

## INTRODUCTION

The processes of social, economic and cultural development take place in specific conditions that may stimulate the growth of the potential of spatial systems and economic entities, or limit the possibility of increasing their potential as well as affecting their recession and disappearance. At a certain time, particularly unfavourable crisis situations may appear, which disrupt the current tendencies and directions of changes in companies and affect the thorough reconstruction of the existing political, social and cultural conditions. The works of individual authors refer to this trend, addressing selected problems of the impact of the crisis on the functioning of economic entities, economic sectors and changes in spatial systems.

Contemporary crises affect the behaviour of companies to various extents, individual elements of geographical space (natural, social, economic and cultural), various scales of spatial systems (from the global and continental scale, through the scales of a group of countries and individual countries, to regional and local systems) and business entities. Against this background, the mechanism of shaping the climatic, pandemic and military crises, as well as the mutual relations between them, are outlined (Zioło).

The next paper presents the original periodization of changes in the Polish economy, using the cluster approach to the analysis of multidimensional time series. Using the Ward method and k-means, selected characteristics of labour markets (wages, inflation, production, retail sales, export value, business climate) were taken into account, which were used to distinguish homogeneous periods of economic development in Poland in 2007–2019. The distinguished periods were related to the quality of economic and political decisions made, both in the world and in Europe (Markowska, Hausner, Sokołowski).

An important current research problem raised by the authors is also the innovativeness of business entities, which is of particular importance in the perspective of the conditions of the economic development process. The authors conducted research on the spatial structure of industry according to R&D intensity during the economic crisis. They based their empirical research on the example of changes taking place in the Kraków and Wrocław agglomerations in 2018–2021 (Brezdeń, Sikorski, Smętkiewicz).

The directions of changes in the activities of companies present the results of research on the choice of strategies of Polish companies operating in the international market. Attention was paid to the promotion of the products offered by high-tech companies and companies from other industries. It was found that the specificity and attributes of high-tech companies require the selection of an appropriate marketing strategy. It has been proven that high-tech attributes allow companies to better respond to changing crisis situations and build their own competitive advantage in the process of internationalization of production and markets (Głodowska, Maciejewski, Wach).

Relationships between the proactivity, risk and innovativeness of Polish companies were determined. These considerations were supported by empirical research of 355 international Polish companies, selected on the basis of a stratified sample. As a result

of the use of structural equations, the positive impact of proactivity and risk-taking for innovation was demonstrated as an interrelated three-dimensional dimension of entrepreneurial orientation (Maciejewski, Wach, Głodowska).

An attempt was made to assess the economic condition of the Polish fish processing industry in conditions of increased uncertainty of the environment, with particular emphasis on identifying their causes, duration and continuity of operation. Uncertainties in the possibility of predicting the effects of decisions made by enterprises in the long term, especially in terms of supply and demand, were pointed out. It was found that in the years 2004–2022, the analysed industry was resistant to the change in the situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine (Zieziula, Czapliński).

An analysis of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the quality of management of historic hotel facilities in Poland and Slovakia was carried out on the example of 20 historic hotels in Jelenia Góra and Banska Bystrica. In the theoretical part, the authors defined the specificity of the historical hotel industry in the world and the concepts of their quality management. Detailed results were determined on the basis of the research of 10 hotels in each of the mentioned cities. The main attention was paid to determining the impact of the pandemic on the quality of hotel services and the role of costs of the operation of such facilities (Gregorova, Sadkowski, Sala).

The next work discusses changes in the production of passenger rolling stock between 1989 and 2022 in the diesel and electric multiple units segment. The directions of technical evolution and the absorptivity of the domestic and international markets for the offered products were determined. Actions to raise the competitive position of manufactured products on global markets were also presented (Soczówka, Chyliński).

The presented works are interesting examples of the analysis of changes in the behaviors of selected companies and sectors of the economy during the crisis and open up new research fields in this area. Therefore, we encourage readers to develop it and share their results with us in our magazine.

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