

## Looking for a new sense of "place" – the Polish family farms in transition

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Countryside in Poland is currently undergoing significant social and economic transformations. One of the most important effects of these changes is the decreasing role of family farming in the Polish agriculture and rural areas. This has various consequences for the traditional institutions of social and economic development, for the changing lifestyles and the development of rural space. There is an important question of the foundations of agricultural and rural identity in the new circumstances, related to the post-socialist transition, the influence of EU policy and globalisation. Rapid structural transformations and the formation of post-productivist countryside give rise to a question of the new role of countryside in the country, as well as its role to the inhabitants, especially family farmers. In Polish conditions, there is a clash between different discourses promoting different understandings of rurality (e.g. agricultural versus non-agricultural), such as the media, legal or casual discourse. The primary purpose of the presentation is to show the family farmers' opinions concerning the transformation of the Polish countryside, the social and economic role of their profession, their job satisfaction, and the perceptions of their own living space. These considerations should lead us to determine where today's farmers see the sense of "place" (life in the countryside, the new nature of "rurality"), whose functions and meanings are undergoing quick rural metamorphoses. Presentation prepared within research project 2011/01/D/HS4/03295, Models of knowledge transfer in agriculture and its influence on agricultural productivity - spatial analysis, financed by the National Centre of Science (Poland).

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