



CIRCUSE – the project, not a circus

Anna Starzewska-Sikorska, CircUse Project Coordinator

*CircUse Forum at the TerraTec
in Leipzig on 31st January 2013*

CircUse project background

Traditional approaches of spatial planning failed to deliver land use sustainability and therefore new integrated land management approaches and policy mixes are needed to address the stakeholders varied interests in land more comprehensively.

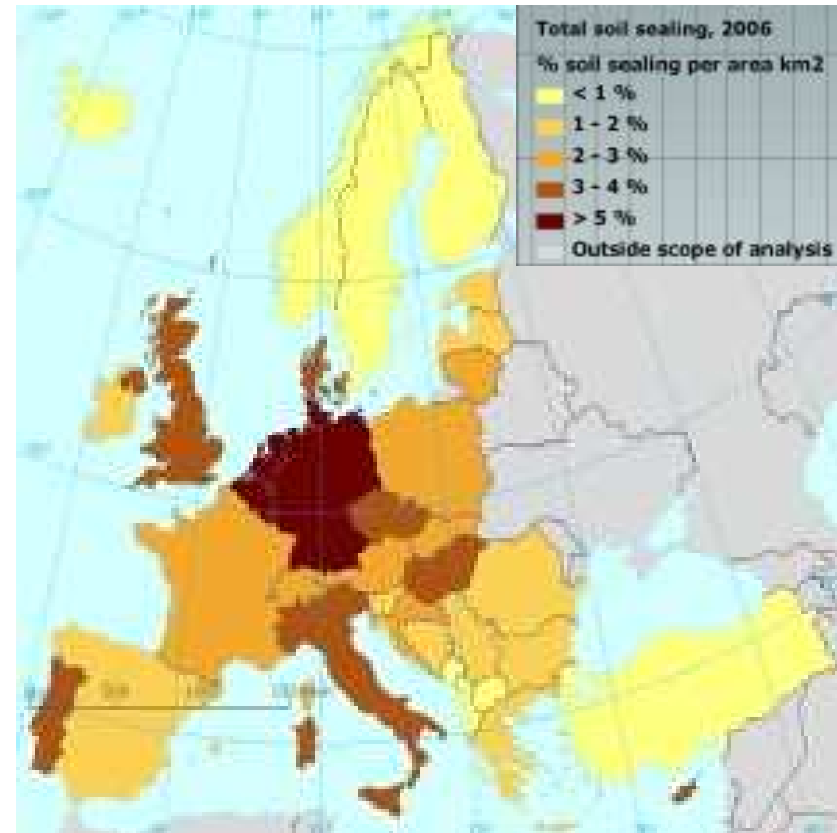
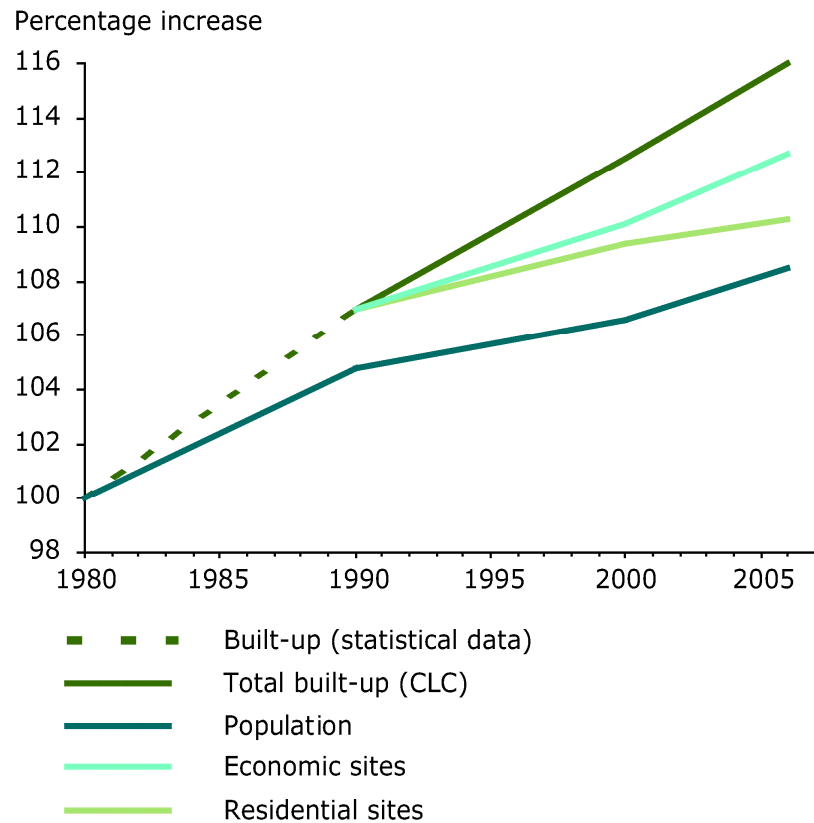
New governance approaches are also needed, which can reach above the local authorities' jurisdiction and can protect specific public interest in land use from a broader regional level.

In the past 5-7 years, a search for an optimum solutions resulted in preparation of new national/regional policies, targets and programs, which were supported by collective efforts of many consultants and research teams. But the actual outcome of these new policies and programs in the Central Europe so far, has not yet delivered the desired goals and targets.

Project CircUse focused on pragmatic approaches supporting urbanised land recycling.



Level of land sealing and level of built up areas in selected EU countries



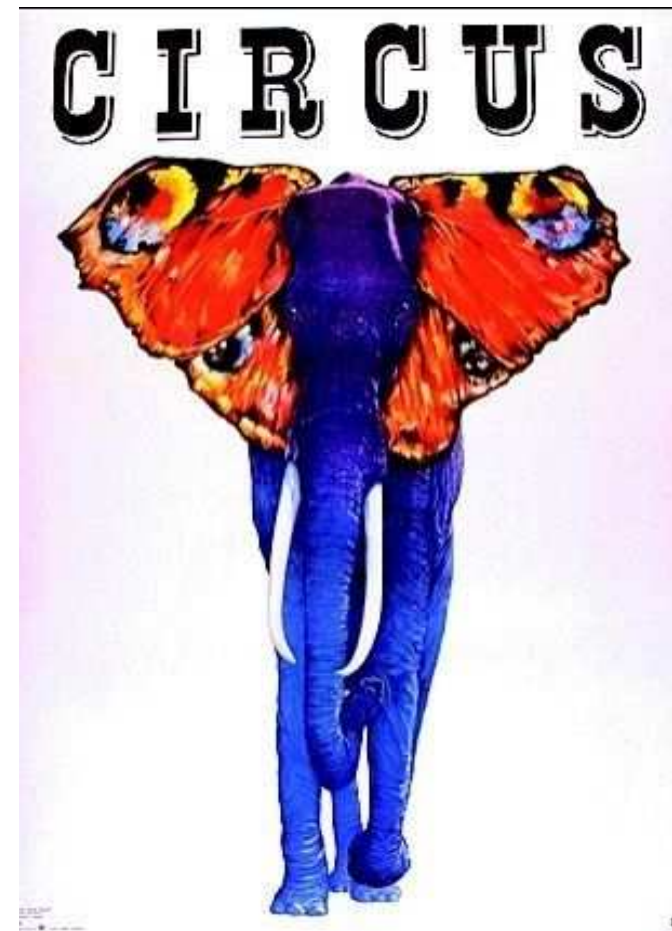
CIRCUSE concept

Circular land use management represents an integrative policy and governance approach, which presupposes a changed land use philosophy with regard to land utilization.

This modified land use philosophy can be expressed with the slogan:

avoid – recycle – compensate

Similar approach as to recycling of other valuable resources (paper, metal, glass est.) is applied.



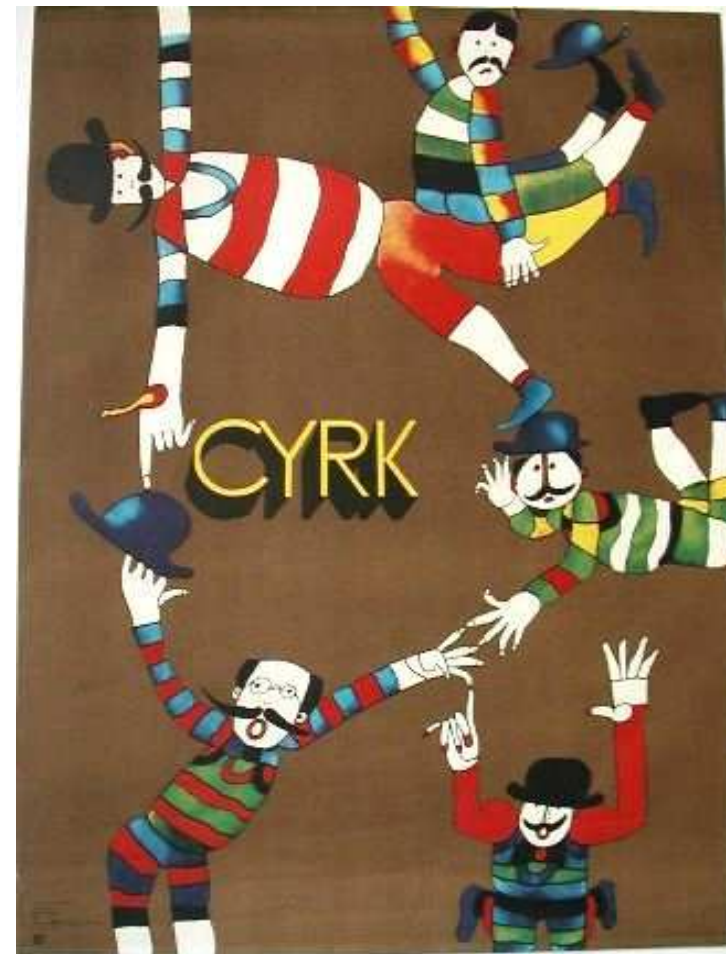
CircUse Goals

- Integrated approaches to land use
- Broad city/regional cooperation
- Support sustainable forms of land uses
- Activation of the inner development potential of already urbanized land
- Reduction of newly deregulated land for urbanization
- Capping increases in size of build up areas
- Steering of private investments onto already urbanized land
- Cordination of public investments with a perspective of sustainable land use

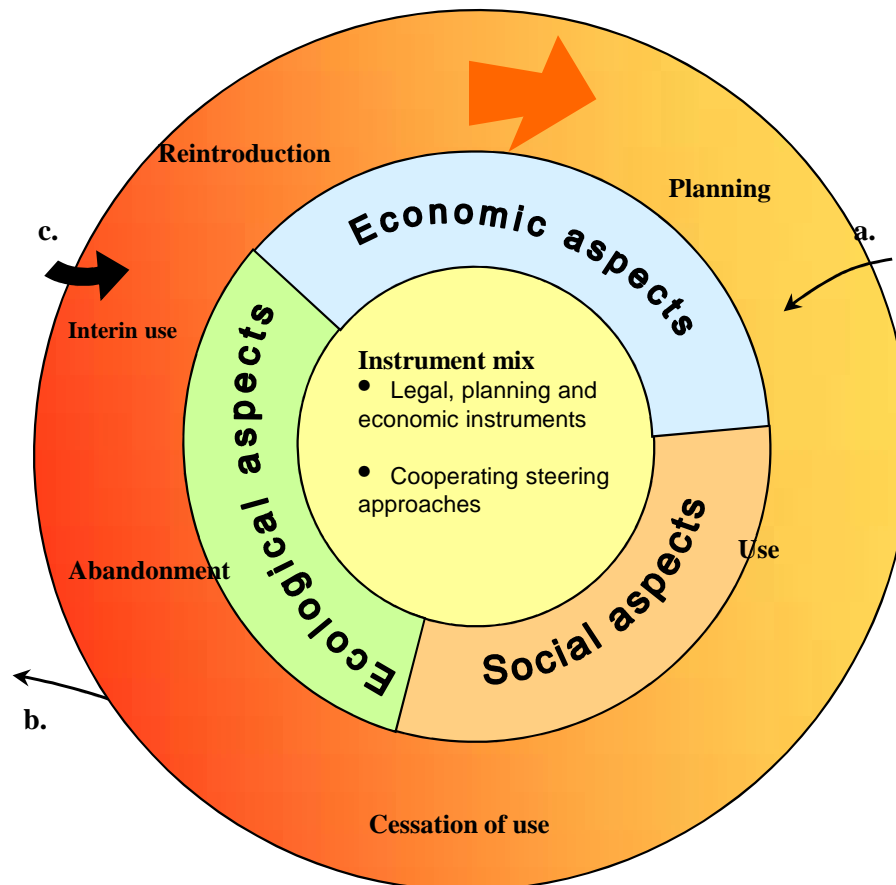


CircUse Partners

- **Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU)**, Poland, **Lead Partner**
- **City of Piekary Śląskie**, Poland,
- **German Institute of Urban Affairs**, DifU, Germany
- **Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG)**, Germany
- **UBA Environmental Agency Austria Ltd.**, Austria
- **Telepark Barnbach, Voitsberg** Austria,
- **University of Bratislava**, Slovakia,
- **City of Trnava**, Slovakia
- **SiTi Higher Institute for Innovation in Territorial Systems**, Italy,
- **Municipality of Asti**, Italy
- **IURS Institute for Sustainable Development**, Czech Republic,
- **Usti Region**, Czech Republic



Life cycle of land (source: Research group „Flache im Kreis”, 2005)



The CircUse process is visualized in this figure, showing land use as a cycle with three major phases:

- a. Release of new sites for construction in the green belt
- b. Rejection of land not suitable for new uses on a long-term basis
- c. Activating land potentials brownfields, empty buildings, gaps between buildings and vacant land urban renewal and redevelopment sites, sites undergoing planning

The end and the beginning of each phase are crucial decision points.

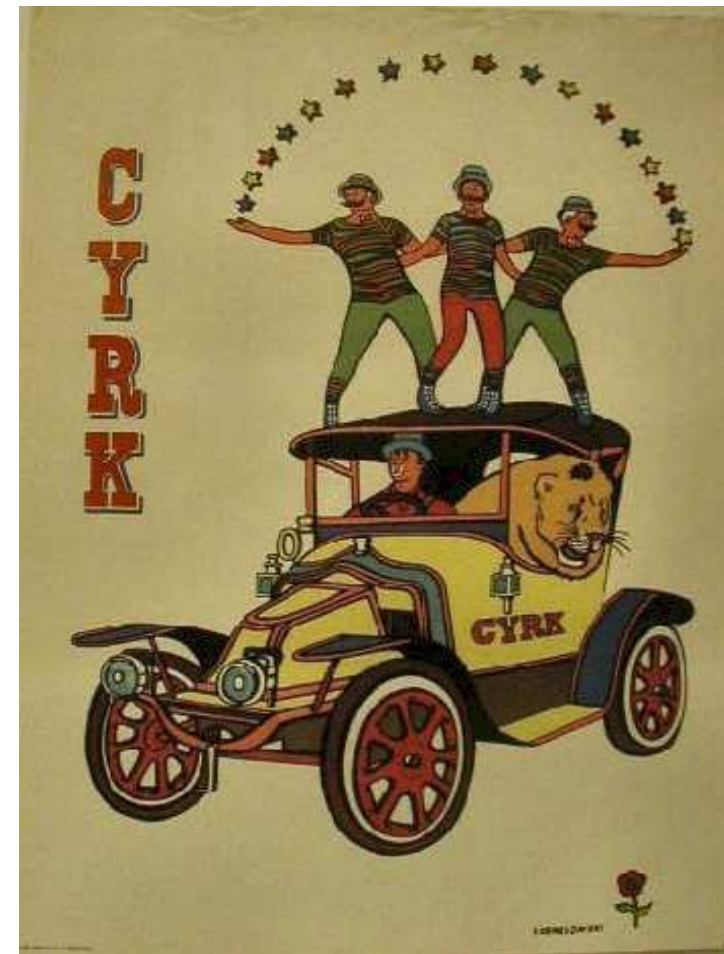
CircUse Strategy theses

1. Common problems can be faced by a common strategy
2. The setting of quantified and qualified targets is a necessary requirement
3. Comprehensive definition of land types is necessary
4. The development and application of information instruments and data management is necessary
5. Integration of all relevant stakeholders interests and considerations
6. Combination of decentralized and central steering instruments
7. The implementation of action plans need the selection of an applicable policy mix, stakeholder institutions, financing sources that meet the regional demands.
8. New forms of organization need to be implemented by the stakeholders
9. Permanent knowledge acquisition and awareness of circular flow land use management



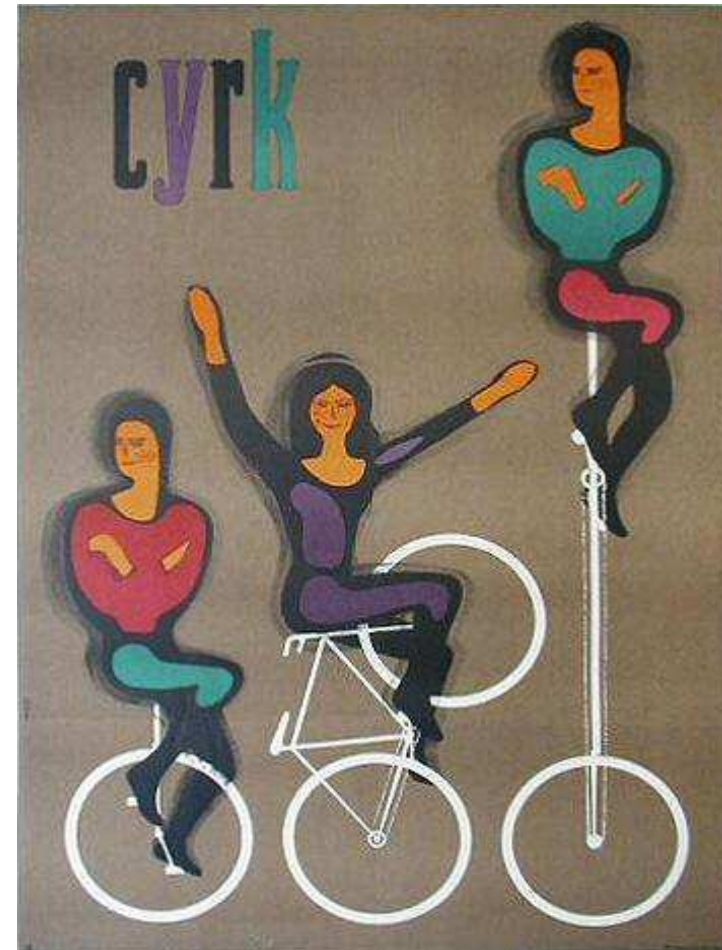
CircUse outputs

- Integrated Strategy of Circular Flow Land Use Management
 - A position paper on land management practice
 - Educational module focused on city and regional stakeholders
 - Educational module focused on secondary school children
 - Action plans supporting implementation of strategy
 - Inventory databases of land suitable for development activities (vacant land, brownfields, gaps, greenfield sites est.)
 - Circular land use management maps
 - Institutional models for land use management governance
 - Pilot projects



Action Plan

- Action Plan is a process designed to cohere regional departments, towns, regional institutions and land owners to participate in improving urbanised land use sustainability in the region.
- Action Plan:
 - sets up a common vision, goals, priorities, actions and activities
 - identifies the leaders of the planned activities and allocates responsibilities
 - sets up an implementation program
 - estimates cost of individual actions and activities
 - identifies funding sources for these activities



Action Plan Asti



Objectives:

Reduction of environmental impact
Blocking exploitation of new soil
minimise water demand and reduce waste production, minimise energy demand and produce renewable energy on the site,
For the political part, while promoting renewal the administration must integrate the reuse of brownfield sites into urban development, for an holistic strategic vision.

Action Plan Saxony



Objectives definition

New Saxonian development plan acc. to the circular land use management

Indicators and targets on land consumption based on reg. dev. plan acc. to the circular land use management

Recommendations of integration into the regional development plan land cycle aspects

Development of data management tool

Stakeholders awareness raising by workshops

Action Plan Trnava



The vision is the development of functioning, efficient and flexible cooperation structure and interlinks between different aspects of micro-regional development, different actors and interests in one interlinked strategy as a reaction to existing problems with brownfields areas, abandoned buildings and growing requirements concerning new capacities of public services and land for private investments.

Action Plan Usti



Objective: to focus onto a support for the sustainable land use in the Ústí region and for setting up urbanised land use management on a regional scale. This AP was structured to help the departments and stakeholders communication, cooperation and cohesion, in order that they can concentrate on achieving their agreed goals.

Action Plan Voitsberg



Reduction of land consumption and soil sealing and providing a long-term concept for land management in the Region of Voitsberg. The future use of large derelict mining areas will be analysed and the potential to establish pilot biomass plantations shall be explored and tested.

Action Plan Piekary



Objective: Revitalization of Brzeziny district in Piekary including brownfields redevelopment. Step-by-step actions towards attracting new investors. Pilot investment consisting in planting trees and bushes on the site between brownfield and residential area. Two functions of the pilot area: insulation zone and a belt of public space for leisure and recreation function

CircUse pilot investment in Piekary

The investment is located in Brzeziny – the district of Piekary Śląskie in Poland. It consists in redevelopment of a selected post-industrial site of 14 ha. The investment includes:

- Reuse of postindustrial areas through making it suitable for business activity (production, storage, recycling connected activity)
- Establishing green zone separating industrial areas from residential complexes, what will not only create a natural buffer, but also increase recreational value of the area.
- Restoration of the urban areas, in particular rising the standard of residential and shop-service buildings, improve esthetics of public areas, especially in the central part of historical value.
- Taking actions against unemployment and social detachment of the locals.













Circular land use management structures

Concept of institutional solutions serving to management of circular land use was one of the most important outputs of the project. Two different approaches have been taken:

1. Based on the existing institution, to which additional tasks and competencies have been transferred – it is the case of Industrial Park – Ekopark in Piekary or the case of an institutional solution for the Czech regions.
2. Establishing new agency especially for management of circular land use. This one was created in the region of Voitsberg in Austria.

Both solutions of institutions acting as local operators for management of circular land use as implemented structures can serve as a good practice for other European towns and regions.

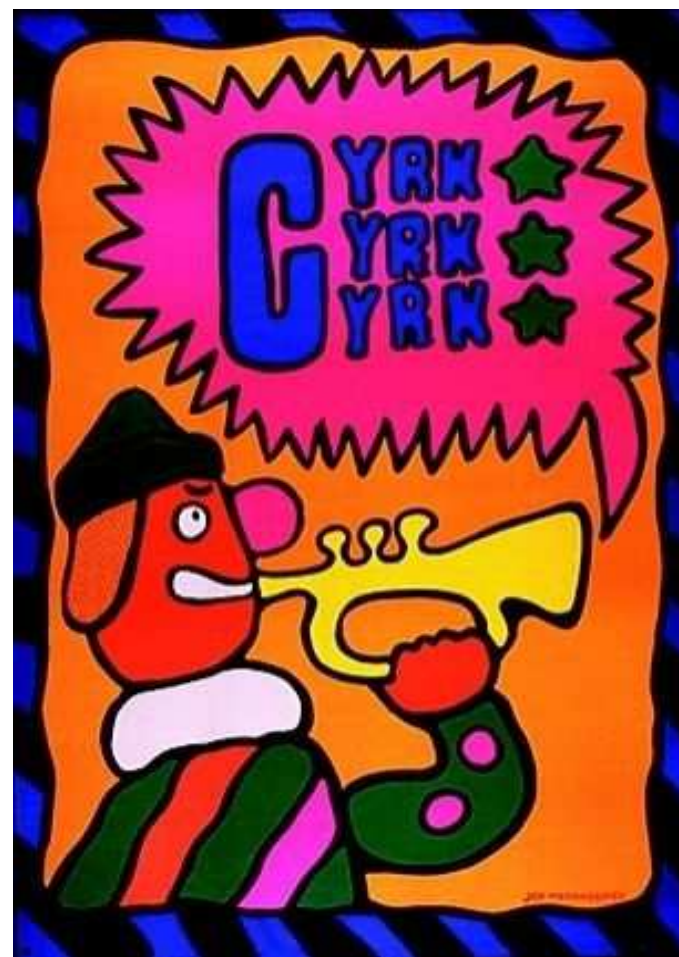


Conclusions

1. Apart from the technical effects of the Project implementation very important conclusions resulting from this co-operation should be emphasized:

- strengthening co-operation between municipalities in regions,
- mutual learning,
- ideas of further common projects,
- contacts by contacts (chain of contacts, transnational networking).

2. CircUse idea should be promoted by next steps including implementation of action plans, training, further activities aiming at use of this idea and strategy in concrete premises of future European documents concerning protection of the space to make it renewable resource.





Thank you for your attention

www.circuse.eu

Posters by:
Hibner, Olbiński, Młodożeniec,
Neugebauer, Pałowski,
Piwoński, Starowieyski,
Szemelowski

