



Tadeusz MARSZAŁ *

30 YEARS OF *EUROPEAN SPATIAL RESEARCH AND POLICY*

The idea to launch a new interdisciplinary scientific journal dedicated to issues in social and economic space organisation originated at the University of Łódź in the early 1990s. It was a time of significant changes, especially in East-Central Europe – the end of Soviet domination in this part of our continent and profound political and economic transformations in the post-Soviet countries. The processes of integration with West-European countries initiated at that time was conducive to developing international contacts by Polish academic communities. In the field of spatial research, it led, among others, to the organisation of the 7th Congress of the ‘*Association of European Schools of Planning*’ in Łódź in 1993. It was during this congress that I conceived the idea to undertake the establishment of a new international journal co-published by the University of Łódź and a number of foreign universities that would be interested in this initiative. I presented this proposal to Pieter H. Pellenberg of the University of Groningen, Vladimir Slavik of Comenius University in Bratislava, and Antony Walker of the University of the West of England in Bristol. They were all interested in this idea and declared support from their universities.

A year later, in 1994, the first issue of the *European Spatial Research and Policy* journal appeared. In the course of the three decades of its existence, the composition of the editorial committee of the journal, as well as the scientific institutions engaged in its publication, underwent some modifications. Comenius University in Bratislava was replaced for a few years by Charles University in Prague (2000–2007). In 2008, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in

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Bonn joined the co-publishers, replacing the University of the West of England in Bristol. Apart from Tadeusz Marszał, editor-in-chief throughout the 30 years, the editorial team included as co-editors:

- Pieter P. Pellenbarg (1994–2014) and Aleid Brouwer (since 2015) from the Netherlands,
- Vladimir Slavik (1994–1997 and since 2007) from Slovakia,
- Antony Walker (1994–1998) and Chad Staddon (1999–2006) from the UK,
- Jiří Blažek (2000–2008) from Czech Republic,
- Karl Peter Schön (2008–2017) and Markus Eltges (since 2018) from Germany.

The person actively engaged since 2010 in editorial work on *ESR&P*, who has contributed to the strengthening of its standing on the scientific publications market, is Iwona Piesiak, supported since 2016 by Katarzyna Leśniewska-Napierała (as sub-editors, both from the University of Łódź).

During the past three decades close cooperation was established not only within the narrow group of the editorial team members, but also among all editorial board members representing numerous European and non-European countries. Every few years we all met in different academic centres to discuss matters connected with the publication of the journal and to define the directions of its further development as well as of editorial policy. Our meetings also provided excellent opportunities for initiating other forms of joint academic activities. The meetings organised by the co-operating universities were held in:

- Bratislava (1995, 2002, and 2018 organised by Vladimir Slavik),
- Lodz (1996 and 2016 organised by Tadeusz Marszał),
- Groningen (1998 and 2002, organised by Pieter H. Pellenbarg),
- Praha (2000, organised by Jiří Blažek),
- Mersin (2004 organised by Tammer Gök),
- Sao Paulo (2006 organised by Witold Zmitrowicz),
- Bonn (2008 organised by Wendelin Strubelt),
- Vienna (2010 organised by Gerhard Schimack),
- Lodz and Cracow (2012 organised by Tadeusz Marszał and Bolesław Domański),
- Tampere (2014 organised by Olli Kultalahti).

In the years 1994–2023, 30 volumes of *ESR&P* (each consisting of two issues) appeared. They contained 325 scientific articles, 97 review articles, 24 notes, commentaries and reports, and 290 book reviews. The authors of the articles and review articles represented numerous academic institutions from 44 countries, apart from Poland, mostly from the Netherlands (78), Great Britain (74), Hungary (58), Italy (39), and the Czech Republic (37).

About 1/3 of the 60 issues of *ESR&P*, prepared by guest-editors, had a thematic character:

- *‘The silent revolution: electronic data interchange. Metadata and Meta governance.’* – 2003, vol. 10 no. 2 (guest-editors: Margaret Grieco, Stephen Little and Kenneth Macdonald);

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- *'New trends in the geographical organisation of society: integration and differentiation within a unifying Europe'* – 2004, vol. 11 no. 1 (guest-editors: Jiří Blažek, Petr Dostál, Tassilo Herrschel and Luděk Sýkora);
 - *'New challenges for urban and regional transport policy and planning'* – 2005, vol. 12 no. 1 (guest-editor: Nicolas P. Law);
 - *'In memory of Torsten Hägerstrandt (1916-2004)'* – 2006, vol. 13 no. 1 (guest-editor: Margaret Grieco);
 - *'Open Method of Coordination'* – 2007, vol. 14 no. 1 (guest-editors: Nocolé Schäfer and Wendelin Strubelt);
 - *'Polish space in integrating Europe'* – 2007, vol. 14 no. 2 (editor: Tadeusz Marszał);
 - *'Place marketing'* – 2009, vol. 16 no. 1 (guest-editor: Pieter H. Pellenbarg);
 - *'South African planning scene'* – 2010, vol. 17 no. 2 (guest-editor: Marthinus S. Badenhorst);
 - *'Enterprises and urban policies'* – 2011, vol. 18 no. 1 (guest-editor: Solange Montagné-Villette);
 - *'Political geography of contemporary Europe'* – 2011, vol. 18 no. 2 (guest-editor: Marek Sobczykński);
 - *'Geographies of ageing and well-being'* – 2012, vol. 19 no. 1 (guest-editors: Bettina Van Hoven, Aleid Brouwer and Louise Meijering);
 - *'On socio-economic sustainability and robustness'* – 2012, vol. 19 no. 2 (guest-editors: Ilari Karppi, Jukka Kultalahti and Olli Kultalahti);
 - *'The sustainable city: The concept, European policies and implementation'* – 2012, vol. 20 no. 2 (guest-editor: Solange Montagné-Villette);
 - *'Debating planning cultures: Australian researchers in conversation with John Friedmann'* – 2014, vol. 21 no. 1 (guest-editors: Beatrix Haselsberger and Alexander Hamedinger);
 - *'Planning systems facing heritage issues in Europe: From protection to management, in the plural interpretations of the values of the past'* – 2014, vol. 21 no. 2 and 2015, vol. 22 no. 2 (guest-editor: Anna Geppert);
 - *'The (re-)production of peripherality in Central and Eastern Europe'* – 2017, vol. 24 no. 2 (guest-editors: Erika Nagy and Judit Timár);
 - *'Crucial issues in contemporary transportation systems'* – 2019, vol. 26 no. 1 (guest-editor: Szymon Wiśniewski);
 - *'Mass Immigration to Europe: A Threat or Opportunity?'* – 2019, vol. 26 no. 2 (guest-editor: Marek Sobczykński);
 - *'Re-addressing the role of proximity on a microscale: The case of coworking spaces and business incubators'* – 2020, vol. 27 no. 1 (guest-editor: Grzegorz Micek);
 - *'Governing circular economy: Place-specific barriers that hamper to close the loop'* – 2020, vol. 27 no. 2 (guest-editor: Viktor Varjú);
 - *'The Holocaust and its consequences in the spatial perspective'* – 2021, vol. 28 no. 1 (guest-editors: Piotr Kendziorok and Andrzej Rykała);

- ‘Territorial governance in the Western Balkans: Multi-Scalar approaches and perspectives’ – 2021, vol. 28 no. 2 (guest-editors: Giancarlo Cotella and Rudina Toto);
- ‘Sustainable spatial planning of tourism destinations’ – 2022, vol. 29 no. 2 (guest-editors: Katarzyna Leśniewska-Napierała, Iwona Pielesiak and Giancarlo Cotella);
- ‘Multi-level analysis of urban and spatial development in terms of policies and processes’ – 2023, vol. 30 no. 2 (guest-editors: Antonia Milbert and André Mueller).

The scientific profile of the journal – issues in social and economic space organisation at the local, regional and supranational levels – has remained unchanged since its foundation. The scope of the journal is defined by the concepts of space, environment, society, and economy rather than by the names of scientific disciplines.

Factors important for the editorial effort have been the changing external determinants and changes recently unfolding on the scientific publications market. I am convinced that *European Spatial Research and Policy* has been successful in meeting these challenges and maintaining high academic standards, as reflected in a growing interest on the part of the readers and an increased number of texts submitted for publication. The high standing of the journal is also reflected in its indexation in many prestigious reference bases, such as Web of Science, Scopus ERIH Plus and DOAJ. In 2022, *ESR&P* had the impact factor at the level of 0.6.

30 years of the publication of *European Spatial Research and Policy* is a good occasion to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this initiative and to express hope that the inevitable time-related changes in the composition of the editorial board will ensure not only the maintaining of the achieved high position of the journal, but also successful development of this international publication initiative in the decades to come.