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Climate change related urban transformation and the role of cultural heritage
Matthias Ripp & Christer Gustafsson (Eds.)

Historical spatial-functional network system and Smart City strategy as an opportunity for the sustainable development of Kołobrzeg

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Abstract

Kołobrzeg is a medium-sized city located in north-western Poland by the Baltic Sea. The historical urban environment was based on a tripartite functional structure which was separated by numerous parks and green areas. This layout has remained legible despite the enormity of the destruction caused by the war effort in 1945, as a result of which the urban tissue of Kołobrzeg was destroyed by approximately 90%. The system transformation in Poland led to the dynamic development of tourism and the consequent uncontrolled growth of the development of the coastal strip and suburban wetlands. This has introduced a disproportion in the historical functional system and led to an urban-functional monoculture subordinated to tourism. The intensity of holiday and spa travel resulted in the erection of residential housing, often used seasonally. The development challenges overlap with ongoing reconstruction and regeneration efforts - in addition, these transformations are taking place in the face of new problems mainly related to climate change. The article shows the correlation between the historical urban network character and the spatial-functional balance as well as contemporary adaptation necessities. The preservation of the historical structure with consideration of the current needs of tourists and residents provides an opportunity to restore the principles of sustainable development. The strategy, together with the adopted objectives based on creating the best conditions for living and recreation, cooperation between inhabitants and authorities, and an innovative economy, will provide an opportunity not only for the development but also for the preservation and adaptation of urban heritage objects in the face of the city's green transformation.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Sustainability, Urban Transformation, Historical urban space, Smart City

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