

INTRODUCTION

The processes of social, economic and cultural development take place in specific spatial systems (local, regional, national, continental and global), while the principles of economic development have a general character. As a consequence, the development processes occurring under the influence of a number of economic principles (microeconomic, meso-, macro-, mega-) have a varied impact on the diversification of spatial system conditions and of their level of development.¹

The manifestation of these processes is the spatial differentiation of the level of innovativeness in the regional systems of the Lower Silesian voivodeship (P. Brezdeń, W. Spallek). Major importance in this respect should also be attributed to aptly prepared managers who stimulate the development of creative sectors to a large extent (M. Męczyński). The pace of non-agriculture activity development plays a significant role especially in rural areas, which is indicated by the studies carried out on the territory of Małopolska voivodeship (M. Semczuk, R. Uliszak, K. Wiedermann). The processes of innovation implementation are the core factor of improving the quality of individual sectors of economy, including the municipal management sector (Z. Grzymała). The pace and direction of the spatial system transitions to a large extent depend on the quality of elites – with the local government activity in building a knowledge-based economy in particular (A. Perska) – whose goal is to improve the level and the quality of life standards among the population, which also occurs as a result of the changes in channels of distribution and retailing structures (K. Kowalska), among others. What is crucial in these activities is assuring the creation of attractive conditions to draw suitably prepared people representing the creative class (J. Gałka, S. Dorocki).

The development of innovativeness is also heavily affected by the implementation of appropriate instruments which lead to inciting the development of spatial systems, including the regional ones. A significant role in this respect is played by appropriately utilized structural funds (D. Murzyn), as well as Innovative Economy Operational Programme funds aimed at the development of the academic sector (P. Dawidko, A. Górka).

The process is especially impacted by the standard of education on every level (M. Tracz), including higher education, the quality of which enables the graduates to actively enter the labour market structures (D. Piróg).

¹ Z. Ziolo (2003), Geographical Space as a Place of Realization of the Idea of the Spatial Order. In: Z. Ziolo, T. Ślęzak (eds.), Socio-economic and Natural Aspects of the Spatial Order. *Bulletin of the Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning, Polish Academy of Sciences*, 205.

While recommending the next volume of *Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society* to the attention of our readers, we would like to encourage your cooperation, and look forward to comments and suggestions, whose purpose is to improve the quality of subsequent volumes of the Journal.

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