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Socio-economic Problems of the New Town Borne Sulinowo

Borne Sulinowo received its urban status on 15th September 1993. Until recently, this location belonged to a group of secret settlement units. In June 1992, it was transferred to the Polish military authorities by the Russian army and in November 1992 to the civil administration.

A 'new town' coming into existence can take many different forms. The new community of Borne Sulinowo has undergone social and demographic changes and changes in spatial structure.

The statements in this paper arise from the first social and economical soundings taken of the establishment processes in Borne Sulinowo. The questionnaire investigations were carried out in Autumn 1993 and May 1994. They concerned demographic questions, the perception of the town by its residents and problems of the urban community formation. 250 adults were included in this first attempt to see if we can already speak of a community or merely inhabitants of the town.

Borne Sulinowo is situated on a moraine plateau, about 140m above sea level, in the Szczecinek Lakeland, by the Pile Lake in Silnowo district (gmina Silnowo) in the southern part of Koszalin county. It has a good road connection with Szczecinek (22 km) and Koszalin (95 km), and to the south with Wałcz, Piła and Poznań. The lateral railway Chojnice–Szczecinek–Czaplinek–Drawsko Pomorskie–Stargard Szczeciński leads into the town. The inhabited area of Borne Sulinowo is 303 ha.

The coat of arms of the town shows a green linden tree against a gold background in connection with a village named Linde that was situated in the same place.

Until the fifteenth century, this area was populated by Pomeranians, whilst in the sixteenth century, the German settlement began. Historical materials mention that settlers from Lower Saxony and Westphalia founded Gross Born in 1587. The land probably belonged to the powerful Pomeranian Kleszczy dynasty, germanised and known as von Kleist [4].

The decision of the German Reich to establish an area reserved for army exercises in this region was a significant moment in the history of Borne

Sulinowo. In the years 1933–1939 a military base was built in the environs of Linde. The government bought the territory and banished part of the population. In 1936, the Wehrmacht artillery school finished building the military town. Borne Sulinowo then had no town status or function.

During the Second World War, the Germans set up the Gross Born prisoner of war camp in this area. The camp Stalag 11 D Gross Born (for commissioned personnel) was added to the Stalag 11 E Gross Born camp (for non commissioned and enlisted personnel). French officers were imprisoned in the camp in 1940–1942, Polish ones in 1942–1945. At the beginning of 1945, there were more than 5,000 prisoners of war in the camp.

After the war, the Soviet Army annexed Borne Sulinowo and kept its military character for the next 47 years. In June 1992, this 'military settlement' was transferred to the Polish military authorities, then on to the civilian ones.

When the Russian soldiers left — over 20,000 had lived here — the process of populating the town began [5]. The town is populated from the whole of Poland, but the majority of immigrants are so-called 'local' Pomeranians. Nearly 50% of the immigrants come from Koszalin county, 7.2% from Pila, 6.5% from Szczecin, 4.7% from Wroclaw and 5% from Katowice. People up to the working age of 40 make up the majority. There are also older people who have mainly come from industrial town complexes (Warszawa region, Katowice region, etc.). The 'local' (Pomeranians) are mainly village people, whilst the newcomers from other parts of Poland are more used to town life.

In the majority of new towns in the world, Poland included, the type of industry/service industry, is not important. In the first settlement phase (10–15 years), the predominance of men is marked. In Borne Sulinowo, the ratio is 100 men to 86 women — for the whole country it is 105.4 women to 100 men. This situation is explained because men tend to settle in a new area first before sending for their family. In May 1994 the town held 1020 inhabitants.

90% of the officially registered population are registered as permanent inhabitants, 10% as temporary. The percentage of school and nursery age children is 17% (99 and 78 children respectively). The population of the town is relatively young. 23% are pre-working age, 70% working age, and only 7% past retirement [5]. Because of the migration mobility of young people, the number of marriages and natural increase will grow — high birth rate, low death rate because of comparatively small number of older people — and will determine the demographic development of the town.

It follows from the conducted investigation that 20.5% of the adult population have a lower grade education, 24.1% vocational, 28.8% medium and only 5.4% higher grade.

The inhabitants of the town have been asked, among other things, about: the reasons for settling in Borne Sulinowo, the kind of registration (permanent or temporary), the degree of their contentment with their choice of where to live, their problems with everyday life etc. The investigation included 54% of the adult population. It follows from their replies that 56% of those questioned came to the town for housing reasons, 22% for ecological, 11% for economic, 8% for family and 3% for other reasons.

Many people have settled in Borne Sulinowo for housing reasons because the town offers much cheaper flats than other towns in the country. Nearly 97% of the respondents declared their intention to settle in the town permanently.

Borne Sulinowo is on the way to creating new employment opportunities. Among the respondents, every fourth person of working age is unemployed (25.1%). The most frequently mentioned professions are nurse, teacher, and shop assistant. The majority of working age people work in the service industries.

Analysis of the socio-demographic structure indicates the emergence of three basic social groups: 'local' Pomeranians coming from Koszalin, Słupsk and Piła — migrants from neighbouring regions: migrants from Silesia: and migrants from the rest of Poland. This general division had been consolidated in the residents consciousness, too. A substantial differentiation occurs depending on geographic provenance, environment and the length of time they have already lived in Borne Sulinowo.

The development of the town, changes in its character and function, the growing influx of new inhabitants from the whole country leads to the formation of a new community, the urban community of Borne Sulinowo. Its establishment from heterogeneous groups — differing from each other in origin, traditions, experiences etc. — occurs in changed circumstances for each of the groups.

The problem of integrating a new community can be considered in a few distinctive aspects — cultural, functional, communicative and emotional [2]. Integration is defined as a continual process, or complex mutually dependent changes in the sphere of values and norms accepted by the community members as well as to observing those values and norms, executing tasks and internal organisation being the basis of proper functioning of the town, contacts and social relations between inhabitants as well as their consciousness based, emotional rapport with the place in which they live [3].

The formation of the new community of Borne Sulinowo is presented using the preliminary results of an investigation conducted in 1993 and 1994.

The cultural integration is understood as a proportion within residents and especially among groups of differing provenance, of agreement of cul-

tural models, values and norms [1]. In the case of Borne Sulinowo, it is characterised — against expectations — by convergence of population groups originating from various parts of the country. A high degree of agreement in life priorities i.e. standards for the roles of family members, citizens and workers — can be regarded as favouring the integration process.

The functional integration is interpreted as the rate of solving tasks related to the town development by individuals, institutions and social organisations, the degree of participation in them, their interest in the towns problems, social activity, assessment of the functioning of the town etc. The functional integration of the town is of particular importance for a town undergoing accelerated development, such as Borne Sulinowo. Significant functional integration can be identified through the collaboration of various groups of inhabitants, testifying to current changes by an growing participation of immigrants in the activities of the town's behalf of various organisations and commissions. In this respect, many organisations have sprung up in Borne Sulinowo: The Society for the Development of Borne Sulinowo, The Editorial Office of 'Moreny' Monthly, the circle of the Polish Union of Anglers, The Senior Club, the Natural History Museum, as well as exhibitions of paintings relating to the town.

Forming the new town provoked great expectations in both local people (Pomeranians), and immigrants from far off regions of Poland. Immigrants, especially those from large towns, are very sceptical about the new urban environment, while rural inhabitants of Borne Sulinowo show a relatively high degree of contentment. The existing shortcomings in the functioning of the town constitute a significant obstacle to integration and are causes of destabilisation. Social infrastructure is vital to forming new societies. The shortcomings there hinder the process of accommodating oneself to the urban lifestyle by rural immigrants on the one hand, whilst they impede the stability of immigrants from large urban centres on the other.

Another level of the inhabitants coexistence is the normative integration, the degree of observing the accepted norms. The rate of approving social mechanisms and public opinion control of the role as a family member, worker and citizen is elaborated by the mutual adjustment of fundamentally different social groups. These groups comprise the rather homogeneous local society (Pomeranians) and extremely different immigrants from Silesia and from other parts of the country. The results of the analysis of the accommodation capacity to the commonly accepted norms show a considerable disintegration in the normative aspect. The number of crimes and law violations will be used as an negative index of normative integration. Certain social pathological phenomena (hooliganism and criminality) can be observed in parallel to changes in urban society. These phenomena are promoted by the insufficient development of social infrastructure in Borne Sulinowo, but the main factor to provoke such an attitude is unemployment.

The communicative integration is the most important plane of social ties. It is understood as the intensity of contacts and social relations (readiness to collaboration between separate groups, the intensity of contact between them and the occurrence of prejudices and stereotypes). Mutual prejudices and stereotypes in perceiving other social groups, strongly hinder the establishment of a new community [1]. In the case of Borne Sulinowo, this is quite evident for the immigrants from Silesia and the rest of the population (local people and those from the other parts of Poland). The last two groups consider the immigrants from Silesia to be arrogant and avid (in my opinion it seems to be rather the spirit of enterprise). The same are the reproaches of immigrants from Silesia to the other social groups.

The intensity of factual contacts depends on the time span of living in the town, social provenance and the professional level of both parents, the urbanisation level of the area in which the child was raised. The investigations show that the intensity of social contact between people from smaller towns and villages is higher than that of people from large urban centres. More frequent are different intergroup relationships between women and young children.

On the whole, we can confirm that communicative integration is already high at the present stage of development and it is growing from year to year with the creation of new employment. Employment at the same workplace favours the development of contacts between all population groups. Work integrates most quickly and effectively.

Equally important is the emotional integration. It reflects emotional identification with the town — by distinguishing Borne Sulinowo of all other towns, the sense of stability and degree of ties to the town, feelings of pride in the town, identification with the town. It is worth stressing here that the degree of emotional ties with the town depends on the place where the child was raised, the urbanisation rate of the provenance and length of time spent in Borne Sulinowo. The degree is highest amongst those raised in neighbouring regions. Emotional integration tends to grow at the same rate as the length of time living in Borne Sulinowo. The longer someone lives there, the greater the tie to the town. The popular saying 'our town' is already in use. Inhabitants write poems dedicated to the town, organise field paintings workshops, etc.

Significant relations and ties exist between facets of social integration [1]. Especially the positive assessment of the habitat in its broad sense, advanced technical facilities and functioning account for the emotional ties with the town and by all this for the favourable development of social relations, or high level of communicative integration [3]. A low level of functional integration may cause the normative disintegration. Therefore, among the integration factors the vital role is played by meeting the demands of living together with due technical provision for the functioning of the town.

The town is at the stage of settling, and so its demographic structure will change continuously. This leads to change in the integration level.

In the formation of the new community of Borne Sulinowo, the local people (Pomeranians) play a particular role. They constitute a specific intermediate link between immigrants from Silesia and the rest. The sphere of contact is, as the citizens of Borne Sulinowo assert in questionnaires, mainly common work contributing to the lessening of prejudice.

The largest industrial enterprises are 'MATEX' — a produce and trading company engaged in the processing of wood, expected to employ 600 workers, and 'Zodiak' Wholesaler of industrial goods which also have shops.

In the town plan, a certain spatial functionality can be seen. A centre emerges in the north western part, an area of family houses in the north, and barracks in the southern town. Borne Sulinowo possesses a complete technical and social infrastructure — although in need of alterations — necessary for its proper functioning, including a network of roads covered in asphalt, sidewalks with solid surfaces, complete water and drainage network, sewerage, heating with warm water supplied by local and regional thermal plants, a petrol station and a large store of liquid fuel — outbuildings, garages, workshops, hardsurface places, a network of shops, a coffee house, mill, bakers, confectionery and butchers, numerous cultural and sports centres, cinemas, auditoriums, clubs, sports halls, stadium, school with drill hall and kindergarten, post office, hospital with dispensary, fire brigade, blocks of flats and premises, barracks that can be developed for flats [5]. Nearby, there are two military airports at Nadarzyce and Wilcze Laski.

Preliminary investigations indicate that, in the future, in Borne Sulinowo, after adequate adaptation, 12,000 people (seasonally adjusted to 17,000), can live in the 1815 ha area. Authorities in the town are doing their best to create a tourist centre. In addition, Borne Sulinowo has an ambitious programme called 'Green Schools' mainly for children from ecologically threatened regions — Silesia and industrial towns.

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