

Abstract

Spatial differentiation of municipalities financial condition and socio-economic development
of rural areas in Poland

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This dissertation fills a research gap in the body of literature referring to the combination of subjects on financial condition and socio-economic development, and also supplements contemporary research by providing characteristics of all rural and urban-rural Polish municipalities spatial distribution of financial condition.

An assumption has been made that the financial condition of municipalities means the ability to ensure continuity in the scope of services provided by local governments, what directly translates into the implementation of municipalities statutory tasks and the improvement of the inhabitants' living conditions. The concept has been operationalized and described in five dimensions which include: budget solvency understood as the ability of a municipality to balance the budget, financial independence identified in a simplified form with the capability of a municipality to generate income from its own sources and to manage it freely, dependence on transfers and limitation of fiscal flexibility, which explains how much of a municipality financing comes from state budget, and how rigid its revenue and expenditures are, solvency in terms of liabilities seen as the ability of a municipality to regulate both short and long term liabilities, the level of funding for public services relating to the ability to provide adequate service levels.

In the dissertation three cognitive objectives have been set. The first is the recognition of spatial differentiation of financial condition of Polish municipalities level. The second one explains the relationship between the dimensions of local governments financial condition. And the third objective is specifying the link between the level of municipalities financial condition and the level of socio-economic development of rural areas.

The application objective has also been formulated, which was to develop a concept of measuring the municipalities financial condition, on the basis of current scientific achievements in the area of financial analysis of the lowest level of self-government

administration units, and with the use of databases remaining in the resources of Regional Accounting Chambers and the Central Statistical Office.

Key words: financial condition, local governments finances, municipality, socio-economic development, rural areas, centre-peripheries.