

Territorial Changes of the Rzeszów Region — Rzeszowskie Voivodship in the Years 1944–1998

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Abstract

The article presents the territorial changes of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship in the years 1944–1998, which were frequent in this period. Initially, the reason was uncertainty about the final shape of the eastern Polish border, later changes occurred as a result of exchange of sections of borderland territories with the USSR, correction of borders with neighboring provinces and finally reforms of the administrative divisions of the state of 1975 and 1998.

Keywords: territorial changes, Rzeszowskie Voivodship, powiat, commune

JEL: H77, H83, K23, N94

Introduction

This paper is to present the territorial changes of the Rzeszów Region from the moment of establishment of the Voivodship National Council (Polish: Wojewódzka Rada Narodowa, hereinafter: WRN) in Rzeszów on 18 August 1944 to the latest comprehensive reform of territorial divisions of the State of 24 July 1998, as a result of which the Podkarpackie Voivodship was formed.¹ This period is characterized by frequent changes in the territory of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship. Initially this was due to the uncertainty about the final shape of the Polish eastern border, later the exchange of sections of borderland territories with the Soviet Union, the correction of borders with neighboring voivodships and ultimately the reforms of administrative divisions of 1975 and 1998.

The term “Rzeszowszczyzna” (Rzeszów Region) was used to refer to the area with Rzeszów as central point and which later became the Rzeszow Voivodship, and concerned the period before its formal creation in 1945.

The establishment of the WRN was a forerunner for the elevation of the city as the capital of the future voivodship, as there was still war, and the representatives of the Polish Committee for National Liberation (Polish: Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego, hereinafter: PKWN) exercised power in the areas of so-called Lublin Poland and the issue of the national border was not yet regulated.² The decree of PKWN of 21 August 1944 repealed the administrative divisions introduced by

1. State Archives in Rzeszów (Polish: Archiwum Państwowe w Rzeszowie), fonds: Wojewódzka Rada Narodowa w Rzeszowie 1944–1950 (hereinafter: APRz WRN), ref. no. 8, c. 1–11, Minutes no. 1 of the organisational meeting of the Voivodship National Council in Rzeszów of 18 August 1944; Act of 1998.07.24 on the introduction of the fundamental territorial divisions of the State; it established new voivodships as of 1 January 1999 (see: Ustawa z dnia 24 lipca 1998 r. o wprowadzeniu zasadniczego trójstopniowego podziału terytorialnego państwa. DzU z 1998 r. nr 96 poz. 603).

2. An initial arrangement on the border with the USSR was made in the accord that constituted an annex to the agreement between PKWN and the Command of the Red Army of 26 July 1944. The document did not delineate a detailed border line but outlined the border in the area by mentioning several dozens of localities chosen as border checkpoints. It had not a character of a formal agreement. Cf. Wojtkowiak (2000, 159).

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the German occupation authorities during the Second World War.³ Thus the decree restored the divisions that had been before 1939 when Rzeszów was the capital of the powiat (Polish: powiat) of Rzeszów in the Lwowskie Voivodship.

As a result of the arrangements agreed by the so-called Big Three at the Tehran conference, and later in Yalta and Potsdam, the eastern voivodships of the Second Republic of Poland were to be incorporated into the USSR. The eastern border of Poland was to be based on the so-called Curzon line, which meant the loss of Lwów and the greater part of the Lwowskie Voivodship. In this situation, a problem with the promotion of the new regional center appeared. The PKWN authorities chose Rzeszów, which already in August 1944 had become the *de facto* capital of the Rzeszów Region (*de iure*—a year later).⁴

The idea of establishing a voivodship with the capital city in Rzeszów appeared for the first time in the middle of 1919. It was a grassroots project, but supported by Ignacy Daszyński himself and in accordance with his concept of the division of Galicia and the organization of a voivodship covering the area from Dunajec to San and the lands between San and Tanew. The project won great popularity among the public, which manifested in the convocation in Rzeszów of a special civic committee chaired by Mayor Roman Krogulski. However, the issue of division of Galicia was dominated by ethnic considerations. This was seen in the shape of the Lwowskie Voivodship, which was shifted as much as possible to the west, embracing in a significant part the poviats (Polish: powiat) with the majority of Polish population (Ćwik 1991, 124–125; 1997, 238).

Due to the implementation of the Central Industrial District (Polish: Centralny Okręg Przemysłowy—COP) projects to establish a new voivodship, which would include the main part of the new industrial district began to be proposed between 1937 and 1939. Rzeszów was mentioned most often as proposed capital of this new voivodship, while Sandomierz was also taken into account (Ćwik 1983, 34).

1 Territorial changes of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship

With the establishment of WRN in Rzeszów, structures of state administration began to be organised in the liberated areas based on national councils. Pursuant to the aforementioned decree of PKWN of 21 August 1944, in the period from 18 August 1944 to the formal establishment of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship (18 August 1945), one can speak about the Lwowskie Voivodship whose western poviats: of Brzozów, Jarosław, Kolbuszowa, Krosno, Lesko, Lubaczów, Łańcut, Nisko, Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Rzeszów, Sanok, Tarnobrzeg remained within the new borders of Poland, and whose voivodship authorities were based in Rzeszów.⁵ This name was not used in the official nomenclature at that time.⁶ In addition, the northernmost fragments of the poviats of Sokal and Rawa, whose capitals remained in the USSR. Before the establishment of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship, they were incorporated into the Lublin Voivodship in 1945.⁷

3. See: Article 11 of the Decree of PKWN of 1944.08.21 on the procedure of establishing of general administration authorities of the 1st and 2nd instance (Dekret Polskiego Komitetu Wyzwolenia Narodowego z dnia 21 sierpnia 1944 r. o trybie powołania władz administracji ogólnej I-ej i II-ej instancji. DzU z 1944 r. nr 2 poz. 8).

4. Przemyśl, although a slightly larger city than Rzeszów, could not become a capital of the voivodship at that time for political reasons (uncertainty as to the future of the city located very close to the border with the USSR, and its religious significance—it is the episcopal seat for both Catholic rites). See: (Kotarski and Malicki 2013, 18; cf. Petrus 1989).

5. See: Dekret z dnia 7 lipca 1945 r. o utworzeniu województwa rzeszowskiego (the Decree on the establishment of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship). DzU z 1945 r. nr 27 poz. 168—it became effective on 18 August 1945.

6. See: APRz WRN, ref. no. 8, c. 30–52, Minutes no. 3 from the meeting of the Voivodship National Council in Rzeszów of 16 November 1944. The WRN Chairman's functions were then divided, previously the Chairman was at the same time the voivode, he was referred to as the Rzeszów voivode.

7. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 7 lipca 1945 r. o przyłączeniu gminy wiejskiej Tarnoszyn do powiatu tomaszowskiego w województwie lubelskim (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1945.07.07 on incorporation of the rural commune of Tarnoszyn to the powiat of Tomaszów in the Lubelskie Voivodship). DzU z 1945 r. nr 26 poz. 160—it entered into force on 9 August 1945. It was a fragment of the powiat of Rawa. Other fragments of the powiat of Rawa and a fragment of the powiat of Sokal were incorporated into the Lubelskie Voivodship as a result of delimitation with the USSR in 1945. This fact was not recorded in any official journal of that period. See: (Ćwik and Reder 1977, 159–160).

The newly created Rzeszowskie Voivodship with its seat in Rzeszów included the above-mentioned western poviats of the Lwowskie Voivodship and four poviats of the Krakowskie Voivodship: Dębica, Gorlice, Jasło, and Mielec.⁸ In total, as of 1 April 1947, it comprised 18,2 thousand km², 17 poviats, 39 municipalities and 155 rural communes (Wyczański et al. 2003, 263). According to Polish Statistical Yearbook of 1946 (p. 13) the voivodship had 1 535,4 thousand inhabitants, of which 240,4 thousand lived in towns and cities and 1 295 thousand lived in rural areas. The capital of the voivodship in 1945 was a relatively small city with an area of 7,7 km² and 29,5 thousand inhabitants.⁹ In practical terms, it was not prepared for this role (Bonusiak 2010, 144; Petrus 1989, 4–5).

The above decree of PKWN of 21 August 1944 restored the pre-war model of a three-tier administrative division, treating it as a temporary solution (Witkowski 2007, 408). On 16 August 1945, an agreement was signed between the USSR and Poland, under which the border between both states was established along the Curzon line with a deviation in favor of Poland. The Mixed Delimitation Commission (Polish: Mieszana Komisja Delimitacyjna) was therefore set up to determine the border in detail in the actual area. For Poland and the Rzeszowskie Voivodship, the sovereignty over Medyka was important, initially granted to the USSR, and where an important railway junction was located. Actions taken by Poland led to the conclusion of the resettlement action on 26 May 1948, as a result of which, among others, Medyka found itself within the borders of the Republic of Poland.¹⁰

Another important territorial change in the Rzeszów Region was connected with the signing in Moscow on 15 February 1951 of an agreement between the USSR and Poland on the exchange of sections of national territories including the exchange, on the basis of reciprocity, of areas amounting to 480 km². It was agreed that all the property, apart from personal property of the population, was to remain in place. The public in Poland was informed about this fact on 15 May 1951 by the mass-media. The Sejm ratified the agreement on 26 May 1951, while the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 31 May 1951. The instruments of ratification were exchanged on 5 June 1951. Poland lost the area located in the Lublin voivodship, namely the communes: Krystynopol, Bełz, Chorobów, Uhnów, and partly the commune of Wareż as well as Dołhobyczów and Targoszyn.

In return, Poland was supposed to receive from the USSR, as part of a territorially balanced compensation, the area located on the northern side of the upper San, between Smolnik and Solina. It included three communes in their entirety: Ustrzyki Dolne, Lutowiska, and Czarna, as well as the eastern villages of the commune of Solina. The resettlement action from the areas given to the USSR lasted from 18 August to 24 September 1951. The settlement on territories transferred to Poland lasted from 25 October to 7 November 1951.¹¹ On 12 December 1951, the Council of Ministers established in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship the poviat of Ustrzyki based in Ustrzyki Dolne. It comprised the communes taken over from the USSR and the following communes from the Lesko poviat: Ropienka, Stuposiany, Tarnawa Niżna, and Zatwarnica and rural communities Łobzew and Ustianowa from the commune of Olszanica, and also the commune of Wojtkowa and

8. The incorporation of the four poviats of the Krakowskie Voivodship to the newly created Rzeszowskie Voivodship was opposed by the Voivodship National Council in Kraków, which at its meeting on 24–25 May 1945 took a resolution addressed to the Provisional Government of the Republic of Poland which put forward a proposal for an incorporation of practically the whole Rzeszów Region into the Krakowskie Voivodship. See: (Mróz 2011, 480; Petrus 1989, 12–13).

9. [In the journal European practice of number notation is followed—for example, 36 333,33 (European style) = 36 333.33 (Canadian style) = 36,333.33 (US and British style).—Ed.]

10. See: Umowa między Rzeczpospolitą Polską i Związkiem Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich o polsko-radzieckiej granicy państwowej (the Agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics on the Polish-Soviet state border). DzU z 1947 r. nr 35 poz. 167. See: Wawryniuk (2012, 120–121, 137), where the author described in detail the circumstances of work of the Delimitation Commission and incorporation of Medyka into Polish territory.

11. See: Ustawa z dnia 26 maja 1951 r. o ratyfikacji podpisanej w Moskwie dnia 15 lutego 1951 r. umowy pomiędzy Rzeczpospolitą Polską a Związkiem Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich o zamianie odcinków terytoriów państwowych (the Act on the ratification of the agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics on the exchange of sections of national territories signed in Moscow on 15 February 1951). DzU z 1951 r. nr 31 poz. 242. See: (Eberhardt 2018, 106–108; Kłaczyński 2011, 133–142; Smoleń 2004, 85–101).

rural communities of Arłamów, Jamna Dolna, Jamna Górna, Trójca from the powiat of Przemyśl.¹² As a result of the above, the area of the Rzeszów voivodship changed, and as of 30 September 1955 had 18,6 thousand km², with the population of 1524 thousand. The voivodship was divided into 23 powiats, including 3 municipal ones, 40 cities, 1 settlement (Dęba) and 584 rural communities.

The voivodship comprised the following powiats: Brzozów, Dębica, Gorlice, Jarosław, Jasło, Kolbuszowa, Krosno, Lesko, Lubaczów, Łańcut, Mielec, Nisko, Przemyśl, municipal powiat of Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Radymno, Rzeszów, municipal powiat of Rzeszów, Sanok, municipal powiat of Stalowa Wola, Strzyżów, Tarnobrzeg, and Ustrzyki. In addition, the following towns and cities: Brzozów, Dynów, Dębica, Pilzno, Ropczyce, Sędziszów Małopolski, Biecz, Gorlice, Jarosław, Radymno, Sieniawa, Jasło, Kolbuszowa, Sokołów Małopolski, Dulka, Krosno, Lesko, Cieszanów, Lubaczów, Leżajsk, Łańcut, Mielec, Radomyśl Wielki, Nisko, Rudnik, Stalowa Wola, Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Kańczuga, Rzeszów, Błażowa, Głogów Małopolski, Strzyżów, Tyczyn, Sanok, Rymanów, Tarnobrzeg, Baranów Sandomierski, Rozwadów, and Ustrzyki Dolne. It is worth noting that only eight of them had then over 10 thousand residents—these are: Dębica, Krosno, Jarosław, Mielec, Przemyśl, Rzeszów, Sanok, and Stalowa Wola (*Rocznik statystyczny...* 1956, 24, 32, 48).

The year 1954 brought substantial changes in the divisions in rural areas: in place of the former commune (Polish: gmina) the community (Polish: gromada) was introduced as a completely different type of territorial subdivision unit. The hitherto existing 3001 communes and rural communities of the former type were liquidated, and 8 789 communities were established instead. The newly established communities were almost three times smaller than the former communes. They were created with a view to rebuilding the system in rural areas and collectivization of agricultural sector, which is why they were supposed to overlap with the area of operation of agricultural production cooperatives. As a new type of territorial subdivision, a settlement was introduced, which could be workers' settlement, spa settlement or fishers' settlement.¹³

Another changes in the borders that took place from 1955 through 1961 occurred between the voivodship of Rzeszów and the neighboring voivodships: Krakowskie, Kieleckie, and Lubelskie, and resulted from economic needs of that time. The following changes were made:

- Pursuant to the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 12 November 1955, the communities of Bystre and Krzeszów were excluded from the powiat of Biłgoraj in the Lubelskie Voivodship and incorporated in the powiat of Leżajsk in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship¹⁴
- By the ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 29 November 1957, the community of Lubcza was excluded from the powiat of Jasło in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship and incorporated into the powiat of Tarnów in the Krakowskie Voivodship¹⁵
- By the ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 29 December 1960, the village of Chodków and the village and settlement of Przewłoka were excluded from the powiat of Sandomierz in the Kieleckie Voivodship, and incorporated into the powiat of Tarnobrzeg in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship¹⁶

12. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 12 grudnia 1951 r. w sprawie utworzenia powiatu ustrzyckiego w województwie rzeszowskim (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1951.12.12 on the establishment of the powiat of Ustrzyki in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship). DzU z 1951 r. nr 65 poz. 446—it became effective on 1 January 1952.

13. See: Ustawa z dnia 25 września 1954 r. o reformie podziału administracyjnego wsi i powołaniu gromadzkich rad narodowych (the Act of 1954.09.25 on the reform of territorial divisions of rural areas and on the establishment of community national councils). DzU z 1954 r. nr 43 poz. 191. See: (Dziki 2013, 438–439; Witkowski 2007, 409–410). The Rzeszów Region is known as a region where the idea and practice of collectivization of agriculture turned out to be a complete failure. See: (Malikowski 2012, 38).

14. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 12 listopada 1955 r. w sprawie utworzenia powiatów leżajskiego i ropczyckiego oraz zmiany granic niektórych powiatów w województwie rzeszowskim (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1955.11.12 on the establishment of the powiats of Leżajsk and Ropczyce and change in borders of certain powiats in the Rzeszowskie Voivodship). DzU z 1955 r. nr 44 poz. 283—it became effective on 01 January 1956.

15. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 29 listopada 1957 r. w sprawie zmiany granic powiatów jasielskiego w województwie rzeszowskim i tarnowskiego w województwie krakowskim (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1957.11.29 on the change in borders of the powiat of Jasło in the Rzeszów voivodshop and the powiat of Tarnów in the Krakowskie Voivodship). DzU z 1957 r. nr 59 poz. 307—it became effective on 01 January 1958.

16. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 29 grudnia 1960 r. w sprawie zmiany granic województw kieleckiego i rzeszowskiego (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1960.12.29 on the change of borders of the Kieleckie Voivodship and the Rzeszowskie Voivodship). DzU z 1960 r. nr 60 poz. 336—it became effective on 31 December 1960.

- By the ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 7 November 1961, the village of Koćmierzów and part of the village of Trzechów were excluded from the powiat of Tarnobrzeg and incorporated into the municipality of Sandomierz in the Kieleckie Voivodship¹⁷

The most fundamental changes in the territorial division of the State in the history of the Polish People's Republic were made as part of administrative reforms from the period 1972–1975. The Act of 29 November 1972 abolished communities by replacing them with larger communes, and abolished settlements as separate units of territorial division.¹⁸ The most far-reaching changes resulted from the Act of 28 May 1975, which introduced two-tier administrative divisions of the State into the units of the elementary and regional level. Thus, poviats were liquidated. The units of the elementary degree were communes and municipalities and districts of larger cities, while the regional level — voivodships, including four municipal voivodships: the capital city of Warsaw, Cracow, Łódź, and Wrocław.¹⁹ The Act established 49 voivodships, most of which for the first time. The introduction of a two-tier territorial divide was due to political considerations. The guiding principle of the new divide were “the ideas of rationalization and adaptation of the divisions at higher levels to the divisions introduced in 1972 at municipal level and the implementation of the idea of democratic centralism” (Kallas 2006, 90). The reform of 1972–1975, due to the need for a significant development of non-integrated bodies, introduced an organizational dispersion and even elements of anarchy to local administration (Izdebski 2001, 59). Apart from Rzeszów, also cities that had previously been part of the Rzeszowskie Voivodship became voivodship capital cities: Krosno, Przemyśl, and Tarnobrzeg.

According to the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 30 May 1975, the Rzeszowskie Voivodship comprised the following municipalities: Rzeszów, Błażowa, Głogów Małopolski, Kolbuszowa, Leżajsk, Łańcut, Mielec, Nowa Sarzyna, Ropczyce, Sędziszów Małopolski, Sokołów Małopolski, Strzyżów, and Tyczyn; and the following communes: Albigowa, Białobrzegi, Błażowa, Boguchwała, Borowa, Brzoza Królewska, Chmielnik Rzeszowski, Cmolasy, Czarna, Czermin, Czudec, Frysztak, Giedlarowa, Głogów Małopolski, Grodzisko Dolne, Hyżne, Iwierzycy, Kamień, Kolbuszowa, Krasne, Kosina, Kuryłówka, Leżajsk, Lubenia, Łańcut, Markowa, Mielec, Mrowla, Niebylec, Niwiska, Nowa Sarzyna, Ostrów, Przeclaw, Raclawówka, Rakszawa, Raniżów, Ropczyce, Sędziszów Małopolski, Sokołów Małopolski, Stary Dzikowiec, Strzyżów, Świlcza, Trzebownisko, Tuszów Narodowy, Tyczyn, Wielopole Skrzyńskie, Wiśniowa, Wola Żarczycka, and Żołyńca.²⁰

As of 1 January 1973, the Rzeszowskie Voivodship had 18,6 thousand km² of surface area and comprised 23 poviats, 45 municipalities and 164 communes. However, as of 31 December 1975 it had only 4 399 km², 13 municipalities and 49 communes (Wyczański et al. 2003, 266, 268).

As regards the capital of the voivodship, in 1952 the territory of Rzeszów was enlarged by the adjacent areas of Drabinińska, Staroniwa, Staromieście, and Pobitno, as well as parts of the villages of Biała, Słocina, and Zwiężczyca. The area of the city increased to 39 km². The number of inhabitants of Rzeszów also increased, which, according to respective censuses, was as of 14 February 1946 — 29 902 inhabitants, 6 December 1960 — 62 526, 8 December 1970 — 82 192, 7 December 1978 — 112 684, 6 December 1988 — 148 560 (Cierpiak-Wolan, Kaszuba, and Krzemińska 2004, 7, 11).

17. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 7 listopada 1961 r. w sprawie zmiany granic województw kieleckiego, rzeszowskiego i warszawskiego (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1961.11.07 on the change of borders of the Kieleckie, Rzeszowskie, and Warszawskie voivodships). DzU z 1961 r. nr 49 poz. 261 — it became effective on 31 December 1961.

18. See: Ustawa z dnia 29 listopada 1972 r. o utworzeniu gmin i zmianie ustawy o radach narodowych (the Act of 1972.11.29 establishing communes and amending the Act on National Councils). DzU z 1972 r. nr 49 poz. 312 — it entered into force on 1 January 1973. See: (Kallas 2006, 89).

19. See: Ustawa z dnia 28 maja 1975 r. o dwustopniowym podziale administracyjnym Państwa oraz o zmianie ustawy o radach narodowych (the Act of 1975.05.28 on the two-tier administrative division of the state and on the amendment of the Act on national councils). DzU z 1975 r. nr 16 poz. 91 — it entered into force on 1 June 1975. See: (Witkowski 2007, 412).

20. See: Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 30 maja 1975 r. w sprawie określenia miast oraz gmin wchodzących w skład województw (the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 1975.05.30) on the identification of municipalities and communes forming part of voivodships). DzU z 1975 r. nr 17 poz. 92 — it became effective on 1 June 1975.

The two-level divisions of the country survived the collapse of the People's Republic of Poland and was replaced in 1998 by the restoration of the three-level divisions (voivodship – county²¹ – commune) (Witkowski 2007, 413). The Act of 24 July 1998 established, effective from 1 January 1999, 16 voivodships in place of 49.²² Rzeszów became the capital of the new Podkarpackie Voivodship. As of 31 December 2000, the new voivodship had 17 926 km² of surface area and consisted of 20 counties, including 4 cities with county status, 45 municipalities, 160 communes, and the population was 2 129 thousand, including 163 thousand in Rzeszów (Wyczański et al. 2003, 269, 373, 379). Pursuant to the Prime Minister's announcement of 22 June 2001, the Podkarpackie Voivodship comprised the following counties: Bieszczady, Brzozów, Dębica, Jarosław, Jasło, Kolbuszowa, Krosno, Leżajsk, Lubaczów, Łańcut, Mielec, Niskoi, Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Ropczyce and Sędziszów, Tarnobrzeg and cities with the county status: Krosno, Przemyśl, Rzeszów, and Tarnobrzeg.²³

Compared to the divisions in force in 1975–1998, the new territorial-administrative division is assessed as much more favorable. Instead of a two-level system, we have three levels with a representation body at each level. The reform also caused criticism from some geographers and historians. Among other things, they argued that the return to historical terms in the names of the voivodships was not quite fortunate. The current name of the Podkarpackie Voivodship is questioned because a significant part of its area is not actually located in the Podkarpacie Region (Wojtkowiak 2000, 187–189).

Summary

Between 1944 and 1999, Rzeszów and the region transformed from a poorly developed area into a thriving economic center. The measure of the development of Rzeszów is an ever-increasing number of inhabitants of the city, which during these 55 years grew from less than 30 thousand to over 160 thousand. Rzeszów, when developing, has naturally filled the gap after Lwów (currently referred to as Lviv) lost by Poland. This was due to the development of industrial sites in the city and region, the origins of which date back to the 1930s when the Central Industrial District (COP) was built. These were the main causative agent for the generation of urban fabric of the city.

Rzeszów became an academic center, the beginning of which was marked by the establishment in 1963 of the Higher School of Engineering—the later Rzeszów University of Technology, the Higher Pedagogical School in 1965, branch of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (UMCS) in 1969 and the branch of the Agricultural Academy of Krakow, both branches being merged in 2001 to form the independent University of Rzeszów. It is also worth noting that also private higher education institutions were founded in the city.

The central location of Rzeszów in the region, roads of railway routs crossing it, the motorway A4 and the proximity of the Rzeszów-Jasionka Airport contribute to the economic development of the city and the region. In addition, the airport has the best climatic location of all Polish airports, so it is well suited to be a backup airport for the Warszawa-Okęcie Airport (Kotarski and Malicki 2013, 102). The transport network and infrastructure is now being treated in current regional development theories as one of the main factors contributing to the growth of the region's economic potential, the development of competitiveness and living standards of its population (Malczewski 2012, 339). Also the development of businesses from the defence and aerospace industry within the region (Stalowa Wola, Mielec, Rzeszów) should be mentioned, which entails access to new technologies. The development of the region will also be positively affected in the future by the

21. [According to Toponymic Guidelines of Poland published by Commission of Standardization of Geographical Names Outside of the Republic of Poland affiliated to the Surveyor General of Poland, current names of administrative division of Poland in English should be as follows: voivodship (for Polish “województwo”), county (for Polish “powiat”), and commune (for Polish “gmina”)—Ed.].

22. See: Ustawa z dnia 24 lipca 1998 r. o wprowadzeniu zasadniczego trójstopniowego podziału terytorialnego państwa (the Act of 1988.07.24 on the introduction of the fundamental three-level territorial divisions of the state). DzU z 1998 r. nr 96 item 603.

23. See: Obwieszczenie Prezesa Rady Ministrów z dnia 22 czerwca 2001 r. w sprawie wykazu gmin i powiatów wchodzących w skład województw (the Announcement of the President of the Council of Ministers 2001.06.22 on the list of communes and counties forming part of voivodships). Monitor Polski z 2001 r. nr 20 poz. 325.

Expressway S19 under construction in the area of the voivodship, which is supposed to be part of the international route via Carpatia.

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