

TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN SETTLEMENT NETWORK OF ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE PROVINCE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CHANGES OF ADMINISTRATIVE BORDERS

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Abstract: The aim of this work is to present changes of urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province and Świętokrzyskie Province against the background of the transformation of administrative subdivision of Poland between years 1950 – 2003. The network of cities from the area of Kieleckie Province (till 1999) and Świętokrzyskie Province (from 1999 to 2003) has been analyzed in the work. Urban settlement network on this area has been forming for few centuries. The oldest cities emerged at the beginning of XIII century as settlements of trade and craft functions, while the youngest in the XX century as industrial centers connected, in majority, with the development of Staropolski Okręg Przemysłowy. In order to reach the aim, G. K. Zipf's law of size and rank was used.

Key words: urban settlement network, changes of settlement network, administrative subdivision, G. K. Zipf's law

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to improve management, division of the territories of countries into smaller administrative units is done, by the governments of those countries. It is extremely difficult to set borders of the units univocally. Geographical, historical, social and industrial differentiation of individual regions is taken into account. Recently, in Poland, opinion of local societies is important as well.

The aim of the work is to present changes of urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province and Świętokrzyskie Province against the background of the transformation of administrative subdivision of Poland.

The network of cities from the area of Kieleckie Province (till 1999) and Świętokrzyskie Province (from 1999 to 2003) has been analyzed in the work. Urban settlement network on this area has been forming for few centuries. The oldest cities emerged at the beginning of XIII century as settlements of trade and craft functions,

while the youngest in the XX century as industrial centers connected, in majority, with the development of Staropolski Okręg Przemysłowy .

In the work, I am aiming at answering following questions:

1. What changes took place in the state of urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province (till 1999) and Świętokrzyskie Province (from 1999 to 2003) together with the transformation of administrative borders?
2. Which deviation was the most appropriate for the development of the analyzed network of the cities?

In order to answer those questions, G. K. Zipf's law of size and rank (1949) was used.

2. URBAN SETTLEMENT NETWORK IN KIELECKIE PROVINCE BETWEEN YEARS 1950 AND 1973

Kieleckie Province existed even in the pre-war administrative division of the country. Not only Kielce, but also other big cities, such as: Częstochowa, Zawiercie, Sosnowiec, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Radom, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Skarżysko Kamienna, existed in its area.

After the end of the World War II and changes of Polish borders, in June 1946 administrative division into 14 provinces was done. Among them there was Kieleckie Province, which was covering similar area to the one that it had been covering before the war. Another division was done in 1950. This time 17 provinces were set. Kieleckie Province decreased its territory. Its area was 19,510 km². In this area 28 cities were located, among which cities with population below 10 thousand dominated. Only two cities: Radom and Kielce had population over 50 thousand (Table 1).

Calculations of exponent of contrast of urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province in 1950 allow us to assume that the network analyzed remained almost in state of balance. The exponent is 1.04945 (Table 1). It is very close to one. This fact shows that in that time the system was developed steadily. The role of the first city- Radom, although it was not the capital of the province, was dominating and the number of cities was appropriate for the existence of the state of balance between the unifying and dispersing forces. The estates varied in size (Table 1). During analyzation of deviations from the theoretical population, according to Zipf's Law, we can observe that mainly cities of population below seven thousand had negative deviations, while the cities of population below two thousand had the biggest deviations. This kind of deviation was characteristic also for Starachowice. Negative deviation shows that those cities developed slower economically. Estates with population over 15 thousand were functioning the best. Kilece was among them, with positive deviation, over 50 %, from the theoretical number of inhabitants, what proves good condition of this city.

During 23 years, from 1950 to 1973, number of cities in Kieleckie province increased by 8. City status was gained by Pionki, Suchedniów, Kazimierza Wielka, Stąporków, Białobrzegi, Ćmielów, Przysucha, Lipsko. Increase in the number of the cities did not cause drastic change of exponent of contrast of urban settlement network in relation to the year 1950. Exponent calculated for the year 1973 was $a = 1.120185$ (Table 2). On this basis we can state that urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province

Table 1 Cities of Kieleckie Province – 1950

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Radom	80,298				
2	Kielce	61,332	0.388724	38,796	22,536	58.1
3	Starachowice	24,263	1.089367	25,351	-1,088	4.3
4	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	20,273	0.992902	18,744	1,529	8.2
5	Skarżysko-Kamienna	17,058	0.962525	14,831	2,227	15.0
6	Jędrzejów	11,039	1.107464	12,248	-1,209	9.9
7	Sandomierz	8,758	1.138684	10,419	-1,661	15.9
8	Opoczno	7,766	1.123373	9,056	-1,290	14.2
9	Końskie	7,214	1.096711	8,003	-789	9.9
10	Busko-Zdrój	5,708	1.148220	7,166	-1,458	20.3
11	Włoszczowa	5,260	1.136669	6,484	-1,224	18.9
12	Kozienice	4,776	1.135713	5,918	-1,141	19.3
13	Staszów	4,714	1.105366	5,441	-727	13.4
14	Opatów	4,506	1.091425	5,034	-528	10.5
15	Zwolen	4,395	1.072829	4,682	-287	6.1
16	Szydłowiec	4,177	1.066206	4,376	-199	4.5
17	Iłża	3,761	1.079857	4,106	-345	8.4
18	Pińczów	3,587	1.075442	3,867	-280	7.2
19	Szczekociny	3,502	1.063839	3,654	-152	4.2
20	Przedbórz	3,221	1.073544	3,462	-241	6.7
21	Chmielnik	3,139	1.064810	3,289	-150	4.6
22	Chęciny	2,637	1.105162	3,133	-496	15.8
23	Skaryszew	2,089	1.163790	2,990	-901	30.0
24	Działoszyce	1,851	1.186266	2,859	-1,008	35.6
25	Koniecpol	1,773	1.184597	2,739	-966	35.3
26	Zawichost	1,606	1.200700	2,629	-1,023	38.9
27	Skalbmierz	1,522	1.203251	2,526	-1,004	39.7
28	Wyśmierzyce	964	1.330000	2,432	-1,468	60.3
			29.384608			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Kieleckie Province for year 1950			A = 1.049450			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

was still remaining close to the state of balance. The cause of the small deviation was, probably, dynamic development of Kielce. In 1973 the city system should be called polycentric. Two big cities dominated in it. Radom, together with Kielce. As in the previous period, negative deviations from the theoretical population were characteristic for the cities with population below 8 thousand. It can be assumed, on the basis of the size of the deviations (they were the biggest there), that these estates were developing in the smallest pace, as well as estates with population between 15 and 20 thousand, which were developing weakly. Estates with population over 40 thousand were developing the best (Table 2).

On the basis of analysis done, we can observe that between years 1950 and 1973 urban settlement network in Kieleckie Province was remaining in the state close to the balance between unifying and dispersing forces. Nor the increase in the number of cities, neither the dynamic development of Kielce as the capital of the province made the system unsteady. Due to this fact, it is supposed that for the development of the analyzed network of cities contemporary administrative division was appropriate.

Table 2 Cities of Kieleckie Province – 1973

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Radom	166,911	0.000000			
2	Kielce	139,891	0.254775	76,785	63,106	82.2
3	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	54,540	1.018126	48,755	5,785	11.9
4	Starachowice	44,657	0.951060	35,323	9,334	26.4
5	Skarżysko-Kamienna	40,969	0.872755	27,511	13,458	48.9
6	Sandomierz	18,667	1.222654	22,429	-3,762	16.8
7	Końskie	15,255	1.229529	18,872	-3,617	19.2
8	Pionki	15,160	1.153579	16,250	-1,090	6.7
9	Jędrzejów	14,273	1.119180	14,242	31	0.2
10	Opoczno	13,167	1.102998	12,656	511	4.0
11	Busko-Zdrój	12,231	1.089908	11,375	856	7.5
12	Kozienice	10,593	1.109606	10,318	275	2.7
13	Staszów	10,146	1.091778	9,433	713	7.6
14	Suchedniów	9,059	1.104069	8,682	377	4.3
15	Pińczów	7,998	1.121939	8,036	-38	0.5
16	Włoszczowa	7,495	1.119251	7,476	19	0.3
17	Szydłowiec	6,733	1.133144	6,984	-251	3.6
18	Opatów	6,521	1.121804	6,552	-31	0.4
19	Koniecpol	5,919	1.134101	6,167	-248	4.0
20	Zwolen	5,732	1.125399	5,822	-90	1.5
21	Kazimierza Wielka	5,510	1.120338	5,513	-3	0.1
22	Ilża	4,592	1.162437	5,233	-641	12.2
23	Chmielnik	4,509	1.151775	4,978	-469	9.4
24	Stąporków	4,191	1.159364	4,747	-556	11.7
25	Białobrzegi	4,223	1.142297	4,535	-312	6.9
26	Szczekociny	3,860	1.156133	4,340	-480	11.1
27	Ćmielów	3,788	1.148607	4,160	-372	8.9
28	Przysucha	3,665	1.145977	3,994	-329	8.2
29	Chęciny	3,618	1.137868	3,840	-222	5.8
30	Przedbórz	3,403	1.144539	3,697	-294	7.9
31	Lipsko	3,434	1.130969	3,564	-130	3.6
32	Skaryszew	2,693	1.190744	3,439	-746	21.7
33	Zawichost	2,058	1.257176	3,323	-1,265	38.1
34	Skalbmierz	1,686	1.303072	3,213	-1,527	47.5
35	Działoszyce	1,564	1.313574	3,111	-1,547	49.7
36	Wysmierzyce	873	1.465955	3,014	-2,141	71.0
			39.206480			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Kieleckie Province for year 1973			A =1.120185			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

3. URBAN SETTLEMENT NETWORK IN KIELECKIE PROVINCE BETWEEN YEARS 1975 AND 1998

In 1975, in order to centralize the management of the country, the administrative division was changed, in the result 49 provinces were introduced. Among them, Kieleckie Province was functioning, covering much smaller, than before the reform, area

of 9,211 km². Also the number of cities decreased to 17 in 1975. The biggest city-Radom, was located outside the borders of the province.

Calculations of exponent of contrast of urban settlement network for the province in 1975 allow us to assume that analyzed network was far from the state of balance. The exponent of contrast was as high as $A = 1.331214$ (Table 3). It is much bigger than one, which means that the system was monocentric. The role of the first city – Kielce was visibly dominating and the number of cities smaller in relation to the ideal state (state of balance). The estates were varied in size (Table 3). Unifying forces dominated. During analyzation of deviations from the theoretical population, according to Zipf, it can be observed that in this case, mainly cities of population below 5 thousand had negative deviations. Also Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski and Końskie had negative deviations. Negative deviations shows that those cities were developing weaker than others. Estates of population over ten thousand were functioning the best. In many cases, such as Skazysko-Kamienna and Starachowice, deviations from the theoretical population were positive, which testifies good condition of these cities.

Table 3 Cities of Kieleckie Province – 1975

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Kielce	156,936				
2	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	58,689	1.419014	62,372	-3,683	5.9
3	Starachowice	46,806	1.101231	36,356	10,450	28.7
4	Skrzysko-Kamienna	42,467	0.942881	24,789	17,678	71.3
5	Końskie	16,298	1.407196	18,418	-2,120	11.5
6	Jędrzejów	14,895	1.314245	14,449	446	3.1
7	Busko-Zdrój	12,860	1.285627	11,768	1,092	9.3
8	Miechów	9,422	1.352666	9,852	-430	4.4
9	Suchedniów	9,392	1.281607	8,422	970	11.5
10	Pińczów	8,760	1.253218	7,320	1,440	19.7
11	Włoszczowa	8,055	1.238396	6,448	1,607	24.9
12	Kazimierza Wielka	5,550	1.344935	5,743	-193	3.4
13	Stąporków	4,855	1.355125	5,162	-307	5.9
14	Chmielnik	4,413	1.353242	4,677	-264	5.6
15	Chęciny	3,662	1.387651	4,267	-605	14.2
16	Skalbmierz	1,685	1.635320	3,915	-2,230	56.9
17	Działoszyce	1,562	1.627082	3,612	-2,050	56.8
			21.299436			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Kieleckie Province for year 1975			A = 1.331214			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

The province was functioning with no changes in borders till 1998. In this period number of cities increased from 17 to 22. City status was gained by Sędziszów, Małogoszcz, Kunów, Wąchock, Bodzentyn. Increase in the number of cities did not cause decrease in exponent of contrast of urban settlement network in relation to year 1975. On the contrary, exponent calculated in 1998 reached 1.382738 (Table 4). On this basis we can state that network analyzed distanced from the state of balance. It can still be defined as monocentric system with dominating center – Kielce. Similarly to the

previous period, negative deviations from the theoretical population were characteristic for the small cities, with population below five thousand. The estates with population over ten thousand were developing the best. Among the big cities, only Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski and Końskie had negative deviation what shows their problems with development. Skarżysko Kamienna I Starachowice were still developing dynamically.

Table 4 Cities of Kieleckie Province – 1998

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Kielce	212,596	0.000000			
2	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	78,940	1.429286	81,528	-2,588	3.2
3	Starachowice	57,377	1.192185	46,539	10,838	23.3
4	Skarżysko-Kamienna	51,012	1.029603	31,265	19,747	63.2
5	Końskie	22,387	1.398571	22,964	-577	2.5
6	Busko-Zdrój	18,334	1.367726	17,847	487	2.7
7	Jędrzejów	17,430	1.285363	14,421	3,009	20.9
8	Pińczów	12,309	1.370109	11,990	319	2.7
9	Miechów	11,853	1.313845	10,188	1,665	16.3
10	Włoszczowa	11,039	1.284625	8,807	2,232	25.3
11	Suchedniów	9,385	1.301258	7,719	1,666	21.6
12	Sędziszów	6,797	1.385529	6,844	-47	0.7
13	Kazimierza Wielka	6,264	1.374081	6,127	137	2.2
14	Stąporków	6,205	1.339081	5,530	675	11.9
15	Małogoszcz	4,322	1.438507	5,027	-705	14.0
16	Chmielnik	4,259	1.410318	4,598	-339	7.4
17	Chęciny	4,254	1.380555	4,228	26	0.6
18	Kunów	3,170	1.455015	3,907	-737	18.9
19	Wąchock	3,058	1.440514	3,626	-568	15.7
20	Bodzentyn	2,442	1.490937	3,373	-931	27.6
21	Skalbmierz	1,327	1.667370	3,157	-1,830	57.9
22	Działoszyce	1,170	1.683012	2,960	-1,790	60.5
			29.040000			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Kieleckie Province for year 1998			1.382738			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

Comparing the value of exponent of contrast of urban settlement network for year 1975 and for year 1998 it can be easily observed that when the province was functioning in the borders from this period, the state of urban settlement network was far from balance between the unifying and dispersing forces, while the number of cities was too small in relation to the ideal state.

4. URBAN SETTLEMENT NETWORK IN ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE PROVINCE BETWEEN YEARS 1999 AND 2003

In order to limit central administration, in January 1999 another reform in the field of administration and local governing was undertaken. In the result of the reform 16

provinces were introduced, one of which was Świętokrzyskie province with the capital in Kielce. Its area did not increase much, comparing with the previous division, from 9211 km² to 11672 km² and did not cover any of the bigger cities.

In Świętokrzyskie Province in 1999 29 cities were functioning. Increase of the territory and of the number of cities did not cause significant decline in the exponent of contrast of urban settlement network in relation to the previous administrative division. Exponent of contrast calculated for year 1999 was 1.292945 (Table 5). On this basis it can be stated that urban settlement network approached to the state of balance only slightly. It can still be defined as monocentric system with dominating center – Kielce. Estates with population below five thousand had still the most serious problems with the development. Also Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski had still negative deviation from the theoretical population.

Table 5 Cities of Świętokrzyskie Province – 1999

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Kielce	211,232				
2	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	79,892	1.402705	86207	-6,315	7.3
3	Starachowice	57,614	1.182575	51,035	6,579	12.9
4	Skarżysko Kamienna	51,091	1.023843	35,183	15,908	45.2
5	Sandomierz	26,726	1.284498	26,365	361	1.4
6	Końskie	22,784	1.242855	20,828	1,956	9.4
7	Busko-Zdrój	18,327	1.256266	17,065	1,262	7.4
8	Jędrzejów	17,816	1.189194	14,359	3,457	24.1
9	Staszów	17,301	1.138796	12,330	4,971	40.3
10	Pińczów	12,649	1.222703	10,760	1,889	17.6
11	Włoszczowa	10,950	1.234256	9,513	1,437	15.1
12	Suchedniów	9,353	1.254477	8,500	853	10
13	Połaniec	9,351	1.215413	7,665	1,686	22
14	Opatów	7,107	1.285260	6,964	143	2.1
15	Sędziszów	7,001	1.258065	6,370	631	9.9
16	Kazimierza Wielka	6,304	1.266604	5,860	444	7.6
17	Stąporków	6,298	1.239837	5,418	880	16.2
18	Ożarów	5,360	1.271114	5,032	328	6.5
19	Małogoszcz	4,352	1.318526	4,692	-340	7.2
20	Chmielnik	4,235	1.305047	4,391	-156	3.6
21	Chęciny	4,198	1.287015	4,123	75	1.8
22	Kunów	3,213	1.354155	3,882	-669	17.2
23	Ćmielów	3,212	1.355056	3,665	-453	12.4
24	Wąchock	3,021	1.336468	3,469	-448	12.9
25	Bodzentyn	2,433	1.386767	3,291	-858	26.1
26	Osiek	2,077	1.418629	3,128	1,051	33.6
27	Zawichost	1,995	1.414606	2,979	-984	33
28	Skalbmierz	1,344	1.517706	2,842	-1,498	52.7
29	Działoszyce	1,182	1.540033	2,716	-1,534	56.5
			36.202469			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Świętokrzyskie Province for year 1999			A = 1.292945			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

During four years of existence of new province the number of cities increased by one. Koprzywnica gained city status. Exponent of contrast of urban settlement network for 2003 calculated at 1.307116 (Table 6) allow us to assume that urban settlement network was distancing from the state of balance. System was still monocentric. The number of cities is smaller in relation to the state of balance, numbers of inhabitants of these cities vary and the unifying force is bigger than dispersing force ($F_u > F_d$). What was characteristic for this period, was increase of the number of the cities which had negative deviation from the theoretical population. It may mean that the whole urban settlement network in Świętokrzyskie Province had problems with development.

Table 6 Cities of Świętokrzyskie Province – 2003

City's rank	Name of city	Actual number of inhabitants	Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network	Theoretical number of inhabitants	Deviation from the theoretical number of inhabitants	
					irrelative	relative %
1	Kielce	210,739				
2	Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski	75,936	1.472601	85,166	-9,230	10.8
3	Starachowice	54,985	1.222960	50,129	4,856	9.7
4	Skarżysko Kamienna	50,651	1.028397	34,418	16,233	47.2
5	Sandomierz	25,294	1.317273	25,710	-416	1.6
6	Końskie	21,547	1.272706	20,259	1,288	6.4
7	Busko-Zdrój	17,734	1.271968	16,562	1,172	7.1
8	Jędrzejów	17,295	1.202343	13,909	3,386	24.3
9	Staszów	16,015	1.172886	11,924	4,091	34.3
10	Pińczów	12,303	1.233733	10,390	1,913	18.4
11	Włoszczowa	10,716	1.242290	9,173	1,543	16.8
12	Suchedniów	9,093	1.264882	8,187	906	11.1
13	Połaniec	8,638	1.245423	7,374	1,264	17.1
14	Sędziszów	7,103	1.284588	6,693	410	6.1
15	Opatów	6,978	1.258417	6,116	862	14.1
16	Stąporków	6,272	1.267596	5,621	651	11.6
17	Kazimierza Wielka	5,971	1.257831	5,193	778	14.9
18	Ożarów	5,093	1.287984	4,819	274	5.7
19	Chęciny	4,223	1.327952	4,490	-267	5.9
20	Chmielnik	4,096	1.315407	4,199	-103	2.5
21	Małogoszcz	4,051	1.297956	3,940	111	2.8
22	Ćmielów	3,232	1.351492	3,707	-475	12.8
23	Kunów	3,189	1.336603	3,498	-309	8.8
24	Wąchock	2,855	1.353516	3,309	-454	13.7
25	Koprzywnica	2,568	1.369264	3,137	-569	18.1
26	Bodzentyn	2,324	1.383424	2,980	-656	22.0
27	Osiek	1,963	1.418803	2,837	-874	30.8
28	Zawichost	1,875	1.417083	2,705	-830	30.7
29	Skalbierz	1,359	1.497899	2,584	-1,225	47.4
30	Działoszyce	1,146	1.533090	2,472	-1,326	53.6
			37.906367			
Indicator of contrast of urban settlement network of Świętokrzyskie Province for year 2003			A = 1.307116			

Source: own calculations done on the basis of statistic data WUS Kielce

This analysis allow us to assum that administrative division from 1999 did not contributed to the development of urban settlement network. It remains far from the state

of balance. Similarly to the administrative division from 1975 – 1998 it is monocentric system with smaller, in relation to the state of balance, number of settlement units.

5. CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of analysis conducted we can assume that:

- ♦ changes in the administrative borders introduced in Poland after the World War II did not contribute to the development of urban settlement network in Kielcekie Province and Świętokrzyskie Province.
- ♦ Urban settlement network in Kieleckie province remained closest to the state of balance during the administrative division into 16 provinces between years 1950 – 1974. Nor the increase in the number of cities, neither the dynamic development of Kielce as the capital of province made it unsteady. The number of urban settlement units was closest to the state of balance.
- ♦ Urban settlement network of Kieleckie Province was most distant from the state of balance during the administrative division into 49 provinces between years 1975 and 1998. The number of cities and their size structure were then far from the ideal state.
- ♦ Reform in the field of administration from 1999 in Świętokrzyskie Province did not contribute to the significant development of urban settlement network. It still remains in the state far from the state of balance and the number of cities is too small in relation to the ideal state.
- ♦ The most appropriate setting of the administrative borders for the development of urban settlement network analyzed functioned between years 1950 – 1974, when the territory of the province and the number of cities in the settlement network were the biggest.

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Zmiany granic administracyjnych a przemiany systemu osadniczego w województwie świętokrzyskim

Resume

W celu usprawnienia zarządzania władze kraju dokonują podziału terytorialnego na mniejsze jednostki administracyjne. Wyznaczenie ich jednoznacznych granic jest bardzo trudne. Bierze się tutaj pod uwagę różnicowanie historyczne, geograficzne, społeczne, gospodarcze poszczególnych regionów. W ostatnim czasie, w Polsce duże znaczenie posiada również opinia społeczności lokalnych. Województwo kieleckie istniało jeszcze w przedwojennym podziale administracyjnym kraju. Na jego obszarze, poza Kielcami funkcjonowały także inne duże miasta, np. Częstochowa, Zawiercie,

Sosnowiec, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Radom, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Skarżysko Kamienna.

Po zakończeniu II wojny światowej i zmianie granic Polski, w czerwcu 1946 roku dokonano podziału administracyjnego na 14 województw. Wśród nich znalazło się również województwo kieleckie, które zajmowało podobny do przedwojennego obszar. Kolejnego podziału dokonano w 1950 roku. Wyznaczono wówczas 17 województw. Województwo kieleckie zmniejszyło swój terytorialny zasięg. W dalszym ciągu jednak na jego obszarze znajdowało się wiele znaczących miast, między innymi Częstochowa, Radom, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Skarżysko Kamienna. W 1975 roku w celu centralizacji zarządzania zmieniono podział terytorialny wprowadzając 49 województw. Wśród nich funkcjonowało również województwo kieleckie. Jednak poza jego obszarem znalazły się największe miasta, między innymi Częstochowa i Radom. W celu ograniczenia administracji centralnej w styczniu 1999 roku przeprowadzono kolejną reformę administracyjno-samorządową kraju wprowadzając 16 województw, między innymi województwo świętokrzyskie, ze stolicą w Kielcach. Jego obszar zwiększył się nieznacznie w stosunku do poprzedniego podziału, nie objął, na nowo żadnego z większych miast.

Celem pracy jest przedstawienie przemian miejskiej sieci osadniczej w województwach kieleckim i świętokrzyskim na tle zmian podziału administracyjnego Polski.

W pracy analizie poddano sieć miast na obszarze województwa kieleckiego (do 1999 roku) i świętokrzyskiego (od 1999 do 2003 roku). Miejska sieć osadnicza na tym obszarze kształtuje się od kilkuset lat. Najstarsze miasta powstały na początku wieku XIII jako osady o funkcjach, przede wszystkim handlowych i rzemieślniczych, najmłodsze natomiast w wieku XX jako ośrodki przemysłowe w większości związane z rozwojem Staropolskiego Okręgu Przemysłowego.

W pracy będą zmierzał do odpowiedzi na następujące pytania:

- ♦ Jakie zmiany zachodziły w stanie miejskiej sieci osadniczej w województwie kieleckim (do 1999 roku) i świętokrzyskim (od 1999 roku) wraz ze zmianami granic administracyjnych?
 - ♦ Który z podziałów był najodpowiedniejszy dla rozwoju analizowanej sieci miast?
- Aby odpowiedzieć na te pytania zastosowano regułę wielkości i kolejności G. K. Zipfa. Można ją zastosować zarówno do ogólnego opisu i interpretacji elementów badanego zbioru osiedli, jak też w pogłębionych rozważaniach dotyczących sieci osadniczej i jej związków z otoczeniem. Reguła ta w sposób właściwy określa stan równowagi w układzie osadniczym.