

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF POLAND WITH RESPECT TO CARTOGRAPHY

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Abstract: There is a new administrative division obligatory in Poland since 1st January 1999, resulting in introduction of 16 provinces and 373 counties. New administrative division of Poland aims at the improvement of state administration's efficiency and its adjustment to Western European standards.

A new administrative division had great impact on Polish cartography. Numerous new works have appeared. In addition, a need to update the existing maps and geographical atlases has emerged.

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There is a new administrative division obligatory in Poland since 1st January 1999, resulting in introduction of 16 provinces, divided into 373 counties (*powiat* - administrative district, corresponding to British county) (in this 65 municipal), and communes. Previous administrative division into 49 provinces has been obligatory for 23 years (1.06.1975 - 31.12.1998). It primarily aimed at the centralisation of authorities, also through elimination of counties. Before 1975, Poland had been divided in the manner similar to the present, into 17 provinces and 392 counties (in this 78 municipal).

New administrative division of Poland aims at the improvement of state administration's efficiency and its adjustment to Western European standards. Big provinces may become partners for regions, lands, or provinces of similar size, in other countries.

New administrative division has been reflected in cartography. A peculiar "race" in issuing maps of new administrative division of our country could have been observed in the middle of 1998 already. Maps of the whole Poland appeared in the cartographic market (presently there are about 10 of them). Then maps of individual provinces started

being published (two series of these maps have already appeared). Recently, one may also purchase maps of individual counties and communes. The task of cartographers now is not only to work out the new maps, but also update those already published (in schools' books, lexicons, encyclopaedias). Maps of new administrative division of Poland could be found in almost all daily papers and magazines published in Poland.

In order to analyse the scope of content of administrative maps of Poland, maps published by six publishing houses were selected. These are maps worked out in scales between 1:750,000 and 1:1,000,000. All maps contain complete administrative content, settlements' and water networks. Additionally, the maps contain roads (5 out of 6 maps) and railroad lines (4 out of 6 maps). Two maps also present the previous administrative division.

Editing of administrative division maps is connected with a need to solve several problems, specific for these types of maps.

In the new administrative division of Poland, two provinces have "double" capitals. In Lubuskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie provinces, the Head of the province has his office in one town, and the regional council gathers in another. Both capitals should be marked on the map, and the situation must be explained in the legend.

Another problem for cartographer to deal with is to show the names of administrative units on the map. Most of them, but not all, are generated from the name of the capital (e.g., Legionowo - Legionowski county, Zakopane - Tatrzański county).

Further editorial problems are connected with the issue of univocal character of administrative maps. They should in a uniform manner determine the administrative functions of towns, and the administrative attachment of all regions. In order to show the administrative functions of towns, a system of nicks of type, typeface and size of the descriptions, and also underlining of names is used. It should be noted that such system must be compact and comprehensive. Additional difficulty appears if the editor wants to present the number of towns' inhabitants. Then he must remember to expose the administrative functions better than the size of the town.

Another problem connected with the univocal character of administrative map content refers to appropriate presentation of administrative attachment of all regions on the map. The best effects may be achieved by different colouring of intermediate level of the administrative division (in case of Poland - different colouring of the counties' surface). Additionally, marks of the borders and distribution of the descriptions of individual units must be properly designed. In complicated cases, arrows pointing to the attachment of regions in question should be used.

A separate issue connected with administrative maps is the correctness of divisions presented on them. It seems that these maps should undergo numerous corrections, so that any errors would be eliminated. Unfortunately, even maps prepared by famous publishing houses contain errors.

On summing up it should be noted that new administrative division of Poland had great impact on Polish cartography. Numerous new works have appeared. In addition, a need to update the existing maps and geographical atlases has emerged.

Resume

Nowy podział administracyjny w Polsce a kartografia

Od 1 stycznia 1999 roku obowiązuje nowy podział administracyjny Polski na 16 województw, i 373 powiaty.

Zmiana ta miała wpływ głównie na gospodarkę, ale również na inne dziedziny życia, w tym na kartografię. Należało opracować nowe mapy podziału administracyjnego Polski. Na rynku ukazały się nowe serie map województw, powiatów a nawet gmin. Odrębnym zagadnieniem była konieczność aktualizacji map w atlasach, encyklopediach, leksykonach i podręcznikach.