

Janusz Nesterak, Bernard Ziębicki

Editorial. Public Transformations: Infrastructure, Ecology, Law, and Management in Modern Society

In recent years, the development of infrastructure, ecology, legal regulations, and integrated safety management in public spaces has gained particular importance, as these domains have become essential not only for creating comfortable and secure public spaces, but also for shaping a more sustainable and socially-responsible urban environment. Changes in these areas – perceived as common and fundamental to global society – reflect a growing awareness of challenges in local communities, particularly those posed by ongoing urbanisation, climate change, and the need for efficient and inclusive public services.

In this issue of our journal, we present five exceptional analyses that explore various dimensions related to infrastructure, ecology, governance, and legal regulations within the public sphere. These articles address issues such as transport exclusion, the role of telemedicine in environmental protection, integrated safety management of large-scale cultural events, the interpretation of legal norms for municipal companies, and the impact of urban transport infrastructure on the users' sense of safety. Each of these topics contributes important insights and recommendations, which, while varied in focus, collectively create a cohesive picture of contemporary challenges and directions for development in public governance.

Transport exclusion is a phenomenon that particularly affects residents in areas distant from major centres, where transportation infrastructure is often inadequate (Hine, 2009), as the authors Katarzyna Szczecina and Monika Ziółko report. The case of the Nowosądecki district illustrates that the lack of convenient connections to places of employment, education, and health care adversely impacts individual development opportunities and – at the macro level – society as a whole. Transport exclusion, therefore, becomes a driver of social marginalisation, posing a significant issue for local governments and public organisations.

Research conducted in the Nowosądecki district reveals that limited access to public transport creates both economic and social barriers. Despite their desire to actively participate in socioeconomic life, residents face obstacles that contribute to their exclusion. Based on these findings, local leaders and decision-makers face a critical challenge, namely how to improve the accessibility of transport services to counteract exclusion and foster social inclusion. Maintaining an adequate public transportation system is one of the fundamental tasks of local administrative units and an example of how public infrastructure directly impacts the quality of life and economic development (Mackett & Thoreau, 2015).

The technological transformations currently unfolding extend into health care. **Telemedicine as a groundbreaking communication tool** offers opportunities to reduce CO₂ emissions by minimising the number of in-person medical visits and trips to health care facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the implementation of tele-consultations and the widespread

use of the IoMT (Internet of Medical Things), providing evidence that innovations can effectively contribute to reducing the carbon footprint in health care (Schmitz-Grosz et al., 2023).

The article on telemedicine's impact on reducing carbon emissions is written by Krystian Bień and Mariusz Rafało. Potential benefits stemming from modern solutions that could lay the groundwork for a more ecologically-sound approach to public services are presented (Purohit, Smith, & Hibble 2021). As technological advancements continue and ecological awareness increases, society recognises that health and environmental protection can progress together. However, technology alone is not sufficient; an appropriate strategy for implementing these solutions is necessary, particularly in regions where access to modern communication tools remains limited.

Large-scale artistic and entertainment events are an integral part of social life, yet organising them requires meticulous planning and effective safety management for attendees. The article by Katarzyna Sułek concentrates on an analysis of a case study of an outdoor concert in Poland and addresses issues related to **implementing integrated safety management**. Achieving a high level of safety necessitates collaboration between event organisers, security services, and information providers, as well as establishing clear regulations.

The study emphasises that effective safety management requires proper coordination and flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances (Wiśniewski & Zwęgliński, 2022). Integrating activities across various services enables rapid response and risk minimisation in crisis situations. This aspect becomes increasingly important as the number of large-scale events grows, along with the scale of safety challenges. Properly planned and managed events, supported by modern technologies, not only are safe but also positively impact the perception of public space as a setting conducive to social bonding (Falkowski & Liberek, 2019).

The operation of municipal companies – especially those in which local governments hold the majority of shares – presents significant challenges for legal regulation (Peshin & Леонидович, 2019). The article addressing the interpretation challenges of legal norms for these entities reveals substantial gaps and inconsistencies in regulations that affect management efficiency and financial transparency (Harbich, 2014). In the absence of clear legal standards, local municipal companies often interpret laws based on “best practices,” which leads to controversy.

In their article, the authors Edyta Bielińska-Dusza, Ewa Suchowińska, and Małgorzata Synowiec propose **the standardisation of legal definitions for municipal companies as well as the creation of cohesive regulations** that could enhance transparency and operational efficiency (Malarewicz-Jakubów & Brzozowski, 2023). In the context of public governance, clarity in legal norms is the foundation for responsible and ethical public fund management. Efficiently operating municipal companies contribute to a higher quality of life for residents, providing high-level public services and safeguarding the local environment (Gyurita, 2020).

Although primarily designed to facilitate mobility, transport infrastructure also has a significant impact on the residents' sense of safety (Askarnia & Ghaffari, 2022). The study on Kraków's transport infrastructure highlights that modern, well-planned transportation systems not only improve travel convenience, but also enhance user safety. From the perspective of city management, effective transport solutions, such as safe pedestrian crossings and bicycle paths, have a measurable impact on the residents' quality of life and the city's overall appeal. As reported by the author Jarosław Świda, the focus on infrastructure development entails investment not only in technology but also in raising awareness and fostering the users' sense of safety, which encourages inclusivity and mobility. In increasingly urbanised environments, cities face the task of balancing the needs of different user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Thoughtful management

of transport infrastructure is a strategic element in creating a welcoming urban environment that promotes social integration and reduces greenhouse gas emissions (Tasic & Porter, 2016).

All five articles present different but **interrelated aspects of public governance**, highlighting the growing importance of integrated action, transparency, and sustainable development in the public sector. Issues such as transport exclusion, carbon footprint reduction, public space safety, municipal company efficiency, and transport infrastructure safety illustrate that contemporary public governance demands the holistic approach.

The conclusions drawn from these studies are clear: the key to the future of the public sector is a sustainable approach that combines technology, process management, and social inclusivity. Each of these areas contributes unique value to the broader picture of modern public governance, which should be based on the principle of “**pro bono publico**” – **for the public good**. How we address challenges within the public sphere forms the foundation upon which we build a future society that values both the natural environment and the quality of life for future generations.

Reference List

- Askarnia, M., & Ghaffari, A. (2022). Impact of transport infrastructure on factors affecting traffic accidents in urban traffic: Green supply chain issue. *12th International Scientific Conference “Business and Management 2022”* (pp. 618–626). <https://doi.org/10.3846/bm.2022.847>
- Falkowski, M., & Liberek, M. (2019). Security risk management for mass events. *Scientific Journal of the Military University of Land Forces*, *191*(1), 5–24. <https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0013.2395>
- Gyurita, R. (2020). The instruments of administrative supervision of local governments in Hungary. *Financial Law Review*, *17*(1), 24–51. <https://doi.org/10.4467/22996834flr.20.003.12044>
- Harbich, J. (2014). State supervision of local government authorities. *International Public Administration Review*, *7*(4), 53–69. <https://doi.org/10.17573/CEPAR.V7I4.139>
- Hine, J. (2009). Transport and social exclusion. In *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (2nd ed., Vol. 13, pp. 429–434). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-008044910-4.01034-8>
- Mackett, R., & Thoreau, R. (2015). Transport, social exclusion and health. *Journal of Transport and Health*, *2*, 610–617. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JTH.2015.07.006>
- Malarewicz-Jakubów, A., & Brzozowski, P. (2023). Skuteczność nadzoru nad wykorzystaniem majątku spółek komunalnych w Polsce. *Studia Iuridica*, *95*, 317–330. <https://doi.org/10.31338/2544-3135.si.2022-95.17>
- Peshin, N., & Leonidovych, P. (2019). Public control in the system of local self-government: Bases and features. *Journal of Law*, *23*(3), 311–332. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2313-2337-2019-23-3-311-332>
- Purohit, A., Smith, J., & Hibble, A. (2021). Does telemedicine reduce the carbon footprint of healthcare? A systematic review. *Future Healthcare Journal*, *8*(1), e85–e91. <https://doi.org/10.7861/fhj.2020-0080>
- Schmitz-Grosz, K., Sommer-Meyer, C., Berninger, P., Weiszflog, E., Jungmichel, N., Feierabend, D., & Bategay, E. (2023). A telemedicine center reduces the comprehensive carbon footprint in primary care: A monocenter, retrospective study. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*, *14*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21501319231215020>
- Tasic, I., & Porter, R. (2016). Modeling spatial relationships between multimodal transportation infrastructure and traffic safety outcomes in urban environments. *Safety Science*, *82*, 325–337. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.SSCI.2015.09.021>
- Wiśniewski, B., & Zwęgliński, T. (2022). Selected security problems of large groups of people other than public gatherings and mass events. *Zeszyty Naukowe Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej im. Witelona w Legnicy*, *2*(43), 89–100. <https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0015.9798>