MUSZYNA ZDRÓJ - 10 YEARS OF SPATIAL CHANGES IN THE TOWN AND IN THE SPA [1]

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ABSTRACT
The aim of the article is to present activities in Muszyna Zdrój, located in the region of southern Poland spa resorts. In Poland there are 45 spa resorts (mostly small towns and villages) half of them were developed in the southern part of Poland and many of them are interesting examples of the transformations of the urban public space in the spa resorts. Almost all those settlements are locate in the outstanding natural environment including landscapes, climate and above all in the water, confirm a number of studies and a long tradition of conducting treatment advances in medicinal uses of many diseases.

After a period of stagnation caused by ownership transformations in health resorts associated with the privatization and the reprivatisation of property nationalized after the Second World War. As well as long-term negligence in the period of system change in Poland after 1989.

The activities carried out during last 10 years in Muszyna Zdrój like in the other health resorts located in the south of Poland focused to improve the quality of public spaces in these towns. Muszyna Zdrój is one of the most effective in attracting financial resources from European funds for all designed activities example.

Muszyna Zdrój is a small historical town with developed in the beginning of XX century spa resort. The main advantages of the spa were climate, values of the landscape and sources of mineral waters. The spa resort is separate by the River Poprad from the town and develop separately. After few years of dynamic spatial changes in Muszyna Zdrój, the town and the spa resort become revitalized. Now Muszyna Zdrój is one of the good example of recent spatial changes in the health resorts of the whole of southern Poland spas.

The main revitalization activities in the health resort consisted in creating a modern place for outside events, walking areas, place when everyone can drink the mineral water from the source and rest in different and attractive parks or spend time in outside mineral pools. New paths along the Poprad River and parks, designed and implemented in the spa part of the resort serves both residents, visitors and numerous tourists visiting the town and the spa.

Activities undertaken in Muszyna Zdrój serve not only to improve the attractiveness of
INTRODUCTION

Due to the ubiquitous fashion for a healthy lifestyle, the related interest of a lot of tourists and visitors staying in a spa resort there is considerable pressure on the authorities and investors to improve the state of the public space of the town. Numerous revitalization activities been carried out, initially focused on improving the technical infrastructure and, over time, improving the quality of public spas in the last 10 years are an interesting topic of research and Muszyna Zdrój is one of the good example of recent spatial changes in the health resorts of the southern Poland. Muszyna Zdrój is the most effective in attracting financial resources from European funds for all designed activities.

In Poland, there are 45 registered spas, located in different parts of Poland, but the most widely represented a group of the spa resorts, providing medical services in the field of balneology is along the southern border of Poland. [2] The region of southern Poland is hypsometrically much diversified area. From lowland river valleys of the Vistula and San by upland and sub montane areas of the Northern Carpathians to the mountain peaks of the Beskids, Tatras, Pieniny, Bieszczady Mountains. This characteristic variety of landscape and its attractiveness as well as the natural environment and geological structure became the cause of development of the spa and tourism in the area. [3]

Muszyna Zdrój is a small historical town located in the south of Poland in the Lesser Poland voivodship, in the Nowy Sącz powiat. Muszyna Zdrój has about 5 100 inhabitants, located at the confluence of the Poprad river and the Muszynka and Szczawnik streams. Muszyna Zdrój situated at an altitude of 450 to 550 m above sea level, the highest surrounding mountain is Jaworzyń (1114 m above sea level). Located in the region of southern Poland in the outstanding natural environment including landscapes, climate and above all in the water, confirm a number of studies and a long tradition of conducting treatment advances in medicinal uses of many diseases. Due to the densely forested mountain slopes, this region is characterized by a mild, mountain climate. Climate and landscape values as well as sources of mineral waters have become one of the main advantages of the town. The main wealth of both Muszyna Zdrój and the surrounding area is the resources of curative mineral waters used for drinking cure, bathing and aerosol therapy in sanatorium centres and for bottling by local mineral water bottling plants. [4]

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However in a centre of the town there are mineral springs as well.

The activities carried out in health resorts out in health resorts located in the south of Poland and to improve the quality of public spaces in these towns. After a period of stagnation caused by ownership transformations in health resorts associated with the privatization and the reprivatisation of property nationalized after the Second World War. As well as long-term negligence in the period of system change in Poland after 1989.

After few years of dynamic spatial changes in Muszyna Zdrój, the town and the spa resort become revitalized. Now Muszyna Zdrój become very good example of good managing and attracting funds from European Union and first of all of recent spatial changes in the health resorts not only in southern but in whole Poland.

OBJECT, PURPOSE AND METHOD OF RESEARCH

This article based on urban and architectural research carried out in the last few years in several spas of southern Poland, mainly in the towns located in the Carpathian region. The problem of quality of treatment and equipment of healing spas in spas and observations of transformations is the subject of the author’s research.

The issue of the quality of development and equipment of treatment areas in spas and observation of transformations occurring in it is the subject of the author’s research. In spa towns, these spaces are often the main public spaces of the city and numerous parks, squares and promenades are not only for the bathers but also for a place of recreation for the residents and tourists visiting the town.

The resorts in which treatments have been and are being conducted are shaped differently than centres with an educated urban or rural structure. For centuries, designers and investors of spa plans have paid a lot of attention to the quality of these premises, individual facilities and facilities for bathers. A large part of balneotherapy centres is surrounded by forest areas, as well as in the vicinity of nature protection areas like national parks, reserves, landscape parks, these large areas of greenery have a full isolation and landscape role for medicinal areas.

The aim of the article is to present recent activities in one health resort located. Among numerous revitalizations of public spaces of the spa towns carried out in recent years have mainly involved activities in the field of aesthetic and functional improvement of these towns, adapting them to modern standards, projects implemented in Muszyna-Zdrój deserve special attention.

The research method based by the author's interpretation of the changes taking place in Muszyna-Zdrój. The research carried out by the author during the last 10 years of changes taking place in the spas of the spa and tourist resorts of southern Poland, the observation of numerous activities aimed at improving the quality of public spaces in these places became the basis of the article. The extensive cognitive material collected by the author justifies the need for the presentation of observed phenomena, their assessment as well as the inspiration to formulate conclusions.

MUSZYNA-ZDROJ HISTORY

The urban spatial layout of town Muszyna, in light of previous findings, the original
can be connected to the bishop’s watchtower already functioning in the area and the village founded at the foothill by King Kazimierz Wielki around the year 1356. The first mentions of the town registered in documents are records dated to November 26 and 29, 1364, both issued by King Kazimierz Wielki. One of the first buildings with general urban character was the local parish church which was first mentioned in the year 1400. According to some historians, there are tangible premises indicating that it was a building erected even before the new town was planned out. It was situated outside the chartered centre, on its southern side, on the site of an older village. [5]

In Muszyna already in the thirteenth century on the castle hill smelting iron from the local high-grade ore, and Poprad floated wood. There were also 4 glassworks in the key, whose products were intended primarily for the local population. Later craft developed in Muszyna. Many guilds have been created whose signs have survived to this day. Trading was dealt with by merchants who settled here. They organized fairs where you could meet both Slovaks, Hungarians and Lemkos about Poles. At the time of the biggest prosperity of the town, there were as many as 6 fairs a year. [4]

Muszyna was a spa in the 1920s. To a large extent this was due to the long-time mayor Antoni Jurczak. With his initiative, he began researching the therapeutic properties of springs and drilling new wells. In the 1930s, after the discovery of the source of Antoni on the left bank of Poprad, the construction of a wooden bathing establishment began. The second brick building of this type was built in the city center. For treatment of infertility, peat found on the spot was used in baths. Treatments began at 6 am and continued uninterruptedly until 10 pm this sudden revival of the town resulted in the restoration of municipal rights in 1934 to Muszyna. Muszyna Zdrój is a town with developed in the beginning of XX century spa resort. The spa resort is separate by the River Poprad from the town and develop separately. However in a centre of the town there are mineral springs as well. [6]

Political and economic changes taking place in Poland after 1989 and the transition from a centrally controlled economy to a free market led many spas to a certain collapse and, as a consequence, many objects to ruin. The reason for this was the collapse of the social benefits system and, consequently, the financing of treatments and stays of patients. These changes, although not completely inhibited the activities of the spa in Muszyna-Zdrój, the number of patients decreased significantly and after a certain stagnation, it was only recently blossoming in recent years. Jan Golba, a long-term self-governing body, previously the mayor of the neighbouring Krynica-Zdrój municipality and the deputy mayor of Szczawnica-Zdrój, has been the mayor for several terms, and it is the proper preparation, knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the town and the consistent striving to raise the rank of the town and, above all, improve life residents resulted in numerous activities in the city space and spa. [7] Among them: construction of the city centre beltway, increasing the area and increasing the aesthetic quality of recreational areas in the city and spa. [8] It is not without significance that the activities of the local government were supported by the activities of the local church, on whose grounds a beautiful thematic garden, the biblical garden - was built.

Almost every activity of the commune was
supported by the funds obtained from the European Union, mostly in maximum 75%, the rest must be obtained from other sources sometimes from the state or municipal money or supported by a bank loan, which may expose municipalities like Muszyna-Zdrój to financial problems.

THE SPATIAL CHANGES IN THE TOWN MUSZYNA ZDRÓJ

One of the most important investments is for the public space in the town is the bypass of the city centre of Muszyna-Zdrój, which was opened on November 1, 2013. Its direct objective was to build a beltway for car traffic from Muszyna city centre towards Żegiestów and Piwniczna-Zdrój and a border crossing in Leluchów, completely it changed the city’s transport system, leading a very tedious transit route passing through the centre of the historical layout of the town.[Fig.1] Conducting acoustic revitalization in this form initiated a series of comprehensive activities related to the reconstruction of space, socio-economic and cultural revival, especially in degraded parts of cities, with particular emphasis on shaping a new sound quality, aimed at improving the living conditions of people, restoring spatial order, economic recovery and rebuilding social ties [9] The bypass of the city centre significantly improved acoustic comfort in the city centre and significantly reduced pollution by the exhaust gases in the central street of the city.

![Figure 1. Muszyna-Zdrój the bypass of the city centre](image)

In parallel in a town of Muszyna the revitalization project for the centre of the town was implemented and the effect of these works is visible in the gradual renewal of the market. Although archaeological works are still under way and the very centre of the market square is obscured, the market environment has changed significantly. The road leading from the market square towards the church has now become more of a walking route and the appearance of many houses has taken on new colours.
Numerous tenement houses stretching along Kościelna Street have been renovated, there is visible attention to small garden gardens and the culmination is the surroundings of the parish church, where the thematic park - Biblical Garden was meticulously arranged. [Fig. 2-3]

The park with miniatures of scenes, objects, symbolic elements and exotic and native vegetation, which is to induce reflection and many different aesthetic and spiritual impressions. The number of visitors is constantly increasing and this place is becoming more and more popular for more and more guests. Well designed and made models of bible scenes, walking paths, and seats. At the end of the walk through the garden you will find a hedge maze and a playground in the middle.

Recently, the city of Muszyna has obtained a large co-financing of a new project, which will be the revitalization of the Muszyna centre. [Fig. 5-6] As part of the prepared project, a number of revitalization activities are planned in the area: the market itself and the street leading to the Church (Kościelna Street). According to the developed project, the public space of the centre will be almost completely rebuilt, the market surfaces will be replaced, existing squares will get new walking paths, new plant plantings will be designed, small architecture elements such as: fountain, sculptures, benches, baskets, restoring cellars along with the construction of the object about the function of culture. The facility will be used to arrange rooms that have museum functions and a mineral water collection point will be installed. The building will find its place a stylized wedding hall that can also perform other functions such as a dance hall. [10]

The shape of the building refers to the style of public buildings from the region of Nowy Sącz region, on the plan consisting of rectangles in size and location referring to the existing ruins, a historic object that stood in the middle of the market. The object will be covered with a small roof surrounded by attics.

Muszyna Zdrój market revitalization project was consulted with residents as part of revitalization. The chosen in a completion concept of a town hall and a slab of the market designed by architect Łukasz
Karwątka from Nowy Sącz was selected for the implementation. [10]

The project of revitalization of the Muszyna center provides for a comprehensive revitalization of Kościelna Street, through the modernization of the surface of the roadway, pavement, lighting and storm sewerage. As part of the work of with the revitalization of the street and the surface of the market plate covered by revitalization will be 1.61 hectares of Works in this area will mainly concern road repairs, including changing pavements, existing pavements, reconstruction of road lighting, and renovation of existing technical infrastructure devices. All activities planned for implementation in the coming years are aimed at revitalization of degraded areas and meet the needs of various users of this space, serving improving the quality of life of residents of this part of the city, increase its attractiveness. These comprehensive activities increase the development opportunities of the city, creating from the main public spaces of the city which is the market square and Kościelna St. a specific salon.

THE REVITALIZATION OF THE SPA MUSZYNA-ZDRÓJ

One of the first revitalization activities (2009-2010) on the side of the spa was the project of the “Zapopradzie economic activity zone”. The assumption of the project was a comprehensive modernization of this part of the town and giving it a clear tourist, spa and recreational character, serving both residents of the city, as well as bathers and tourists. As part of this project, the entrance road leading to the spa district was modernized and a comprehensive revitalization of greenery at the Antoni pump room was carried out. Thanks to the construction of a wide pedestrian route, which was emphasized by attractive planting of greenery and small architecture where the main promenade was created. The walking route on the right bank of Poprad was modernized, running along the crown of the flood embankment, complementing the walking path with park lighting, thanks to which an elegant walking route was created on the section: railway tracks - the bridge on Poprad - a railway divider. Similarly, the pedestrian route on the other side of Poprad was modernized, roads leading to sanatorium facilities were modernized and new paths...
were made on the area of the adjacent small forest complex. As part of this part of the project, the walking path on the embankment’s crown along with the installation of park lighting and elements of small architecture has been modernized. A pedestrian-runway was built between the flood embankment and the spa zone together with the element of the cycling route together with the construction of the car park, the transfer of the existing playground and the liquidation of overhead power lines. In the foot of the embankment, a bicycle and roller-coaster track was built along with a car park at the beginning of its course. The route is equipped with new park lighting powered by the communal cable earth line in place of the lighting electricity supply network and playground. [11]

At the same time, the construction of a pool complex in Muszyna was commenced as a supplement to the comprehensive tourist and recreational offer (09.2009 - 08.2010), which has long been lacking in this city. As part of the project, the complex of outdoor swimming pools was built (including: swimming pool and paddling pool, Jacuzzi, back-office facilities, small architecture, land development). The layout of the basins in the projection has a form consisting of several geometrical forms centered around one central point at the intersection of several compositional axes, where the central island was located. The main compositional axis refers to a previously made amphitheater. In the arrangement of basins and pavements, arc and circular shapes dominate highlighting the nature of the composition. Attractions within the swimming pool complex include: family slide, water mushroom, water cascades, wall massages, artificial wave grotto, wave ball (artificial wave ball), bottom geyser, fountain and mini elephant-shaped slide in a children’s pool, Jacuzzi. Around the pools there is a bypass, lined with colored concrete tiles widened so as to allow sunbathing directly by the pools. The main beach - is located on the north-western side below 1.2 m from the main level of swimming pools. The pools and the area directly at the basins were made above the ground level (max. 0.8 m) due to functional requirements. The palms that build the atmosphere of the exotic were placed around the paved area. The paved area of the grassy beach can only be accessed through paddling pools for foot disinfection. Trays are required for hygienic reasons, at the same time protecting the pool water from excessive dirt from both the beach and the outside. The facility is equipped with water massage equipment for rehabilitation. The arrangement of basins and the level of foundation is adapted to the terrain. Elements of pool equipment have been appropriately selected so as not to create additional dominants in the spatial layout of the entire foundation. The family slide is the only element with larger dimensions, distinguishing itself in the pool complex beyond the cubic base of the base facilities, separating the pool zone from the pedestrian route. Sanitary and cloakroom building is adapted for disabled people. The complex has a recreational and sports function. In addition, the team is distinguished by its attractive location in the Poprad Landscape Park - in the Poprad bend, overlooking the historic castle. [12]

In the spa, from the very beginning, there was no spa park, except for small squares, a promenade connecting the spa with the city and a small space around the mineral
water pump room. Built a few years ago, the pump room, near the source of Antoni, was surrounded by a small park about 30 acres of garden. Today, this garden has been enlarged considerably to over a hectare park establishment. The park looks very impressive with numerous water elements, a fountain and a small pond, the whole was planted with new plants and park sculptures, numerous benches and lighting. From the spa park, we can climb the terrain stairs and steep path to the hill overlooking the valley and two Muszyna’s sanatoriums the hill was developed to create the Garden of Senses.

Modern attractive park settings, with a beautiful panorama, with a view of the city and surrounding hills, today is one of the biggest attractions in Muszyna, a place of numerous walks of patients and visiting more and more tourists.

In the park there are marked walking paths of varying difficulty, bike paths have been marked and outdoor exercise equipment has been placed. In the area of this park there are: a stream with cascades, gazebos, benches, stylish street lamps and a barbecue grill. At the top of the hill there is a lookout tower 11.5 m high. [Fig. 6]

The park, organized as a garden of senses, is divided into seven zones. The first one starts a rose alley and leads from the health garden. There are a variety of exercise equipment here, requiring a small amount of power, thanks to which they are intended especially for the elderly. While exercising, you can admire the panorama and compositions created from roses, spire, thistles, spruces, maples and hornbeams. [Fig. 7]

In the Garden of the Senses we reach the part called the garden of the fragrance. In this area, the plants are selected in such a way that the intensity of the odours is more intense. For the blind, this part of the garden will be a condensed herbarium - for cognitive and didactic purposes, they will be able to touch any plant, rub the leaves or flakes in fingers to obtain the aroma of essential oils. Among the hyacinths, lilies, spruces, firs, we find here kitchen spices - fragrant thyme,
sage, mint, garlic. However, recognizing and getting to know the smells will be a great educational experience for everyone. All you need to do is close your eyes and guess at the fragrance of individual plants. [13], [Fig. 8]

Figure 7, 8. Muszyna Zdrój. The Garden of the Senses (Photo by the author, 2018)

The next stage of wandering around this park is the sound garden. It is worth staying in it and listening to the gentle noise of trees, twittering birds, the murmur of water flowing in the stream, the crunch of gravel under your feet. All materials have been selected in such a way as to intensify the sounds around us. Dissolving our senses, we go to the fragrance-touch zone. Here, as in the previous parts of the garden separately, we also use the sense of touch and smell. Plants are selected in such a way as to give off an intense aroma, have a variety of textures and shapes of leaves and flowers. [14]

Figure 9. Panorama of the city view from the observation tower. (Photo by the author, 2018)
The culmination of the whole is the garden of taste. There are bushes and fruit trees growing here, thanks to which we can observe the annual plant vegetation most fully. In addition to their admiration and observation during the harvest, we will be able to enjoy the flavours of fruit - cherries, raspberries, apples, chokeberry fruit, or, if we’re lucky, hazelnut. Taking pleasure in contact with nature, we reach the top of the hill where the gardens of the senses are located. [14] From here, we will admire the whole cornucopia of the garden, as well as the panorama of Muszyna. [Fig. 9] The implemented project, aimed at developing areas around sanatoriums, contributed to building the image of the spa as an attractive tourist area, a comprehensive offer combining landscape and healing values, tourist, cultural and geographic.

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Currently, the construction of the Music Pavilion is being implemented, the construction of walking paths and small architecture facilities to serve actively spa tourists, meeting the expectations that is currently placed in the spa spatial and urban space and organized greenery. The planned project aims to revive the area and introduce new attractions or forms of spending time to the park. It is planned to permanently introduce elements of entertainment, recreation and education, as well as space for seasonal and occasional organization of various types, events and cultural or educational events. New spaces will have to be introduced in the area of the investment, which have hitherto been missing in the park and its surroundings: the Music Pavilion, a modern-style garden, a rock garden, a garden of fairy tales and legends. The whole park consists of individual garden zones, which are in themselves a separate element and together form a harmonious, thoughtful and coherent whole. Such a thoughtful composition serves the needs of people visiting Muszyna and its surroundings. [15]

The last stage of revitalization of the spa part in the Zapopradzie Park in Muszyna-Zdrój scheduled for completion in 2019 is an activity that is a continuation of investments and earlier works in the Spa Park, which are to arrange the space between the current park at the pump room and the bank of the Poprad River. The assumption of the project is to create a modern spa park with an area of approximately 3 hectares in Muszyna, which will consist of: a recreational pond, aviaries with birds, pavilions and theme gardens, but also a promenade, the park area will be supplemented with new plants: trees, shrubs, perennials and flowers. The recreational pond will be an irregular coastline reflecting a natural pool and vegetation where wild animals will find their place; frogs, newts. In the area of the pond there will be an oval bird island, the coastline will be overgrown with shrubs and rushes, for example from common reed, broadleaf club intended for breeding colonies of birds, which are to be a natural attraction. Around the pond there will be open areas integrated with walking paths surrounding the pond. A fountain will be made to aerate the pond, pier and footbridge. Aviaries with decorative birds - are designed to improve the aesthetics and enrich the garden. They resemble sails with their shape. The interiors of the cages will be arranged
by planting trees and shrubs suitable for a given bird species. Theme gardens in the style of antique, modern, rock, and French. Walking promenade, the path elevated above the area with descents to both the gardens and the direction of the Poprad River. The complementary element are plant plantings, irrigation system, el. small architecture: benches, tables, baskets, stone decorations: figures, flower pots, vases, etc., park lighting and ground hardening (modernization of parking spaces) and monitoring, [16]

The main general objective of the projects is the development of Muszyna’s products and tourist offer as well as building a positive image of the health resort and the entire Małopolska region as an attractive tourist area with a comprehensive offer combining the advantages of: Poprad Landscape Park, natural: including mineral water, climate, cultural: numerous monuments of material and geographic cultures: varied terrain, due to the location in the mountain and foothill areas.

CONCLUSION

The consequence of the implemented projects is the increase in attractiveness of Muszyna, as a place of great tourist value, further development of the Health Resort, strengthening the competition’s position of Muszyna among other Polish and European spas, as a result of which the rank and reputation of Małopolska is growing as a region with a particular tourism potential.

The main revitalization activities in the spa consisted in creating a modern place for outside events and outside mineral pool and create an attractive park layout. A park project implemented in the spa part of the resort, which serves both residents, visitors and numerous tourists visiting this place. Activities undertaken in Muszyna Zdrój serve not only to improve the attractiveness of the town by improving the quality of public spaces for the comfort of visitors and tourists, but also for the sake of residents as well as natural resources of mineral resources thanks to which the spa towns have been functioning for centuries.

The consequence of revitalization activities in the health resort, the attractiveness of Muszyna-Zdrój is growing as a picturesque place to relax, and these activities have led to the strengthening of Muszyna- Zdrój’s position among other health resorts located in the Poprad valley. The successes of earlier implementations and the skill in acquiring funds stimulate further actions.

The projects implemented in Muszyna-Zdrój are not only for the bathers who more and more often choose this place for a spa treatment, but above all for the inhabitants of the city and numerous visitors to this city.

Urban regeneration is a complex process based on the joint action of the authorities, local entrepreneurs, communities and other participants of this institution. The identity of the mainstream attracted investors and capital that contributed to the development of the real estate market. The demand for construction and housing areas has increased. The non-exclusive city uses the right conditions for the purpose of the new locations, but also cares for about the image and spatial order of the city in its historical part.

The main part of revitalization activities, smooth acquisition of funds is not without significance. Although many activities are supported by EU funds to an incomplete amount, the rest must be obtained from other sources sometimes from the state or municipal money or supported by a bank loan, which may expose municipalities to financial problems.
REFERENCE

[1] The article is based by the published: W. K. Wójcikowski, Spatial changes in the health resorts of Southern Poland based on Muszyna Zdrój example. DOI:10.5593/sgemsocial2018/5.2/S20.061.


