The concrete action, selected for the study (having the origins in and resulting from the grass roots initiative of the inhabitants, with articulation of the needs of various groups of local stakeholders) has as its objective evening out of the spatial and social disproportions, building up of local identity and identification, as well as the feeling of effective impact on and responsibility of the inhabitants for their place of residence. “Endowing” the space with various resources or evening out their level with respect to other fragments of the villages, constitutes a process of development of the functions of a place, but also of the acquisition of inhabitants’ knowledge about each other, both being of high importance for the local society.

It is significant that the action, selected for the RELOCAL project, is carried out in the framework of the nation-wide program of Rural Renewal, financed from the EU funds. The fundamental assumption is that the action is a bottom-up initiative, mobilising human and social resources, this initiative contributing to the quality of life and the improvement of conditions for rural residents, and to the strengthening of the identity of local societies.

All three localities share common traits, which form together the ensemble of preconditions for the contemporary social activity. They encompass, in particular: the compact character of the settlements, giving rise to close spatial and social neighbourhoods; existence of historical continuum of public spaces in the form of squares inside the villages, and of other forms of spatial patterns having pro-social properties, road networks, and hydro-graphic objects (ponds); location of the service facilities, strengthening the economic, social and cultural functions, i.e. churches and other religious structures, village community centres, fire brigade houses, ancient manor farms, schools and other educational facilities; farming character of the localities, meaning a definite social commonality of problems and activities.

As demonstrated by the results of the study and the in-depth case analysis, the success of the functionally shaped rural public space (conform to the principles of spatial justice), is conditioned by numerous factors. These factors concern the very project (the concrete initiatives) and they can be referred to as the internal factors of the project. This means that in the effect of realisation of the project, the transformed space ought to be: generally accessible, associated with the character of the village, accounting for and preserving the rural character, oriented at a concrete user, friendly and responsive to the needs of the inhabitants, functional, and incorporating the concept for its further maintenance.

There do also exist the factors external with respect to the project, whose appearance is decisive for the success of the operation: **presence of a leader, openness and will to collaborate with the leader of the local society, local organisations, associations and other legal entities**, as well as a **consistent idea of village development** by the local community. Over a longer time horizon, this kind of strategy will bring to the inhabitants not only satisfaction, but also concrete material benefits, putting in motion, thereby, the **process of self-propelling development**.



## 1. Introduction

„The development of the public space within rural areas” is the case that was realised in three villages, situated in the region of Wielkopolska, namely Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca (map. 1). These three villages have a long period of experience in the domain of implementation of rural renewal programs. The actions, undertaken in the framework of the broadly understood renewal of rural areas, have been oriented at both material and non-material aspects of transformations. They were meant alike to serve the improvement of the life quality of inhabitants in the three villages mentioned (fig. 1).

The implemented “rural renewal” in Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca consisted, in particular, in a variety of practical actions and their effects, concerning rural space, these effects having quantitative character, and also involving the qualitative changes. Especially well visible in the space of the villages are these undertakings, which are associated with the modernisation and improvement of public space within the areas of the villages considered – like, e.g., development of the areas around the village community facilities, playgrounds, or increased and enhanced greenery and recreation areas.

An essential effect, related to the concept of rural renewal in the villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca is represented by the fact that the very residents themselves initiated the changes in their respective localities, jointly attempted to improve their quality of life and their economic independence, constituting the moving force of development in their villages. At the same time, the residents of these villages feel responsible for what they can do for themselves and for the future generations, caring for their identity, but also not foregoing the available modern technical solutions or the concepts, which are, for instance, taken advantage of in the EU countries. The care for the preservation of identity, i.e. of the elements allowing for the distinction, recognition or indication of separate character of the given locality, is, in the case of villages, making a part of the folkloristic micro-region of Biskupizna, a very important task.

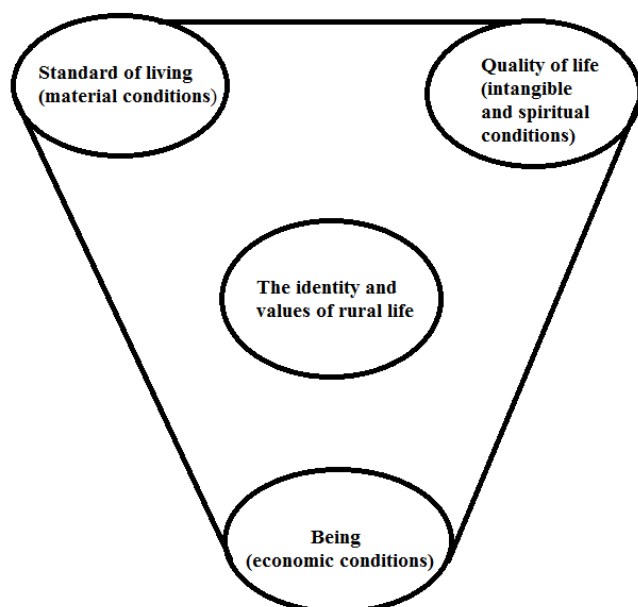
The inhabitants of the villages considered, when undertaking the activities oriented at the shaping of the public space, were not only the animators of the respective changes, but also their proper subjects. The activities, making up the renewal in question of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, have also the dimension of the social changes, leading to the deepening of the integration of the rural communities (through, for instance, establishment of the Local Action Groups by the inhabitants), and to the improvement of the economic prerequisites by the development of the enterprising attitudes.

The activities mentioned, undertaken in Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, are aimed at limiting or liquidating the spatial and social inequalities. This is done by means of the proper development of public space, this space being the common good of the village residents, supposedly satisfying their various needs (fig. 2).

Stage	Tasks	Timing	Location
Stage I	Preparation of the concept and study plan	April-May 2018	Desk research, University of Lodz
Stage II	Study visits	June-July 2018	The area of the village of Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca, Krobia Commune Office
Stage	1. Participation in the VII Festival of	09.04.2018	Domachowo village

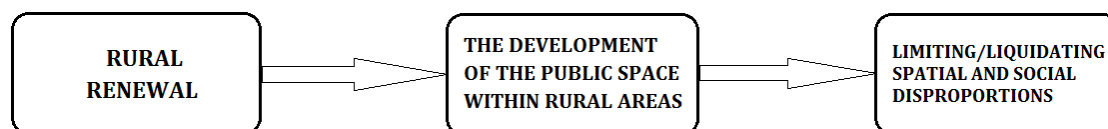
III	<p>Tradition and Foklor in Domachowo and the Festival of Identity and Cul- ture of the Renewed Village</p> <p>2. Focus research with stakeholders - employees from the Krobia Commune Office, local leaders from Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca (village chiefs, employees of associations)</p> <p>3. Individual interviews with employ- ees from the Krobia Commune Office, local leaders from Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca (village chiefs, employees of associations)</p>	<p>18.09.2018</p> <p>19.09.2018</p>	<p>The area of the village of Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca</p> <p>The area of the village of Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca</p>
Stage IV	Processing and summarising the ma- terial collected; preparation of the report	December 2018 – January 2019	Desk work, University of Lodz

**Table 1:** Schedule of stages and tasks



**Fig. 1.** Rural renewal model

Source: Wilczyński R. (2008): Programy odnowy wsi w Polsce. [w:] J. Wilkin i I. Nurzyńska (red.): Polska wieś 2008. Raport o stanie wsi, Warszawa, FDPA - Fundacja na Rzecz Rozwoju Polskiego Rolnictwa.



**Fig. 2.** Investigation in a case study Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca



## 2. Methodological Reflection

In view of the objective and the subject of the study performed, and also in view of the specific features of the very case at hand (the study, namely, encompassed the processes, associated with the development of the rural public space in three villages: Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca), the decision was taken to apply the methodological triangulation. The benefits from this approach concentrate on the enhancement of quality of the research conducted, with simultaneous limitation to the error of the potential measurement. The manoeuvre of applying various, complementary investigation techniques – in the situation of this particular case – allows for the multiple testing of the very same hypothesis, while overcoming the limitations and shortcomings of the particular techniques, when applied individually. In the study reported, triangulation was applied intentionally, also in terms of deepening of investigation and broadening of the knowledge on the context of the phenomenon studied. In connection with the above, eight in-depth interviews were conducted with the local village marshals and activists. For the village of Domachowo the in-depth interview was complemented with the mental maps, concerning the perception and evaluation of the public space in this village. On the top of this, focus group was organised, including the most important stakeholders of development, representing various sectors (mayor, deputy mayor, officer in the municipality office, councillors, village marshals, representatives of the NGOs, local activists). Besides, use was made of the mobile interactive method, constituted by the investigative walk. This method was applied for the villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca. It was performed according to a plan, determined in conformity with the research dispositions, and its participants were the local stakeholders, taking directly part in the projects, meant to renew the public spaces. It had the form of a structured narrative on the village, constituting an appropriate and a very important component of the study.



**Fig. 3:** Focus group in progress



**Fig. 4.** Investigative walk

### 3. The Locality of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca

#### 3.1 Territorial Context and Characteristics of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca

Conform to the prerequisites of the RELOCAL project, for purposes of the present case, a locality was selected with obvious challenges of spatial justice and coping strategies for improving living conditions. With respect to the present report, the study included three villages, situated in the municipality of Krobia: Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca – i.e. three out of 12 localities, constituting the folkloristic microregion of Biskupizna<sup>1</sup> (with its capital in Krobia) – map. 1, 2. Each of the three villages is characterised by its own, separate local specificity, but all of them feature one common quality – the need and the will of adequately responding to the challenges, associated with the development of common, public spaces, in accordance with the determinants of the principles of spatial and social justice.

##### **Domachowo:**

Domachowo is a locality, situated in the western part of the commune of Krobia, at the distance of some 6 km from the centre of the town of Krobia (map. 2). This village has agricultural and service character. Typical farmyard types of structures dominate in the landscape (map. 3). The village is compact, with the structures distributed around an irregular square. Behind the farmyards, two side roads facilitate the access to the fields and to the barns. The fields, belonging to the farms, are separated among themselves by the internal roads, constituting the boundaries of the estates, running in parallel. The integration of farm plots by the farmers caused that the ownership plots got bigger and the roads between the individual fields are now more sparse. Entry routes lead to the village, these routes joining near to the church. It should be noted that in the village of Domachowo the settlement structures are highly consistent with the elements of natural environment. The fields, surrounding the village, constitute its background, while the roads behind the fences form the bordering line between the working space and the residential space. When looking at the village from the outside, one clearly sees the compact, harmonious silhouette, with the dominating church tower. Red roofs of the buildings provide the feeling of orderliness, cohesion, continuity of development, strengthened by the traditionally placed greenery. Valuable old trees protect the historical central part of the village, and especially its “social heart” – the church.

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<sup>1</sup> **Biskupizna** is a folkloric microregion located in the southwest of Wielkopolska. Its territory includes twelve villages: Bukownica, Chumiętki, Domachowo, Grabianowo, Posadowo, Potarzyca, Sułkowice, Stara Krobia, Wymysłowo, Żychlewo, Sikorzyn, Rębowo. Since the Middle Ages until the Partitions of Poland this land was in Possession of Poznań bishops, and in krobia was bishops' residence. Thanks to a lesser burden associated with socage under the rules of bishops the economic situation of local peasants was significantly better than of others governed by nobility. In the period of Partitions Biskupizna was included into the so-called Krobia Economy, which was directly managed by the Prussian administration. This allowed for a relatively early and on favourable terms enfranchisement of peasants. All this prompted the rise of the feeling of certain individuality and elitism, which even today is manifested by a vivid Biskupian folk culture, distinctive among other Wielkopolska subregions. At present, Biskupian folklore is popularized by four folk bands operating in Krobia Commune. Old folk ceremonies, such as katarzynki, podkoziołek or winiec are still practiced here and they are always associated with the performance of folk songs accompanied by traditional band consisting of a piper and a violinist.

The wooden church is the particularly important place for the residents of Domachowo. They identify it as the oldest, beautiful, developmental, characteristic place, being, at the same time, the place of meetings, with no negative designations associated with it in their assessments (see the Map 7). As an object, it is also a very significant and irreplaceable element of one of the three village centres, mapped by the respondents. In itself, it constitutes an important element of identity of the inhabitants of Domachowo, their reason for pride. The historical significance of the church makes out of it the “cultural anchor” of the entire village.

The parish church of St. Michael Archangel was erected in 1568 upon foundation by the bishop Adam Konarski. It was rebuilt in 1775 and extended in 1930. It is a log frame structure, with the roof covered with shingles. Numerous important historical objects can be found inside, including the main altar from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in rococo style. There are also works, associated with the folklore of Biskupizna, like the painting of Our Lady in the traditional dress of Biskupizna and the Judgment Day triptych. The baroque benches and two confessionals – some of them have been renovated, and others produced nowadays in conformity with the old model. In a side chapel one can see the classicist painting of St. Barbara from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In view of the high value of the historical and cultural heritage, as well as the features of the settlement structures, Domachowo as such is conservation-wise protected (including the spatial setting of the village – the oval village). This is mainly related to the protection and care for the cultural assets in general and the particular objects, listed in the register of monuments, urban (spatial) patterns of settlements, or landscape and architectural perspectives.

#### **Stara Krobia:**

This locality is situated in the northern part of the municipality of Krobia (map 1). Similarly as Domachowo, it has a farming and service character. The very first documented mentions of Stara Krobia date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but the settlement had existed well before, playing the role of a fair centre. This locality is also protected in terms of conservation care. The pattern of roads and the structures allows for classifying it as an oval village. Only a part of buildings (situated along the road towards Domachowo) forms a row village (map. 4). The initial pattern of the settlement is well preserved, and the new developments refer explicitly to it. The dominating kind of residential houses are the single-storey gabled structures with ridges parallel to the road. Yet, there are also two-storey buildings with flat roofs in the village, while the new buildings in the western part of the village are single-storey flat-roofed houses. The registers of the protection services contain numerous residential and farm buildings from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The locality of Stara Krobia has no significant industrial assets, since the dominating function of this settlement unit is agriculture (87 farms), agricultural production being primarily based on family farms.

#### **Potarzyca:**

The name of “Potarzyca” is most probably derived from the expression “po targu”, meaning “after the fair”. Potarzyca was a fair locality in the oldest times, earlier than Krobia. It is situated at the crossing of the roads from the North to the South and from the East to the West, thereby offering convenient conditions for trade. It was only when a castellany was established in Krobia, for purposes of better safety, the fairs were moved there. In the Middle Ages the significance of this village was higher, for one notes the existence of a church in 1419, yet 100 years later no trace of this church can be found. Most probably, a parish existed here between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The villages in the vicinity of



Krobia were established in the form of oval villages. In the case of Potarzyca the traces of this initial pattern can be still found, especially in the centre of the village (map. 5).

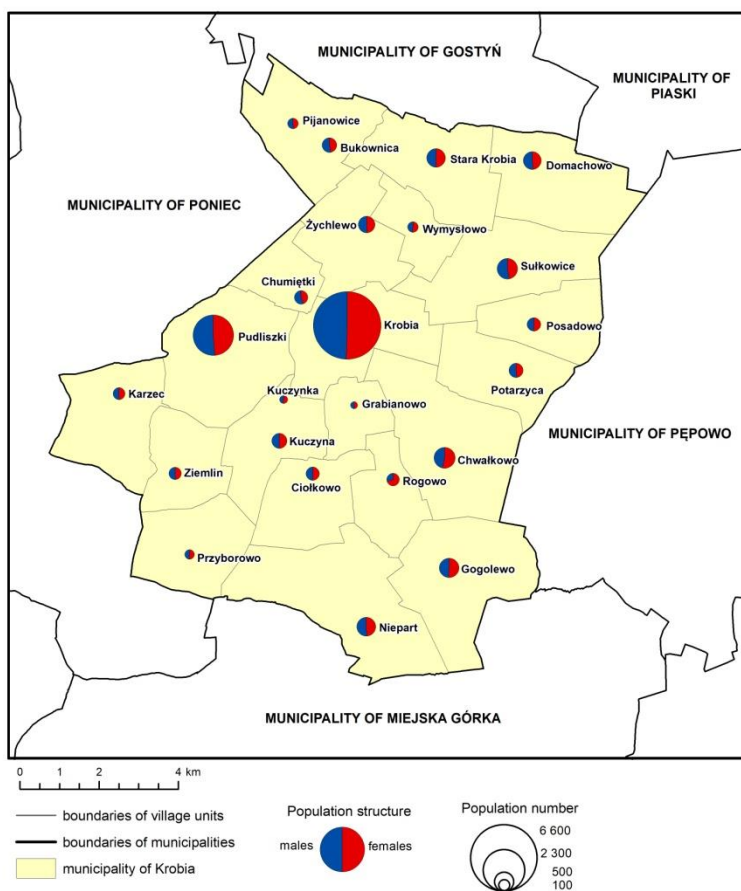
All three localities share common traits, which form together the ensemble of preconditions for the contemporary social activity. They encompass, in particular:

- the compact character of the settlements, giving rise to close spatial and social neighbourhoods;
- existence of historical continuum of public spaces in the form of squares inside the villages, and of other forms of spatial patterns having pro-social properties, road networks, and hydrographic objects (ponds);
- location of the service facilities, strengthening the economic, social and cultural functions, i.e. churches and other religious structures, village community centres, fire brigade houses, ancient manor farms, schools and other educational facilities;
- farming character of the localities, meaning a definite social commonality of problems and activities.

The villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca constitute the examples of rural areas, which initiated the transformations of public space, by undertaking numerous actions, oriented at the functional changes in this space. The public spaces in question required, in particular, the improvement in their aesthetics and in the safety of their users (Staszewska, 2018). The levels of advancement of the interventions, meant to eliminate the spatial injustice in public spaces of the villages mentioned, are different. The opinions of the respondents / inhabitants of the villages emphasise the fact of necessity of taking further steps, aimed at the elimination of various kinds

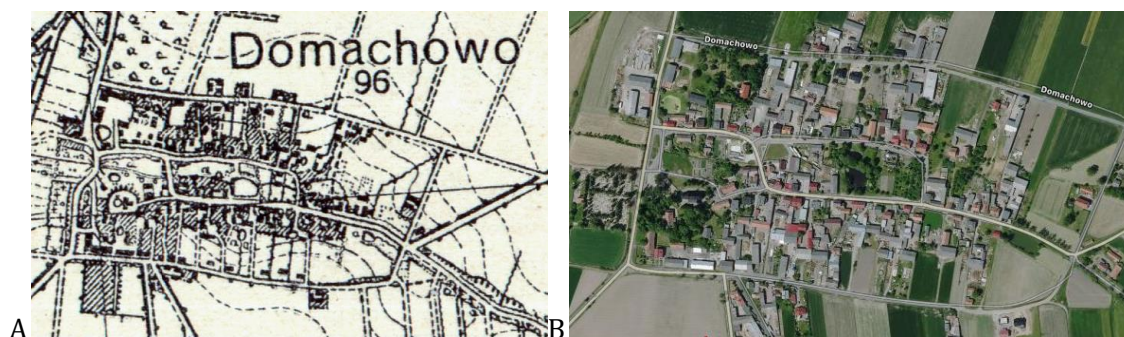


**Map. 1.** Location of the municipality of Krobia in Poland



**Map. 2.** Location of the villages considered in the municipality of Krobia

Source: Studium Uwarunkowań i Kierunków Zagospodarowania Przestrzennego Gminy Krobia, 2017, Krobia



**Map. 3.** Spatial pattern of the developments in Domachowo: A - 1933, B - 2018

Source: A: [http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG\\_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H\\_PEPOWO\\_1933.jpg](http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H_PEPOWO_1933.jpg), B-  
<https://satellites.pro/#51.812329,17.023101,16>





**Map. 4.** Spatial pattern of the developments in Starej Krobi: A – 1933, B - 2018

Source: A: [http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG\\_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H\\_PEPowo\\_1933.jpg](http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H_PEPowo_1933.jpg), B: <https://satellites.pro/#51.812329,17.023101,16>



**Map. 5.** Spatial pattern of the developments in Potarzyce: A – 1933, B - 2018

Source: A: [http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG\\_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H\\_PEPowo\\_1933.jpg](http://maps.mapywig.org/m/WIG_maps/series/025K/P41-S24-H_PEPowo_1933.jpg), B: <https://satellites.pro/#51.812329,17.023101,16>

Name of Case Study Area	Domachowo village
Size	29 ha
Total population (2011)	455 inhabitants
Population density (2011)	15.7 inhab./ha
Level of development in relation to wider socio-economic context Disadvantaged within a developed region/city? Disadvantaged within a wider underdeveloped region?	Within a developed region
Type of the region (NUTS3-Eurostat) Predominantly urban? Intermediate? Predominantly rural?	Predominantly rural - 48,6% women, 51,4% man, - 61.8% in working age, 20.2% in pre-working age, 18.0% in post-working age
Name and Identification Code of the NUTS-3 area, in which the locality is situated (NUTS 3 Code(s) as of 2013)	- Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014 – PL417 Leszczycki - Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 – PL 417 Leszczyński - Statistical classification in force Since 1 January 2018 – PL417 Leszczyński
Name and Identification Code of the NUTS-2 area, in which the locality is situated	- Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014 –

ated (NUTS 2 Code(s) as of 2013)	PL41 Wielkopolskie - Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 – PL 41 Wielkopolskie - Statistical classification in force Since 1 January 2018 – PL41 Wielkopolskie
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**Table 2:** Basic socio-economic characteristics of the area (Source)

Name of Case Study Area	Stara Krobia village
Size	
Total population (2011)	506 inhabitants
Population density (2011)	
Level of development in relation to wider socio-economic context Disadvantaged within a developed region/city? Disadvantaged within a wider underdeveloped region?	Within a developed region
Type of the region (NUTS3-Eurostat) Predominantly urban? Intermediate? Predominantly rural?	Predominantly rural - 50.2% women, 49.8% man, - 61.9% in working age, 25.3% in pre-working age, 12.8% in post-working age
Name and Identification Code of the NUTS-3 area, in which the locality is situated (NUTS 3 Code(s) as of 2013)	- Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014 – PL417 Leszczycki - Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 – PL 417 Leszczyński - Statistical classification in force Since 1 January 2018 – PL417 Leszczyński
Name and Identification Code of the NUTS-2 area, in which the locality is situated (NUTS 2 Code(s) as of 2013)	- Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014 – PL41 Wielkopolskie - Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 – PL 41 Wielkopolskie - Statistical classification in force Since 1 January 2018 – PL41 Wielkopolskie

**Table 3:** Basic socio-economic characteristics of the area (Source)

Name of Case Study Area	Potarzyca village
Size	
Total population (2011)	291 inhabitants
Population density (2011)	
Level of development in relation to wider socio-economic context Disadvantaged within a developed region/city? Disadvantaged within a wider underde-	Within a developed region

veloped region?	
Type of the region (NUTS3-Eurostat) Predominantly urban? Intermediate? Predominantly rural?	Predominantly rural - 47.8% women, 52.2% man, - 58.8% in working age, 25.1% in pre-working age, 16.2% in post-working age
Name and Identification Code of the NUTS-3 area, in which the locality is situated (NUTS 3 Code(s) as of 2013)	- Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014 – PL417 Leszczycki - Statistical classification in force between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 – PL 417 Leszczyński - Statistical classification in force Since 1 January 2018 – PL417 Leszczyński
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**Table 4:** Basic socio-economic characteristics of the area (Source)

### 3.2 Spatial (in-)justice and territorial governance within Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca

#### Analytical Dimension 1: Perception of spatial (in-)justice within the locality

The subjects of the study located without any difficulty the projects, the undertakings, and the areas of the village, which were associated with the process of renewal and formation of the public space in Domachowo. We mean here the Refuge, the parking lot, and the welcome next to the Church, the Goat market, the communal centre, the pond with a bench, and the fire brigade house. At the same time – and this is quite important – they classified these places as beautiful, developmental, the meeting places, and the characteristic places, being the symbols and the showrooms of the village (see the Map 6). It ought also to be noted that all those points mentioned were reflected in the village centres, mapped by the Respondents (see the Map 7). Namely, in the opinion of the Respondents, there are three centres of the village in Domachowo:

Centre 1: the area around the Church: parking lot, welcome stand, cemetery, the Refuge, and the Goat Market nearby

Centre 2: the area of the community centre facility, playground, and band shell

Centre 3: the pond with the bench and the shop nearby.

The centre of the village should be understood as constituted by the area of public space, as defined in Article 2, item 6, of the Law of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, on spatial planning and development (Dz. U. no. 80, item 717, with later changes). The law defines the area of public space as the area of a special significance for the satisfaction of needs of the inhabitants, improvement in their quality of life, and, at the same time, conducive to the establishment of social contacts, due to its location and the functional as well as spatial features.

The three village centres, which were identified by the Respondents, fulfil different functions in the village. Their common feature is the fact that they serve social integration, concentrate the inhabitants, and are the places of meeting. In addition – Centre 1 is the historical centre of the village, hierarchically important, fulfilling the representative function, located at the entrance to the village, along with the Church, playing an extremely important role in the community. This place is also, in the opinion of the Respondents, an all-accessible centre, regional and cultural – owing, as well, to the Refuge – “the place, where the story of the village begins” (PL1PubLI). The Refuge of Biskupizna is not only a communal integration facility – it is one of the two places, where the local society meets. It plays the role of the Cultural Centre of Biskupizna, hosting exhibitions, conferences, as well as the meetings of the Village Housewives Circle. The Refuge is also the home to the folklore ensemble of Domachowo, and the place of numerous workshops, events and festivities. The Refuge is also an hierarchically important place. It is identified not only by the inhabitants of the village, but also by the population of the vicinity, as being socially active. The refuge hosts frequently the traditional lace making workshops, sculptural workshops, painting events, culinary or fashion events. The purpose is to promote the culture of Biskupizna (transmission to the subsequent generations of the patterns and shapes characteristic for the local folklore, the custom and liking of cooking and baking, of producing useful objects). The products are distributed as the occasion arises, sold, or simply given away - the inhabitants of Domachowo share their culture in a variety of possible manners.

Not far from the Refuge there is the Goat Market, a smallish square surrounded with flowers, equipped with benches, on which one can sit down and relax. This is a so-called “small, pocket-sized square”. As an object, though, it gives rise to definite controversy among the inhabitants. Not everybody likes it, some people consider that it creates a dissonance in space – “it is a good place, but not the best, the reservations refer to its potential inconsistency with the character of the village” (PL1PubLI).

Then, Centre 2 is constituted by the area around the community integration facility, located at the other end of the village with respect to Centre 1. The very building of the facility does not give rise to adoration from the side of the inhabitants. They use the following adjectives, when speaking about it: “communist”, “from the socialist period”, “grey”, “contrasted with the Church”. These opinions, though, relate uniquely to the image and aesthetics of the building, which are not fully accepted by the inhabitants, while the functions of the facility are highly appreciated – it is an important, needed, functional object, the place of various activities of children and the young. Next to it, there is also a playground, organising the respective fragment of space, and the band shell. It is here that all of the popular events take place, including the festival of Biskupizna.

The third centre is situated in the manner typical for the square-centred villages. It encompasses a pond and a bench, currently under revitalisation, and a shop. This place concentrates the inhabitants in a natural way.

The situation is similar as far as the centres of the village of Stara Krobia are concerned. According to the marshal of the village, Roman Olejniczak (PL2PubLI), these central places are constituted by:

1. the area, where the shelter, the sporting facilities and the playground are situated,
2. the village community centre,
3. the area around the pond, with the fireplace and the benches,
4. the refurbished area around the grocery shop (greenery and benches).

All these places integrate the inhabitants of the village, while the shelter, which was erected upon the initiative from the village marshal, is the pride of the inhabitants, since it was



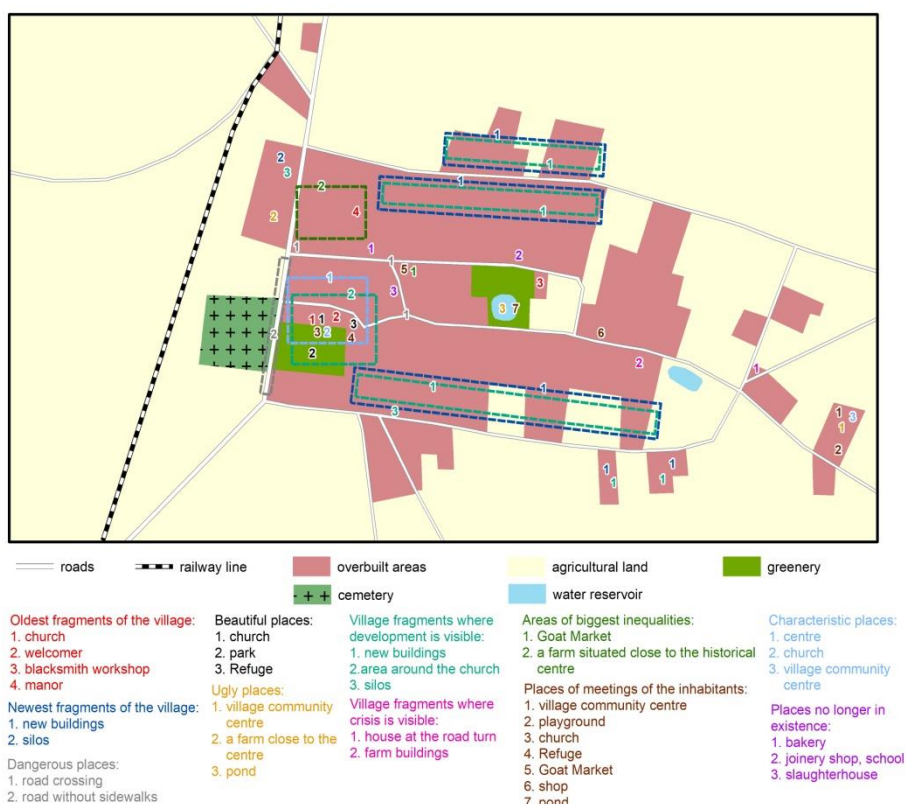
wholly constructed by their freewill effort. Nowadays, it is the place where the harvest festival, the festival called “Wiwatowisko” (“Hurray”, until recently known as “Camp of Wielkopolska”), and other events are taking place over the entire summer season. Different functions are fulfilled by the community centre, which is the place of the meetings of inhabitants, dancing parties, culinary workshops, Catherine’s cooking parties, and exercises for the schoolchildren. The third of the centres is the renovated area around the pond, where the young meet voluntarily. The older inhabitants prefer to spend their time in the summer time in the area around the grocery shop, where new greenery and the benches have been installed. “One feels in the village as if in a family” (PL2PubLI).

The village of Potarzyca has just a single centre, namely the place, where the village community facility is located, along with the fire brigade garage and the kindergarten. The area around these buildings has been put to order and now includes a gazebo, a soccer field and a beach volleyball field. In addition, the greenery of the area has been significantly enriched, and an outdoor gym was installed. Concentration of the public space in one location results in the high degree of usage of this place. Thus, the village community facility hosts the meetings of the local associations (including the Circle of Village Housewives), the workshops for children, and the occasional events (such as Seniors’ Day, Women’s day, Children’s day, Farewell to the Summer, or the dancing parties). The hall of the community facility is also being used for the commercial occasions, bringing revenue for the village (PL4PubLI, PL5PubLI).

We deal in the villages considered with different numbers of the central places of the settlement units, and with diversified ways of using these places. In the case of Potarzyca there is just a single location – the village community facility and the area around it. In Domachowo and Stara Krobia the centres of these villages are located in a couple of places. In the opinion of the mayor of the municipality of Krobia, Michał Listwoń (PL13PubLI), nowadays the common space is limited to the communal – municipality – space. The setting and the distribution of this space within the village is the consequence of the structure of land ownership, resulting from the historical conditioning. “Today, the space meant for common use became equivalent to community integration facilities, schools, roads. Earlier on there were yet the private spaces for common use. The inhabitants have at their disposal for common activities the space, which is owned by the self-government – it may be constituted by just a single plot, or a couple of plots” (PL13PubLI).



**Map. 6.** Centres of the village of Domachowo



**Map. 7.** Perception of characteristic and important places in Domachowo

The perception of the notion of „spatial justice” in the case of all the stakeholders (respondents from Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca) appears to be relatively similar.



The responses obtained were mutually complementary, indicating the unanimous nature of respective interpretation.

The actions, associated with the shaping and the renewal of public spaces conform to the principles of spatial justice were perceived by the respondents as being needed, important and amplifying the local social activity, mutual cooperation of the inhabitants, learning of the dialogue and the principles of social comprehension (especially with respect to the stage of social consultations, identification of own needs, and determination of the concepts). In the case of the projects, concerning the development of the public, commonly used spaces, this is insofar significant as the consequences of the respective decisions will reach all of the inhabitants. In order for the space to be socially useful and functional, it has to respond to the needs of the inhabitants, at least those articulated and democratically – via the majority of votes – established. In the opinion of one of the respondents: *“earlier, in older times, public space was being created by people in a natural manner, and thus, the paths ought to be created there, where they are already trodden”* (PL1PubLI).

The space, organised in accordance with the principles of spatial justice (sometimes taking an objective shape in the form of the concrete projects, devoted to it), is constituted by the space, which

- **“has equal chances to become aesthetic”** (an animator) – equalling the resources of the place in the drive towards getting beautiful, aesthetic, and friendly equipped;
- is **all-accessible**, i.e. such that everyone has an access to it, irrespective of the represented social group; *“An example is provided by the functioning of the Refuge, where, despite the existence of a rental deal, both the interests of the parish, the activities, undertaken by the parish, find their place there, and the needs of the village team, and those of the self-government as an institutional unit, as well as those of the inhabitants, are accounted for”* (PL1PubLI); *“The young and the elderly may take advantage of this space, there is the gym, which is not only for the young, but also for the older ones, who wish to gain reablement, without any limitation”* (PL4PubLI); *“this is the place for everybody, without exceptions, for every person, who wishes to and has a need to be in this place”* (PL3CivLI); *“Goat Market is for everybody, it is a meeting place”* (PL7PubLI).
- refers to the character of the village, accounting for and preserving the rural attributes – *“The space is for the people, the project (even if most strange) has to account for the characteristic (distinctive) elements of the given area (...) the principles determined and accepted generally, where my different aspects do not have at all to be a disturbance to the space, but may become a quality, a positive distinction”* (PL1PubLI); *“equalisation of the spatial chances in the village offers an opportunity for the village to take on a quality look as a whole – for the village to have the rural aesthetics”* (an animator); *“the historical elements must be visible, showing where this village comes from, with preservation of the setting, its attractiveness and aesthetics”* (PL8CivLI);
- must have a **concrete user, an active beneficiary of the space** – *“when forming the space, you have to know, for whom it is meant, and if you know for whom, you must include those people in what is going to be done in this space, allow them to design and to co-decide on it”* (PL1PubLI);
- is a **good and friendly place for its users** – it ought to be the place, where people feel well and comfortably, where one can relax, *“the inhabitants feel good, and not that someone other enforces it (the space) on them, and changes it”* (PL8CivLI);
- constitutes a response to the concrete needs of the inhabitants – *“The example of the Goat Market – evidently designed just as the Ladies would like – but assessed by the experts as a total mismatch, in disagreement with the principles, that is my impression. Yet, people needed this, they saw it in this manner, and owing to the design realised, the Ladies can put the place into order, and actually do this”* (PL1PubLI);
- is **planned with a concept for its further maintenance** – *“always, when planning a given public space, one should ponder and analyse, how will it be maintained later on.*

*When we plan a garden, then there must be some people to weed it afterwards (...) for instance, I cannot make a rose garden or a vegetable garden in a place, where there are no Ladies from the Housewives' Circle. It is the worst thing to do something and then to watch it overgrown and getting neglected" (PL1PubLI);*

■ is **functional**: *"the welcomers are for all the other people, while the Refuge plays the educational role, this undertaking defines the functions of this space" (an animator); "the Refuge – here the workshops are organised for children, the open air games. Justice is when each of us has the same chances of getting acknowledged with the traditions and customs of Biskupizna" (PL8CivLI).*

## **Analytical Dimension 2: Tools and policies for development and cohesion**

### **The notions of „social justice” and „spatial justice” in the strategic documents of Krobia City and Municipality Office**

#### ***Characteristic features of the social injustice space in the municipality of Krobia, with special emphasis on Domachowo<sup>2</sup>***

The most important of the currently valid strategic documents, namely the Strategy of Development of the Municipality of Krobia for the years 2014-2020, indicates that the municipality has a typically farming character. In the economic structure of the area, farming activity is complemented by the agricultural and food processing, as well as by the auxiliary services for farming. Tourism can be seen as an essential function of the municipality in a definite perspective. On the other hand, there is no social acceptance for the development of mining activity on the basis of the strip mining of the documented lignite deposits. The strategic document, referred to before, mentions that one of the features of the unjust space is the existence of digital exclusion areas. The Study of the conditions for and the directions of the spatial development of the municipality of Krobia specifies that the village of Domachowo is a unit of agricultural-and-service character.

The Local Program of Revitalisation of the Municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022 indicates that the space of the social injustice is constituted by the rural space, featuring insufficient social infrastructure (shortage of service provision), and also insufficient technical infrastructure (lack of possibility of reaching the service and taking advantage of it). It is pointed out in the Study of the conditions for and the directions of the spatial development of the municipality of Krobia that in spatial terms these areas are the ones affected by the strip mining exploitation of the mineral resources, used currently secondarily as illegal waste dumps. The Local Program of Revitalisation of the Municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022 signals the lack of locations for social integration on the territory of the municipality.

#### ***Reasons for the emergence of social injustice in the concrete fragments of space in the municipality of Krobia, with special emphasis on Domachowo***

The Strategy for the development of the Municipality of Krobia for the years 2014-2020 indicates two mutually connected negative social phenomena: population outflow and unemployment. The average educational level of the inhabitants of the commune remains

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<sup>2</sup> The Dimension 2 analysis was made for the entire Krobia commune (it also applies to the three selected for the case of the village: Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca). Nevertheless, the analysis was deepened for the village of Domachowo, due to the use of an additional tool in relation to this village - mental maps. This has its methodological justification.

at a constant, relatively low level. The reason of this fact lies in the outflow of the better educated people. It is important to note in this context that the problem of unemployment concerns, first of all, the less educated groups of the population. The agricultural character of the municipality causes that the non-agricultural jobs are not created on its territory, and so there is insufficient number of jobs for the better educated persons, capable of working in non-agricultural professions. At the same time, it should also be noted that after 2013 the negative demographic tendencies got significantly alleviated, primarily within the rural areas.

The Local Program of Revitalisation of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022 points out that among the reasons for the appearance of the social injustice one should first of all mention the poverty, affecting the dysfunctional families having more children, as well as the families, managing small acreage farms or farms on poor quality soils. Another source of appearance of social injustice in the municipality of Krobia is joblessness. The significance of the problem of poverty is expressed through the fact that the Long-term program of housing resource management in the municipality of Krobia for the years 2018-2022 indicates the necessity of increasing the reserve of the social dwellings by the municipality as associated with high probability of occurrence of multiple court-ruled evictions for the inhabitants of the municipality.

Document	Does the document present the maps of location of the areas in need of intervention?	Does the document present the maps of spatial directions of intervention?	Do the notions of „social justice” or „spatial justice” appear in the document?
1. Strategy of Development of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2014-2020	–	–	–
2. Study of the conditions for and the directions of the spatial development of the municipality of Krobia	+	+	–
3. Local Program of Revitalisation of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022	+	+	–
4. Long-term protection program for nutritional assistance „Assistance of the Municipality of Krobia concerning food provision” for the years 2014-2020	–	–	–
5. Long-term program of housing resource management in the municipality of Krobia for the years 2018-2022	–	–	–

Document	Does the document present the maps of location of the areas in need of intervention?	Does the document present the maps of spatial directions of intervention?	Do the notions of „social justice” or „spatial justice” appear in the document?
6. Environmental Protection Program of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2017-2020 with due account for the perspective until 2024	–	–	–
7. Municipal Program of Prevention and Fighting of the Alcohol Abuse Problem for the year 2018	–	–	–
8. Municipal Program of Countering Drug Abuse for the years 2016-2020	–	–	–
9. Municipal Program of Countering Home Aggression and Protection of Victims of Home Aggression for the years 2016-2020	–	–	–
10. Program of Educational Support for Gifted Children and the Young from the municipality of Krobia	–	–	–
11. Program of Family Support in the municipality of Krobia for the years 2016-2018	–	–	–
12. Program of cooperation of the municipality of Krobia with the NGOs	–	–	–

**Table 5.** Assessments of spatial injustice in the strategic documents of the City and Municipality Office in Krobia

***Location of the areas featuring social injustice in the municipality of Krobia, with special emphasis on Domachowo***

It ought to be stressed that the spatial context is partly neglected in the strategic documents of the municipality of Krobia. One should explicitly mention the documents, in which neither the problem spaces have been indicated, nor the spatial context was brought in of applying the instruments for solving the diagnosed problems and for realising the development goals, these documents being, namely: 1) Long-term protection program for nutritional assistance „Assistance of the Municipality of Krobia concerning food provision” for the years 2014-2020; 2) Long-term program of housing resource management in the municipality of Krobia for the years 2018-2022; 3) Municipal Program of Prevention and Fighting of the Alcohol Abuse Problem for the year 2018; 4) Municipal Program of Countering Drug Abuse for the years 2016-2020; 5) Municipal Program of Countering Home Aggression and Protection of Victims of Home Aggression for the years 2016-2020; 6) Program of Educational Support for Gifted Children and the Young from the municipality of Krobia; and, finally, 7) Program of cooperation of the municipality of Krobia

with the NGOs. On the other hand, the Environmental Protection Program of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2017-2020 with due account for the perspective until 2024 mentions the spatial context uniquely at the county and provincial levels of analysis. This was the consequence of the fact that the diagnostic studies, constituting the basis for the document mentioned, were carried out at the supra-municipal, mostly provincial, level. It is interesting to note that Domachowo, analysed here, is mentioned in the Strategy of Development of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2014-2020 only in two aspects: 1) concerning nature – namely, in distinction from the majority of the territory of the municipality in question, Domachowo is situated in the river basin of Warta, and not Barycza, and 2) concerning tourism – the document mentions the wooden church of St. Michael Archangel in Domachowo, indicating it as one of the tourist assets of the municipality. With respect to the tourist attractiveness of Domachowo, the Study of the conditions for and the directions of the spatial development of the municipality of Krobia mentions, as well, the manor-and-farming complex, while the Local Program of Revitalisation of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022 points out numerous archaeological sites, along with the existing tourist products, such as the Festival of Tradition and Folklore in Domachowo, Biskupiański Inn in Domachowo, and Biskupiański Tourist Trail.

It ought to be noted that the sole document, in which the spatial context of social injustice was considered in an essential manner is the Local Program of Revitalisation of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022. This document specifies that the most degraded areas of the municipality of Krobia are the unit of Pudliszki West and Krobia Centre. It is worth emphasising that Domachowo is considered to be the area, featuring the null degree of degradation in terms of the necessity of undertaking the revitalisation activities. It can therefore be concluded that the earlier initiated and implemented actions in Domachowo have brought the expected effects.

### **The assessment of the policies and instruments used for purposes of development and cohesion in the municipality of Krobia, with special emphasis on Domachowo**

#### ***Postulates of evening out the spatial injustice, contained in the strategic documents of the City and Municipality Office of Krobia***

The areas of digital exclusion were diagnosed as problem areas in the Strategy of Development of the municipality for the years 2014-2020. The response to the thus diagnosed problems is the extension of the optical fibre network in the municipality, coupled with the development of access to broadband network.

The institutional instruments, applied in the municipality for purposes of solving the social problems are the social cooperatives and the municipal Social Integration Centre. It is emphasised in the Strategy of Development of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2014-2020 that the municipality is characterised by high degree of social involvement of the inhabitants, as well as high level of activity of the NGOs. This is yet compounded by the significantly developed feeling of cultural identity. The Strategy mentioned considers occupational activation to be the priority socially-oriented action, including creation of new jobs, popularisation of the voluntary service, and evening out of the educational opportunities, along with the struggle against alcoholism and drug addiction, and also with ensuring of the possibly best conditions for the activity of the NGOs and for social participation.

It is worth emphasising that the village of Domachowo, on which the study focussed, has no educational facility. The educational problems, which are diagnosed in the Program of Family Support in the municipality of Krobia for the years 2016-2018, were aggregated

uniquely to the level of the schools, functioning on the territory of the municipality. Thus, it is not possible to draw any conclusion, concerning the spatial context of the problems identified, first of all – aggression and conflicts arising in relations with other pupils. The document, referred to, mentions solely the significant and highly positive role of the existing rural community facilities.

It is interesting to note that the Study of the conditions for and the directions of the spatial development of the municipality of Krobia indicates as one of the elements, conditioning the development of Domachowo, the existence of unique objects of cultural heritage, both material and non-material. It is underlined in the Local Program of Revitalisation of the municipality of Krobia for the years 2015-2022 that Domachowo, side by side with Krobia and Pudliszki, contributes to the developmental potential of the whole municipality. One should stress that it is first of all the cultural-social potential of Domachowo that is of key importance for the development of the municipality. The village is, namely, considered to be the capital of the ethnographic region of Biskupizna.

The exceptional character of the commune of Krobia is evidenced by the fact that it has a separate program, defining the objectives and the principles of collaboration of the territorial self-government with the NGOs. We mean here the Program of cooperation of the municipality of Krobia with the NGOs and with the bodies, which are mentioned in Article 3, item 3, of the Law of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003, on the public interest and volunteer service activity, this Program having been introduced for the year 2019. Let us indicate that the detailed objectives of this Program include, as primary ones: “1) building of the civic society through activation of the local community; 2) strengthening of the social awareness as to the feeling of responsibility for oneself, one’s environment, local community and its traditions, and 3) supporting the development of initiatives of the local community” (Program of cooperation of the municipality of Krobia with the NGOs, page 3). This document ought to be considered as expressing the conscious involvement of the local authorities in the implementation of a policy, founded on the territorially-oriented (place-based) approach. Alas, the document describes uniquely the mechanisms of collaboration of the self-governmental authorities with the NGOs, without consideration of the spatial context of the envisaged support.



## 4. The Action

### 4.1 Basic Characteristics of the Action

In the present report from the RELOCAL project, the Action is constituted by the shaping of the public space of a village, giving rise thereby to the model solutions, which can be adapted to other villages. The emphasis is placed in this Action on bringing out and amplifying the attractiveness qualities of the place, and on making the local society conscious of the weight, associated with the care for aesthetics and functionality, as well as accessibility of space; endowing the inhabitants with appropriate instruments, enabling implementation of the goal indicated; stimulation of the social activity by developing the attitudes of responsibility for the common space among the residents.

In the three selected villages – Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca – one can observe similar strategies and practices, as well as the conditioning of the formation of public spaces – starting with the planning phase, through implementation and then evaluation of the actions undertaken. Of importance was also the very functioning of the space in question, its adaptation among the inhabitants and the later possibilities of maintaining it and caring for it. An attempt is therefore undertaken in the report to establish a kind of model for the functioning of the process, leading to the formation of the rural space (functional, optimal, friendly for its users, accessible, well managed and well equipped in the perception of inhabitants), with consideration of enhancement of the village attractiveness qualities. The objective of these undertakings is to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants and to promote the rural areas, which ought to bring the increase of tourist traffic (the village “going outside”). Care, expressed by a possibly high number of inhabitants, representing various social interest groups, for the common space and cooperation in the activities undertaken, constitute the reflection of the high level of consciousness and responsibility of the inhabitants for their own environment. Within a broader perspective this leads to a change in the perception of the very stakeholders with respect to the issues of spatial justice on the local scale.

The focussing initiatives, often constitutive for the activities, associated with the processes of creation of public spaces in the villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, were various important projects, implemented with the use of external means. The table below contains their characterisations.

DOMACHOWO	
2013	<p>Operation entitled: The villages of Wielkopolska are getting beautiful. <b><i>Domachowo – a village with tradition</i></b></p> <p>The essential objective of the project was to enhance the tourist attractiveness of the village. Welcoming elements were purchased in the form of a couple, symbolising the culture of Biskupizna, and an entry gate was placed in front of the village community centre, with sculpted columns. In addition, the area, next to the historical wooden parish church, was subject to refurbishing, including the establishment of a parking lot, with an information board, providing information on the qualities of the locality, painting of the fence at the pond, located in the centre of the village, as well as modernisation of the band shell in terms of electric supply, so that organisation of the open air events could become possible. The effect of the task realised was the place, in which the inhabitants of the village can spend their leisure time, play together, and strengthen the social ties, while transmitting to the young the knowledge, concerning the history and traditions of the village, and also organise open air events. The project implemented improved the aesthetics of the village and increased its tourist</p>

	attractiveness, contributing also to the promotion of the culture of Biskupizna.
2015	<p>Operation entitled: The villages of Wielkopolska are getting beautiful. <b><i>Domachowo – the capital of Biskupizna. Whirling in the dance, tasting the tradition</i></b></p> <p>The objective of this project was to develop the space within the territory of the village of Domachowo. In the framework of this project, the elements of the street furniture were introduced and improved, such as benches, waste baskets, roofed picnic tables, and bicycle stands. Besides, the building of the village community centre was painted outside, the fence around it was replaced by the new one, the equipment of the playground was improved, and greenery was enriched by introducing new plants and forming an orchard.</p>
06.2016-11.2016	<p>Operation entitled „<b>Process of strengthening of village attractiveness through shaping of the public space – as the example of the initiative of inhabitants in the domain of village development</b>”</p> <p><b>The primary objective</b> of the operation was to strengthen the qualities of attractiveness of Polish villages on the example of Domachowo, this particular village being the heart of the microregion, called Biskupizna. This was supposed to be achieved through joint elaboration, together with the inhabitants, of the concept for the development of a fragment of the area at the village community facility (plot 109/1), with the purpose of designing the stages of formation of public space in the villages as a model solution, which could then be adapted to the conditions of other villages within the area of activity of the Local Action Group “Hospitable Wielkopolska”. The assumed objective was achieved. The effect of this operation is constituted by the design and architectural concept of developing the area, located in Domachowo.</p>
2016	<p>Operation entitled: Our village is our common matter. <b><i>I love Biskupizna... not since today!</i></b></p> <p>The purpose of this public task was to organise the Festival of Tradition and Folklore, meant to promote the culture of Biskupizna. In the framework of realisation of this task, an exhibition of the photographs was organised, the photographs having been provided by the inhabitants of the village. An open air cinema functioned. During the Festival, nine thematic stands were installed, presenting the cultural heritage of the region: craft products, musical instruments, herbs, regional publications, and regional cuisine. A pageant went through the village, showing the traditional attires of Biskupizna.</p>
<b>STARA KROBIA</b>	
05.2012-10.2012	<p>Operation entitled „<b>Green villages of Biskupizna</b>”, in the framework of the V<sup>th</sup> edition of the grant competition “<b>Act Locally 2012</b>”.</p> <p><b>The objective of this project</b> was to enhance the consciousness and responsibility of the inhabitants of Stara Krobia, concerning the domain of environment and ecology. Owing to the realisation of this project the green places in the locality of Stara Krobia have been extended, illegal waste dumps were put to order, new trees (maples and ashes), as well as bushes, were planted, and walking alleys were created next to the sporting ground. A square was established in the centre of the village, where a wooden hut was constructed and greenery was planted. All this was meant to constitute a resting place for the elderly, walking through the village. The plants, which were introduced, flourish in different seasons of the year, which is supposed to improve the aesthetics of the village. Workshops have been carried out for the inhabitants of the</p>

	village and the exercises for the pupils from the Primary School of Biskupizna Land in Stara Krobia, concerning ecology and environmental protection. All of these activities involved the members of the local action group, along with the inhabitants of the village and pupils of the school in the village.
<b>POTARZYCA</b>	
06.2012-10.2012	<p>Operation, entitled „<b>Refuge in Potarzyca</b>”, in the framework of the II<sup>nd</sup> edition of the competition “The countryside of Wielkopolska is getting beautiful”, which was a part of the Program “Renewal of the Countryside of Wielkopolska”, organised by the Speaker Office of the Province of Wielkopolska.</p> <p><b>The objective of the project</b> was to develop public space through creation of an aesthetic and safe place for the sports and recreation behind the Farmer’s House, playing the role of the community centre in the village. The project brought integration of the village dwellers in common action, ensuring a safe and attractive place for the recreation of the youngest inhabitants, stimulation of the further activity and realisation of the successive initiatives, conform to the needs of the local community, with simultaneous involvement of the inhabitants, initiation of the implementation of activities by the Village Renewal Group.</p>
07.2016-10.2016	<p>Operation, entitled „<b>Refuge in Potarzyca, rich in honey, famous for insect hotels</b>”, was realised in the framework of the VI<sup>th</sup> edition of the competition “The countryside of Wielkopolska is getting beautiful”, which was a part of the Program “Renewal of the Countryside of Wielkopolska”, organised by the Speaker Office of the Province of Wielkopolska.</p> <p><b>The objective of the project</b> was to carry out the subsequent stage of development of the “Refuge in Potarzyca”. In the framework of this project, the surface around the community centre was hardened in order to improve the functionality and aesthetics of the Refuge in Potarzyca, and the basketball field was established. Insect hotel was installed, along with planting of the potentially useful plants in the vicinity, yielding bee honey and other benefits for the useful insects. In this context, a lime tree was also planted, having become the symbol of common efforts for the purposes of renewal and development of the village of Potarzyca. Additional plants made even nicer and diversified the area of the Refuge in Potarzyca – they became the complement to the already existing greenery. Besides, in the framework of the project, the workshops were conducted for the children, during which the small insect hotels were made and then were hanged on the trees by the children over the area of the village. The project ended with a cultural-sporting event, a picnic, entitled “Healthy, sporty, honey-wise in Potarzyca”. In the course of this event a Children’s Village Tournament took place, along with family hiking run and a basketball tournament. There was also a lecture for the inhabitants, concerning the significance of insects, especially honey bees, in agriculture, meant to enhance the knowledge and awareness of the inhabitants of the commune. Ladies from the Rural Housewives Circle prepared a sweet repast, based on honey, for all the participants of the event. The activities in question were meant to stimulate the inhabitants to an active way of spending free time, and to promote the Refuge in Potarzyca, as the place for active leisure in the countryside.</p>

**Table 6.** Projects implemented in Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca  
Source: own elaboration, on the basis of material from the City Office in Krobia

According to the definition, contained in the Polish law on spatial planning and development, *public space is constituted by the area of a special significance for the fulfilment of the*

*needs of inhabitants, improvement of their life quality, and conducive to the development of social contacts, in view of its location as well as the functional and spatial characteristics.*

Public space, that is, the space of “doing something known to its other participants”, has its definite properties:

- It is subject to control from the side of various social actors;
- It serves the interest of the community;
- It is organised (the boundary between the public and the private is delineated), with its environment frequently being determined by the respective institutions;
- Its users and their needs are of importance. From their point of view, public space ought to essentially secure safety, aesthetics, accessibility, attraction (“magnetism”), pro-sociality (motivation to contacts), and capacity of undertaking activities (see Bierwiazzonek, 2016; Bierwiazzonek, Nawrocki, 2012).

Public space is of particular significance for every local community. It constitutes a common good of the local society and is accessible for all the potential users. Owing to its location, the way it is equipped, and other particular utility features, it should be able to satisfy various kinds of material and non-material needs of the inhabitants (including, for instance, the cultural and leisure, as well as aesthetic needs). It should, as well, facilitate the interactions between the individuals and social groups. This space ought to contribute to better life quality and is expected to constitute the locus of identification of people with their place of residence. It is of utmost importance for the public spaces, so that they could appropriately fulfil their role, that they should be competently designed and equipped. When all this takes place, we can speak of the following functions of the public spaces: utilitarian, interactive, axiological, symbolic, and identity-enhancing (Bierwiazzonek, 2016).

#### **4.2 Evaluation of the Implementation of the Action in Domachowo, Stara Krobia, Potarzyca**

##### **Analytical Dimension 3: Coordination and implementation of the action in the locality under consideration**

Rural renewal programs are characterised, in particular, by the grass-root kind of initiatives of the local community, involved in the activity and assuming responsibility for the future of the village, by the concentration of activities on the use of existing resources, by the socialised planning – strategic and spatial – of development, by subsidiarity – i.e. support for or organisation of the activities of the rural community by the municipal office, and by the regional support, as well as regional shaping of the objectives. The bottom-up approach is the primary feature of rural renewal, and hence the involvement of the village leaders for the sake of formation of the public space is of key importance. This, namely, offers the possibility of making positive changes in rural life, and brings in the conviction that a change to the better in the quality of public space is possible. It also indicates that people are important, along with all that is essential for their life in the countryside. That is why forwarding of the small, but own initiatives serves the entire local community.

In the here considered cases of the three villages: Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, the local action groups were established, which got involved in the programs of rural renewal, bringing in effect numerous changes of social and spatial character. These groups were:

- the Initiative Group “Together for Old Krobia”

- the Group of Renewal of Potarzyca Village, which in the year 2015 was transformed into the Association for the Development of the Village of Potarzyca “Bolder Together”
- the Group of Renewal of the Village of Domachowo.

The Local Action Groups (LAGs) got involved in the projects, financed from the outside means. These means originated from both the national and EU programs. The LAGs were especially interested in the regional program Wielkopolska Village Renewal, which is being realised since 2009 by the self-governmental authorities of the province of Wielkopolska. This program is in its entirety financed from the self-governmental budget of the province. Wielkopolska Village Renewal supports and initiates the bottom-up social activities, promotes the projects, which are co-financed from the village marshals' funds, assists in the establishment of grass-roots associations for the development of the concrete villages. Village renewal, as a method of development, constitutes one of the ways to attain the goals, not only in the context of improvement of the quality of infrastructure, but of the improvement of the broadly understood quality of life, which cannot be achieved without the active involvement of the inhabitants themselves. The prerequisites to the program include the prevention of the loss of cultural qualities and of the disappearance of identity of the particular village units. The village renewal process means the work at the foundations, the so typical for the region of Wielkopolska organic work. On the national scale there are currently only some five or six self-governmental organisations that actively support the activation of the inhabitants of the rural areas through the regional programs of village renewal. In terms of the number of participants Wielkopolska is ranked first.

The program emphasises the role of the municipality as the centre of implementation of the rural renewal process, persistent in time and space. It brings a powerful load of positive energy, triggering off the cooperation among neighbours, strengthening and improving the interpersonal relations. Participation in the projects, which transform the villages, brings the increase in the feeling of one's own value, pride with the success achieved. The program helps in and initiates the grass-roots social initiatives, fighting off passivity and the onset of the unjustified complexes.

The following competitions are being implemented in the framework of Wielkopolska Village Renewal program:

1. **“The villages of Wielkopolska are getting beautiful”** (the competition for the self-governmental units). The objective is to support the projects, including the investment-related projects, serving the development of public space in the villages, reconstruction of the cultural and natural heritage, as well as cultivation of the traditions of local communities.
2. Open competition of offers **“Our village is our common matter”** (for the NGOs). The objective is to support the local societies, active within this program, to stimulate the activity of the inhabitants, leading to joint work for the sake of own locality, to develop rural identity, and to preserve the cultural heritage, as well as the specific features of rural areas.
3. **“Village renewal as a chance for the active village units”** (competition for the municipalities). This competition is being carried out since 2013. The objective of the competition is, in particular, to improve the standards and the quality of life within the rural areas by purchasing small equipment elements, goods serving the cultivation of the traditions of local communities, as well as materials, necessary for village promotion.

The following complementing activities are proposed in the framework of the programme:

- domestic and foreign study visits,
- regional conferences,



- trainings and information meetings,
- workshops on the elaboration of the village unit development strategies,
- analysis of the annual working reports, sent in by the leaders and the municipal coordinators.

High importance is attached in the program to the support for village units, carried out since 2015, this support taking the form of moderators of the village renewal processes. The primary purpose is to assist the inhabitants in the design of a vision for the village, and hence for the elaboration of the development strategy of the village. These moderators help in acquiring the skills of evaluating the resources of the village, as well as the quality and standard of life in the village unit.

In the three villages, selected for the analysis – Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca – the projects were realised, in particular, in the frameworks of the competitions **“The villages of Wielkopolska are betting beautiful”** and **“Our village is our common matter”**. The villages of Domachowo and Potarzyca implement also in 2019 the projects of the Wielkopolska Village Renewal program.

The bottom-up initiatives of the inhabitants and their involvement in the transformations, taking place in the villages, including those, consisting in the shaping of the public space, are not limited to the local action groups, which were established for exactly this purpose, but encompass also other organisations and institutions, functioning in the villages, such as Village Council, Voluntary Fire Brigade, or the Circle of Village Housewives. Of utmost significance is the contribution of the local leaders to the process of initiating the projects and engaging the residents in the active participation in these projects. These leaders in the three villages mentioned, i.e. Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, were the village marshals, the members of village councils, the chairs and the members of the fire brigades, the members of the housewives’ circles, as well as other local activists.

#### **Analytical Dimension 4: Autonomy, participation and engagement**

The participants of the focussed study from Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca associated quite unambiguously the shaping of the public space in their village with the notion of village renewal. They link the beginnings of the respective changes with the introduction of the village marshals’ funds (Law on village marshals’ funds of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009), which enabled the initiation of work on changes in village space. They all agree that their villages were revived, new elements appeared in space, and the centres of villages became friendly for the inhabitants, who can meet there and spend their time pleasantly.

All these investments into the public space of the villages would not be possible without the involvement of the inhabitants. It is exactly the inhabitants, and the local leaders among them, that constitute one of the most important elements of the entire process of village renewal. The leaders mentioned are most often the persons, who are the marshals, heads of the voluntary fire brigades, members of the local action groups or of other organisations, like the village Housewives Circle. Local activists are not only the initiators of various undertakings, but they also stimulate the inhabitants and the organisations, functioning in rural areas. The marshal of Stara Krobia, Roman Olejniczak, said: *“This should be done like in our village – all organisations into one bag and we do it all together”* (PL2PubLI). The respondents indicated that the degree of activity of the inhabitants depends upon their various characteristics: *“Activity depends upon whether one likes contacting people, and if someone does not like contacting people, s/he will not go out, will sit at home, will complain that things are not as they should be, but will not come to the meeting”* (PL4PubLI).

Despite the various actions from the side of the leaders, aiming at activating the inhabitants, not all of them get involved, although the level of interest in the projects and in participation in them is, in the opinions of respondents, increasing. *“Even if they have doubts as to whether they are able to do this, they do not refuse”* (PL4PubLI).

There are no differences in terms of activity between men and women, inhabiting rural areas. *“Whether it is the fire brigade that is needed or the Circle of Housewives – organising must be done together”* (PL2PubLI). *“Some organisations organise, like the Circle of Village Housewives, while other ones support (for instance the Volunteer Fire Brigade)”* (PL5PubLI). The participants of the focussed study emphasised that one might observe a higher degree of activity of the inhabitants, originating from the traditional farming families, as distinguished from the inhabitants, working in the non-agricultural jobs in the city, the latter persons being attached to the countryside owing to their place of residence.

The projects, meant to transform the public space of the villages, involve in an increasing degree the young inhabitants of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca. It is of particular importance to engage the young, who might become in the future the successors of the leaders in the process of development of the rural space. *“We cannot complain about the young, we should encourage them; as we started to do the projects, it turned out possible to motivate them. Our children enrol their friends”* (PL4PubLI).

The local leaders, working for the sake of shaping of the public space in the villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, are first of all the marshals of these localities. All of them stressed alike that their function in a way obliges them to being active and to “lead” the projects, implemented in respective villages. At the same time, they emphasised their earlier participation and involvement in the social life in the village, along with joint fulfilment of various functions (like, e.g., the marshal and the head of the voluntary fire brigade in Domachowo). This was, and is, possible owing to their competences and skills, such as openness, simplicity, conciliatory capacity, consistency in the realisation of objectives, and respect for the people. They also pointed out their leadership and organisational capacities.

A very important element in the process of rural renewal is constituted by the collaboration not only among the inhabitants, but also with the municipal and provincial authorities. This involves formation of an appropriate combination of the financial, educational, training and counselling instruments in the process of development of public spaces.

### **Analytical Dimension 5: Expression and mobilisation of place-based knowledge and adaptability**

“Shaping of the public space of rural areas” constitutes an action, which, side by side with the spatial aspect, has also a social character. In each of the villages, included in the case study, expression and mobilisation of the place-based knowledge, along with respective adaptability, is realised in a somewhat different manner. This is the consequence of the differences, which exist as to the resources of these villages – resources of both material and non-material nature. Although similar strategies and practices are made use of in shaping of the public space, each of the villages actually worked out its individual way of organising this process.

Domachowo is the biggest of the villages in terms of population, but it also disposes of the most significant resources of cultural heritage in both material and non-material forms, and is referred to as the capital of Biskupizna. It was namely in this village that the realisation of the village renewal projects took the double-lane character, including the actions in the physical space (change in the spatial organisation) and the ones, concerning the village identity (festivals, cultivation of the traditional habits) (marshal and animator). This turned out to be possible not only owing to the very pronounced involvement of the local

leaders and the spectacular activity of the inhabitants, but also due to the capacities, offered by the features of the place. The designs for the shaping of the space were, therefore, adapted to the rural specificity of the place, accounting, on the one hand, for the needs of the inhabitants, and, on the other hand – for the possibility of introducing the respective changes in space while preserving the unique qualities of this space. The inhabitants, including their local leaders and the local action groups, in collaboration with the municipal authorities, displayed effectiveness in the process of acquisition of funds for the undertakings, associated with the shaping of public space, and participated in a couple of projects in the framework of Wielkopolska Village Renewal program. The very first experiences from the designing of a project (development of the parking lot in front of the church and the welcomers in the form of a couple in the costumes of Biskupizna) brought the knowledge and the organisational skills, which were then used in further undertakings (PL1PubLI). The functioning Action Group of Renewal of the village of Domachowo is perceived as a professional organisation (PL1PubLI, PL13PubLI).

A similar level of professional skills in writing project applications, acquisition of funds and realisation of undertakings in the village of Potarzyca is shown by the inhabitants of this village, grouped in the Association for the Development of the village of Potarzyca “Bolder Together”. In the accounts of the female members of this association, the beginnings of the process were not easy: “We got the proposal from the municipality (Krobia) of writing down project application. We were only starting to learn how to do this. There was the question whether we would be capable of writing a plan, including the business plan. And then we tried together and that was the start. We did not think this would be so fruitful and effective” (a female counsellor). In the case of Potarzyca the initiated undertakings, concerning the shaping of the public space (the village community centre and the area around it) are consistently realised, showing thereby the character of well thought out strategic activities.

A somewhat different manner of organising the process of shaping of public space can be observed in Stara Krobia. In this case, the means for the transformation of the organisation of common space originate mainly from the marshal's fund, the village having participated in only one project of the Wielkopolska Village Renewal program. In the words of the local leader, involved in the change process in question, it turned out impossible to mobilise the inhabitants to this kind of activity, related to the acquisition of funds (PL2PubLI). Yet, this is not to say they display a lower level of activity and engagement, to the contrary – they are exceptionally interested in the undertakings. This attitude is expressed through personal contributions to the activities, meaning doing various things as well as providing private machines and equipment for common use. In the case considered of importance is also the role of the local leader, the village marshal, who associates the roles of the marshal and the counsellor, and thus disposes of broader knowledge and organisational capacities in implementing respective actions.

## 5. Final Assessment: Capacities for Change

### Synthesising Dimension A: Assessment of promoters and inhibitors

Village renewal became one of the most important social innovations within the rural areas, impacting upon the local and regional reality, as well as affecting and modifying the approaches and the instruments of development regarding rural areas in Poland. It consists in the planned and implemented by the village community development process, based on the local resources and taking advantage of the external support. This process takes energy from the involvement of the citizens, motivated by the responsibility for the fate of their locality, with effectiveness depending upon the strength of local identity of the inhabitants. The development factors, including the non-material ones, which are assigned an extremely high importance in this context, get employed in the village renewal in the bottom-up manner, based on the will and for the sake of the residents (Wilczyński, 2012). The factors, which influence positively the activities, oriented at justice (the “promoters”) have socio-institutional character. They are, beyond doubt, the elements of building up the social capital of the village. In addition, one can observe in this case the conversion of the human capital into the social capital (high level of skills and competences of the local leaders finds its reflection in the increase of social trust, of intensified networks of relations, as well as sharing of common norms and values – see Putnam, 1995, 2000, 2008; Moroń, 2009).

In order for the village renewal to succeed, several mutually overlapping conditions must be satisfied, namely:

1. The **presence of a leader**, who imbues the inhabitants with the idea of renewal and brings to them the enthusiasm for the activity in this domain. In the cases of the villages of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, these are primarily the village marshals, who concentrate around them and engage in the undertakings the most active residents.
2. **Openness and will to collaborate with the leader of the local society**. This collaboration ought to be reflected both through the involvement of the inhabitants in the petty actions for the good of the village (e.g. putting to order the public space, organising local events), and through the strategic undertakings, consisting in the elaboration of the local renewal programs. The inhabitants of Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca participate in various actions, which concern the transformation of the public space of the village, like, for instance, cleaning and putting into order the space of the village centre, refurbishing the social infrastructure facilities (village community centres), improving the greenery and recreation areas (e.g. Goat Market, areas around water bodies, playgrounds), installing street architecture objects (benches, welcomers), or organising the festivals of tradition and folklore.
3. Collaboration ought to encompass, as well, **local organisations, associations and other legal entities**, who shall support the renewal through, in particular, active search for the sources of financing of the activities undertaken. In each of the villages considered the local action groups function (the Initiating Group “Together for Old Krobia”, Association for the Development of the Village of Potarzyca “Bolder Together”, Group of Renewal of the Village of Domachowo).
4. Collaboration and joint work with the municipal office, with distinct emphasis on the **role of the moderator**, as the persons providing support and actively participating in the process of shaping of public space. “I am a mediator and a moderator of definite activities and for showing of the two sides. Yes, I do come from this area and I know how a village looks like, but I also have knowledge from training and from good practices, which I can put to use, and which is a bridge between the inhabitant stakeholders and the self-

government. The purpose is to achieve the conscious co-deciding by the inhabitants” (PL1PubLI).

Coexistence of these factors over a longer period of time brings the possibility for the effect to arise in the form of realisation of a **consistent idea of village development** by the local community. Over a longer time horizon, this kind of strategy will bring to the inhabitants not only satisfaction, but also concrete material benefits, putting in motion, thereby, the **process of self-propelling development**.

In order for the here listed promoters to effectively contribute to the success in the form of real changes in public space, they must act together. Lack of any one of them may constitute an inhibitor, negatively impacting the effects of the undertakings. The additional inhibitors, which were also identified in the study, are the following ones:

1. Psychological (mental):

-- apprehension as to the further fate of the project – who shall take care of it? “We do not want to be an open-air museum, the rurality is for those from the outside” (Village Housewives Circle);

-- stereotypes in the perception of the ways space is being transformed – popularity of definite kinds of projects, which, in consequence, can block the generation of the innovative ideas, adequate and adapted to the actual reality and to the needs.

2. Social:

-- nowadays, the activity of the young is induced by the local leaders, but, generally, the level of activity of this social group is assessed by the stakeholders as decreasing, “We have no idea how to stimulate it” (marshal), “In a [longer] perspective there may come the demise of cultivation of traditions and customs, in the broader sense of their understanding” (deputy mayor);

-- in the opinion of the stakeholders the low level of involvement of the young results from the lack of regional education;

-- the opinions of the stakeholders contain, as well, information on the limited involvement of the employees of the educational system in the activities outside of schools.

3. The institutional and bureaucratic barriers (“reporting from and acquitting the projects appears to be problematic, time-consuming and demotivating”, a female counsellor).

4. The barriers, resulting from the spatial disposition of the village and the nature of its organisation – the specificity of the settlement pattern of the village may constitute a difficulty regarding the spatial arrangement possibilities.

## Synthesising Dimension B: Competences and capacities of stakeholders

The basic pillar of the process of village renewal is human capital, understood as the entirety of knowledge, skills and competence of people. These characteristics are very important and are decisive for the success of the space transformation process. That is why in the case study considered, people are the most important element, here – the leaders, the moderator, the animators and the inhabitants.

The stakeholders listed above, mentioned, among the qualities that allowed them to face the challenges of the process of arranging rural space, quite a number of various predispositions. The local leaders would say of themselves: “I am an open person, I do not get upset by the small things, have a good contact both with the young and with the elderly, I am well in touch with the inhabitants, have the qualities of a leader, but also of an organiser, these qualities having been shaped at my parental home” (PL4PubLI), “My qualities, which help me in fulfilment of tasks, are the willingness, sturdiness, and consistency; I am of the opinion that someone must be the chief, if there is a dialogue, it is limited. On the top of this, it is helpful in my case that I am both the marshal and the counsellor of the municipality of Krobia. This allows for the direct flow of information on the line municipality-village marshal” (PL2PubLI). “My leadership is the effect of the function of the marshal in Do-



machowo and of the head of the voluntary fire brigade. I am attached to this place, I am open, communicate easily, the inhabitants trust me” (PL7PubLI). In the case of the moderator the respective characteristics were: “Energy, I like to work with people, I like, when in talking to people creativity is freed, the capacity of resolving conflicts and disputes is inspiring for me” (PL1PubLI). Then, the opinion of the female counsellor and at the same time the member of the local action group was as follows: “I am open for people, and owing to the fact that I became a public person I gained a broader perception of reality and the ability to keep distance. I can assess the reality in an objective manner, I willingly enter into contact with people, have a sense of humour, am positively perceived by the inhabitants, I offer help, I stand in a row together with the inhabitants” (PL6PubLI).

The opinions of the stakeholders form a silhouette of a leader, featuring such qualities as: openness, directness, conciliatory skills, consequence in the realisation of objectives, respect for people, high social competences, charisma, attachment to the place, kindness, attentiveness for the needs of the inhabitants, trust from the side of the inhabitants. The respective persons indicated also their leadership and organisational qualities.

### **Synthesising Dimension C: Connecting the action to procedural and distributive justice**

The activities, undertaken in the here described case study aim at such shaping of the public spaces that no social group (children, young, adults, elderly) be handicapped in space. The procedural justice with respect to the case considered is closely associated with the procedures, enabling the transformation of public space. These are, first of all, the procedural prerequisites of the projects, which arise in the framework of Wielkopolska Village Renewal program, financed from the EU means. Of importance are also the local procedures, i.e. the unique legal solutions, like the program of cooperation between the municipal authorities and the NGOs. It should also be emphasised that a condition for gaining financial support from the EU means was to elaborate the plans of renewal of the locality. The reports contain the results of the survey study, carried out with the inhabitants, who spoke on the matters of changes in public space. In accordance with the principles of the procedural justice, each village, starting with the year 2015, may take advantage of the support from the municipal office and the moderators of the village renewal, assisting the inhabitants of the village.

The distributive justice assumes equal chances of articulating needs by various social groups in the village. This was made possible, in particular, during the elaboration of the marshal’s strategy of village renewal, when every resident could speak out and present their needs, associated with the development of public space. The participation of the inhabitants took the form of workshops, questionnaire-based surveys with the inhabitants, as well as the field study, concerning the inventory of the village resources.

## 6. Conclusions

The RELOCAL project poses the question as to what should be done in order to ensure improved justice by using the place-based knowledge. In our opinion, the selected action of shaping of the rural public space, with the examples drawn from three villages of Biskupizna, provides the answer to the question as to which undertakings strengthen the spatial justice.

Owing to the renewal process, the public space of a village is being “brought back” to the common use by the inhabitants. This space becomes again the place of meetings, of the community gatherings, of organisation of various events, including folkloristic festivals, and also forms a new external image of the village, enhancing its attractiveness. This produces measurable effects in terms of evening out the chances in the access to public space for all the inhabitants of the village. The changes, resulting from this process, appearing in space, are translated into the new perception and assessment of the particular places by their direct users – inhabitants of the village, providing the feeling of equal access to public space.

In consequence of these undertakings, the public space of the village undergoes changes, and these changes are not only quantitative, related to the equipment in space, but also improving the quality of this space. All this leads to the shaping of the spatial order in the village, understood, conform to the *Law on spatial planning and development of 2003* as “such shaping of the space, which forms a harmonious whole and accounts in the orderly relations for all the functional, socio-economic, environmental, cultural and compositional-aesthetic conditions and requirements”.

The effects of the actions performed, which were observed during study visits to Domachowo, Stara Krobia and Potarzyca, demonstrated that the village renewal process, including the transformations of the public space, tends towards the creation of the consistent concepts for the villages. Yet, in the opinions of the inhabitants, the needs in the domain of shaping of the space are still significant and concern primarily the technical infrastructure.

The implementation of the spatial justice in the analysed case study (and in the cases featuring similar conditioning) will be possible, if the procedural and distributive aspects of the respective processes are maintained at least at the level observed during the investigations. An essential foundation for the success of the action is constituted by the human capital, social capital and the advantageous institutional conditions. That is why in this particular case so important is the presence of the local leaders to date and the care for recruiting their successors from among the local young.

In the course of analysis, external mechanisms have been identified, which contribute to the transformation of the rural public space in the here considered cases of the three villages from the region of Wielkopolska, and which could also be implemented in other rural areas of the EU.

The study performed demonstrated the existence of a number of very important institutional conditions, whose fulfilment supports the process of formation of rural public space and of attaining spatial justice. These conditions include, first of all, the existence and functioning of the program Wielkopolska Village Renewal, financed from the EU means. This program constitutes a method for developing rural areas, being simultaneously the tool and the instrument for supporting the initiatives of the people and the renewal of space.

The principles of functioning of this program refer to the use of the place-based knowledge. Another important condition consists in the documents, elaborated on place – the village unit development strategies. These documents are being elaborated with a significant input from the inhabitants and they constitute the auxiliary documents for taking the decisions, concerning the particular villages. Further very important instrument is constituted by the marshals' funds, which were introduced in 2009, giving the inhabitants a true possibility of influencing the realisation of the concrete undertakings in space. One should also include among the significant local conditions the unique, on the national scale, program of cooperation between the self-governmental bodies and the NGOs, defining the objectives and the principles of this cooperation. An important role in the collaboration of the local authorities with the village inhabitants is played by the moderators.

It should therefore be emphasized once again that the collaboration processes among inhabitants, municipal and provincial authorities is very important to achieve results of Action.

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## Documents on Development Strategies

Uchwała Nr XXXV/296/2017 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 17 sierpnia 2017 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Lokalnego Programu Rewitalizacji Gminy Krobia na lata 2015-2022. (3)

Uchwała Nr XLIII/340/2014 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 31 stycznia 2014 r. w sprawie ustanowienia wieloletniego programu osłonowego w zakresie dożywiania „Pomoc Gminy Krobia w zakresie dożywiania” na lata 2014-2020. (4)

Uchwała Nr XXXIX/341/2017 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 20 grudnia 2017 r. w sprawie Wieloletniego programu gospodarowania mieszkaniowym zasobem Gminy Krobia na lata 2018-2022. (5)

Uchwała Nr XXXII/274/2017 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 9 maja 2017 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Programu Ochrony Środowiska Gminy Krobia na lata 2017-2020 z uwzględnieniem perspektywy do 2024 roku. (6)

Uchwała Nr XXXVIII/335/2017 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 22 listopada 2017 r. w sprawie Gminnego Programu Profilaktyki i Rozwiązywania Problemów Alkoholowych na 2018 rok. (7)

Uchwała Nr XVII/131/2016 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 24 lutego 2016 r. w sprawie Gminnego Programu Przeciwdziałania Narkomanii na lata 2016-2020. (8)

Uchwała Nr XVII/132/2016 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 24 lutego 2016 r. w sprawie Gminnego Programu Przeciwdziałania Przemocy w Rodzinie oraz Ochrony Ofiar Przemocy w Rodzinie na lata 2016-2020. (9)

Uchwała Nr XXVI/216/2016 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 28 listopada 2016 r. w sprawie zatwierdzenia Programu Wspierania Edukacji Uzdolnionych Dzieci i Młodzieży z terenu gminy Krobia. (10)

Uchwała Nr XIX/153/2016 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 4 maja 2016 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Programu Wspierania Rodziny w Gminie Krobia na lata 2016-2018. (11)

Uchwała Nr LII/443/2018 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 16 października 2018 r. w sprawie uchwalenia Programu współpracy Gminy Krobia z organizacjami pozarządowymi oraz z podmiotami, o których mowa w art. 3 ust. 3 ustawy z dnia 24 kwietnia 2003 r. o działalności pożytku publicznego i o wolontariacie na 2019 rok. (12)

Uchwała Nr LI/419/2014 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 5 listopada 2014 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Strategii Rozwoju Gminy Krobia na lata 2014-2020. (1)

Uchwała Nr XXXV/299/2017 Rady Miejskiej w Krobi z dnia 17 sierpnia 2017 r. w sprawie zmiany Studium uwarunkowań i kierunków zagospodarowania przestrzennego Gminy Krobia. (2)

\*The numbers at the end of the particular items listed, being the motions of the municipal and city councils, enacting the particular strategic documents, referred to in the text, indicate the sequential numbers from the table, presented before.



## 8. Annexes

### 8.1 List of Interviewed Experts

List of interviewed experts	Date of interview	Type of expert
PL1PubLI	2018-09-18	Local administration, moderator
PL2PubLI	2018-09-18	Local leader of Stara Krobia
PL3CivLI	2018-09-18	a resident, local activist
PL4PubLI	2018-09-18	Local leader of Potarzyca
PL5PubLI	2018-09-18	Member of NGO in Potarzyca
PL6PubLI	2018-09-18	Councillor Potarzyca
PL7PubLI	2018-09-18	Local leader of Domachowo
PL8CivLI	2018-09-18	Local activist, animator
PL9PubLI	2018-09-19	Councillor Domachowo
PL10PubLI	2018-09-19	Local administration
PL11PubLI	2018-09-19	Member of NGO in Domachowo
PL12PubLI	2018-09-19	Local leader
PL13PubLI	2018-09-19	Local leader, local administration

### 8.2 Stakeholder Interaction Table

Type of Stakeholders	Most relevant 'territorial' level they operate at	Stakeholders' ways of involvement in the project (What do we gain, what do they gain)
Local politicians	Local (the commune)	Knowledge about the Locality; development opportunities and threats; information about project financing possibilities; insights into governance processes; critical opinions on the action
Local administration	Local (the commune)	Insights into institutional conditions of the Action, knowledge of the local context, possibilities of project financing and stakeholders' assistance to activate the local community.
Non-profit/civil society organisations representing vulnerable groups (Farmers' Wives Association, Fire Brigades, Local Schools)	Local (villages – neighbourhoods)	Importance and comprehension of civic engagement processes of residents and associations on the local level
Local state offices/representations	Local (villages – neighbourhoods)	Insight into local communities, space resources, problems, needs and challenges of rural residents - a comparative perspective with other villages and neighbourhoods
Cultural institutions and associations (NGO)	Local (commune) and beyond local (regional,	Perspectives of cultural institutions and cultural actors on the

	national)	action; Insight into the local cultural heritage, promotion of traditions of 'Biskupizna'
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### 8.3 Map(s) and Photos



**Fig. 1.** Playground in Domachowo



**Fig. 2.** 8<sup>th</sup> Festival of Tradition and Folklore in Domachowo



**Fig. 3.** Inhabitants of Domachowo in traditional Biskupizna attires



**Fig. 4.** Deputy Mayor of Stara Krobia – Michał Listwoń – in traditional Biskupizna costume



**Fig. 5.** Village community centre in Stara Krobia





**Fig. 6.** Cleaned pond in Stara Krobia



**Fig. 7.** Renovated area around the pond in Stara Krobia



**Fig. 8.** Stara Krobia – the area with the gazebo next to the grocery shop



**Fig. 9.** House greenery in Stara Krobia



**Fig. 10.** Buildings in Stara Krobia





**Fig. 11.** Sporting ground in Domachowo



**Fig. 12.** Shelter in Domachowo



**Fig. 13.** Marshal of Stara Krobia – Roman Olejniczak – shows the cup acquired for the victory in the junior soccer tournament



**Fig. 14.** Village community centre in Potarzyca



**Fig. 15.** Outdoor gym in Potarzyca



**Fig. 16.** Gazebo next to the village community centre in Potarzyca



**Fig. 17.** Sporting ground in Potarzyca





**Fig. 18.** Playground in Potarzyca



**Fig. 19.** Parking lot in front of the church in Domachowo



**Fig. 20.** Church of St. Michael Archangel in Domachowo



**Fig. 21.** Flower inscription on a flower-bed commemorating the 725<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village of Domachowo and the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Michael Archangel's church in Domachowo





**Fig. 22.** The Refuge in Domachowo



**Fig. 23.** Village community centre in Domachowo



**Fig. 24.** Buildings in Domachowo

## 8.4 Additional information

### Documenting the research instrument

According to the schedule of the investigations (see Table 1 in pages 2-3) the research involved (I) the focus group activity, (II) the in-depth, individual interviews, which were then deepened with (III) mental maps, and (IV) the study walk. We provide below the specifications, related to the implementation of the research methods applied.

#### **I. Focus group activity framework**

1. What were your first experiences with organisation of public spaces?
2. When and under what circumstances you made the first contact with the concept of formation of the new public spaces (in the context of village renewal)?
3. What was that attracted your interest in this concept and how was this linked to your previous experiences?
4. What was important for you in the first contact with realisation of public spaces of the villages?
5. Is the social collaboration in the form of local village renewal groups a good method for the development of the locality?
6. If so, why?
7. If not, why? What other form would be interesting for you?
8. What are the main benefits that a local community acquires owing to the development of the initiative of realization of public spaces?
9. Who (persons, groups of persons) is most intensively involved in the activities?
10. What is your assessment of the formal procedures in the course of deployment of such projects and their realization?
11. What is the role of the municipality / county in the support for such projects and their realization?
12. What is the role of the local Action Groups (LAGs) in the support for the projects?
13. Is the idea of development of the public spaces reflected in the documents, defining the directions of local development (the development strategy and others)?
14. What is your main general impression regarding the idea of development of the public spaces in villages?
15. What do you find essential in the deployment of such initiatives?
16. What is your very first association with the notion of "village renewal"?
17. What are your further developmental priorities?
18. What would you improve upon?
19. How can one yet intensify the social engagement?
20. Do you have a vision of the state you would like to achieve?
21. Are you looking for partners in other places (formation of a network)?

#### **II. Guidelines for the in-depth, individual interviews with the stakeholders in the municipality of Krobia**

- a) What is the role /share / contribution of the Respondent in the realization of activities, concerning the renewal of public space in Stara Krobia / Potarzyce / Domachowo?
- b) What features of the character / competences / skills made it possible for the Respondent, in her opinion, to stand up to the challenge of this process?

- c) What are the characteristics / distinctive features of the local society of Stara Krobia / Potarzyce / Domachowo?
- d) Do, in the opinion of the Respondent, the activities, related to the development, organization, creation and renewal of public space in her village, even out the spatial inequalities in the village and contribute to the spatial justice?
- e) What, in general terms, does it mean to the Respondent that a given initiative (project) is spatially just?
- f) What have been the changes over time (the renewal) of the public space in the village of the Respondent? In what way its functions have been changing? What, in the opinion of the Respondent, had it looked like earlier (before the renewal processes started)?
- g) Where one can find these changes in the space of the village? Are they the “point-wise interventions” or do they rather encompass broader areas in the village?
- h) Have the effects of renewal of public space, in the opinion of the Respondent, the persistent character?
- i) Do the undertakings, associated with renewal, creation and development of public space, exert an influence on the level of social activity of the local community?
- j) Are, in the eyes of the Respondent, the villages of Stara Krobia / Potarzyce / Domachowo characterized by a worse access to various resources (which ones?) than other comparable villages?
- k) What were the lessons, learned by the Respondent, on the basis of the experiences, associated with the work on development of rural public space?
- l) How does one live in Stara Krobia / Potarzyce / Domachowo? What the Respondent likes the best in the respective place?
- m) What is important nowadays for the residents of the respective village? What do the potential development plans for the village look like?

### III. Questions to the mental map

1. Please, mark on the map / describe the centre of the village. If there are concrete objects in the centre of the village – which ones are they? Since when they have been functioning? Are they important? What are the reaches of their influence? What are the functions of the village centre with respect to the village inhabitants, in the opinion of the Respondent?
2. Please, mark the boundaries of the village on the map. What constitutes the boundary of the village? Are the boundaries distinct or are they difficult to identify?
3. Please, mark on the map the places / items in the village, which are linked with the projects of development of public spaces in the village of Domachowo?
4. Please, mark on the map of Domachowo and characterize shortly:
  - the oldest fragments of the village;
  - the most recent fragments of the village;
  - the fragment(s) of the village, where crisis can be perceived;
  - the fragment(s) of the village, where development can be perceived;
  - the dangerous place(s);
  - the place(s), where you like to spend time;
  - the place(s), where the inhabitants meet;
  - the beautiful place(s);
  - the ugly place(s);
  - the places of biggest contrasts;
  - the place(s), characteristic for the village;
  - the places, which do not exist any more, and of whose existence in the past you are aware.

Questions, concerning the perception of the projects of developing the rural public spaces from the side of the inhabitants

5. What adjectives and descriptors depict in the best manner Kozi Rynek (Goat Market)?  
 6. Is the Goat Market, in your opinion, a „good place” in Domachowo? Why?  
 7. Who, in your opinion, has the biggest influence on what is happening in your neighbourhood (the physical space in the village)? *[Please, refer to the response categories below using the following scale: 1 – I decidedly disagree; 2 – I disagree; 3 – hard to say; 4 – I do rather agree; 5 – I decidedly agree]*

Category	Scale				
Inhabitants themselves	1	2	3	4	5
Local authorities	1	2	3	4	5
The Social Cooperative	1	2	3	4	5
Local entrepreneurs	1	2	3	4	5
Associations and Foundations	1	2	3	4	5
Other actors (who?)	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please, use the scale below in order to assess the significance of the projects, whose purpose was to shape the rural public spaces. Please, mark the appropriate value. The closer to the left expressions – the better the assessment, the closer to the right expressions – the worse the assessment.

important for village development	5	4	3	2	1	unimportant for village development
important for the inhabitants	5	4	3	2	1	unimportant for the inhabitants
effective in its performance	5	4	3	2	1	ineffective in its performance
needed	5	4	3	2	1	unnecessary
having positive impact on space	5	4	3	2	1	having negative impact on space
producing persistent effects	5	4	3	2	1	producing transitory effects
equalising the access to resources	5	4	3	2	1	limiting the access to resources

#### IV. The investigative walk

The Respondents were asked to indicate and describe in (public) space of the village:

1/ the space(s) of social injustice – what are these places? what physical elements appear there? why exactly these places? what social groups inhabit this area? how is it socially labelled (what significance this has for the inhabitants of the village)?

2/ the space(s) of local activity and/or local authority – which places give rise to associations with this? what do they look like? does every inhabitant know of their meaning? has this meaning been changing over time?

3/ the places – showcases of the village – a story of them and of their functions

4/ the places important for the local community – why? important due to what?

5/ the places, characteristic for the village – what do they look like?

6/ the places the inhabitants like – what does it mean that they “like” those places?

7/ the places of cultivation of traditions – what is specific and important about these places?

8/ the places with the biggest resources for the village (and their accessibility – has every inhabitant equal access to them?) – how do they look like? how many of them are there? what is their physical neighbourhood?

9/ the places with the least of resources for the village (featuring limited access to resources) – what do they look like? how many of them are there? what is their physical neighbourhood? is there a chance of changing them to the positive, and if so – in what it consists?



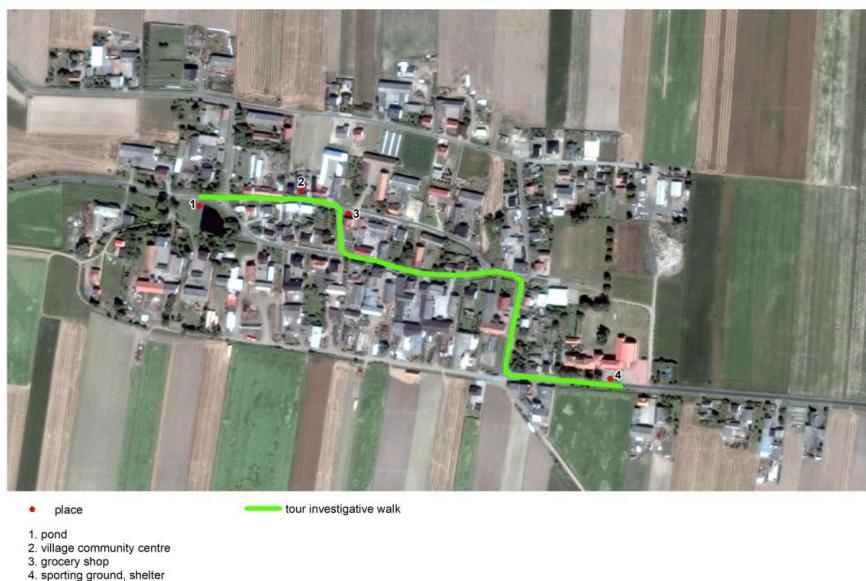
10/ is the village socially differentiated? what kind of people live here? is it possible to discern some concrete / characteristic social groups among them?

11/ what activities, in the opinion of the Respondent, connected with the development and organization of public space, are to such an extent universal and model-establishing (good practices) that they could be implemented in other villages? what is the supreme objective of these undertakings?

12/ what could be ultimate, aimed-at shape of the public space of the village?

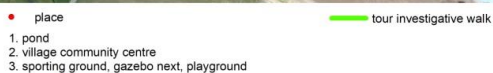


**Fig. 25.** The path of investigative walk in Domachowo



**Fig. 26.** The path of investigative walk in Stara Krobia





**Fig. 27.** The path of investigative walk in Potarzyca

## The RELOCAL Project

EU Horizon 2020 research project '**Resituating the local in cohesion and territorial development**' –**RELOCAL** aims to identify factors that condition local accessibility of European policies, local abilities to articulate needs and equality claims and local capacities for exploiting European opportunity structures.

In the past, especially since the economic and financial crisis, the European Social Model has proven to be challenged by the emergence of spatially unjust results. The RELOCAL hypothesis is that **processes of localisation and place-based public policy** can make a positive contribution to spatial justice and democratic empowerment.

The research is based on **33 case studies** in **13 different European** countries that exemplify development challenges in terms of spatial justice. The cases were chosen to allow for a balanced representation of different institutional contexts. Based on case study findings, project partners will draw out the factors that influence the impact of place-based approaches or actions from a comparative perspective. The results are intended to facilitate a greater local orientation of cohesion, territorial development and other EU policies.



The RELOCAL project runs from October 2016 until September 2020.

Read more at <https://relocal.eu>

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