

## INTRODUCTION

In economic crisis conditions, changes occur in growth and functioning of both the business entities and institutions, as well as spatial distribution of different scales, be it European, national, regional or local. It stems from functional correlations that have developed between different business entities, basing on microeconomic principles of development, the effects of which manifest with different intensity in local and regional distribution, taking shape under the mezo-economic rules. Thus, in times of a crisis, the continuously tougher conflicts arise between both business entities, that, through the rules of competition, are heading towards the intensification of their development, as well as regional distributions, which are less and less capable of influencing both the development of the conditions under which the business entities and institutions operate, and the coordination of their actions in order to enhance the desirability and raise the economic level of this scale of spatial distribution.

The publications in this volume refer to that idea, rising, in different spectrums and from different points of view, a question of changes in regional structures under economic crisis conditions. Exemplary studies show that economic crisis influenced, in different spectrums, the level of development of selected regional distributions in Poland. Regional policy should play an important role in decreasing the effects of the crisis and the possibility of stimulating the economic growth, as it is greatly influenced by the directions of the economic transformation in Europe as well as in the country. It seems that the examples of the studies, especially those conducted in the South Western part of Poland, illustrate the complex issues and can be a starting point in making the decisions that concern forming the rational direction of changes. Into this research trend fits the thesis of B. Rubacha, in which the author analyses the impact that the global economic processes have on setting new directions for the regional politics. It has a specific value, considering the fact that the economic basis of particular regional distributions reacted to a different extent to structural changes stemming from the impulses coming from the global environment. In the process of social development, which leads up to the shaping of informational economy, a lesser role has been ascribed to industrial processes. In the light of the observation of modern development tendencies, an idea arises that there is a necessity for reindustrialisation, which should constitute a new impulse in forming the regional structures. The theses of M. Ulbrych as well as A. Burnasov, M. Ilyushkina, Y. Kovalev and A. Stepanov refer to this issues. It is reflected in the change of the employment structures in modern industry, and services in European regional distribution (M. Markowska, A. Sokołowski, D. Strahl) as well as in the changes of the level of socio-economic development in Poland, as well as in the forming of innovative economy (J. Dominiak). Good examples of what happens with regional distribution in economic crisis conditions are the studies

on the development potential of Subcarpathian Voivodeship (J. Bański, K. Czapiewski, M. Mazur), the consequences of changes on the employment market in Silesian Voivodeship (F. Kłosowski) and the dependency of development of small and medium enterprises and regional innovative potential in the Southern region of Poland (M. Kosała, K. Wach). Resources of human capital in regional distribution create favourable conditions for the localisation of production and services activity of the advanced technology corporations, which influence changes in regional distribution, which is expressed in the impact of Krakow technology park on development of Lesser Poland Voivodeship (J. Pach). The conditions of crisis also have an impact on the functioning of subregional distribution, which can be seen in Rzeszow metropolitan area (A. Łuków), as well as transformation of industry structures in Bielsko-Biała (A. Haczek). Economic crisis also influences regional distribution in other countries, which is expressed in the changes of the socio-economic distribution in the overseas departments of France (S. Dorocki, P. Brzegowy) and regions of Ukraine (A. Kuzyshyn), as well as structural changes in industry of Istanbul (K. Temurçin, Y. Aldırmaz).

We hope that, in the light of initially adopted assumptions, the presented exemplary studies open new research areas regarding the determination of changes occurring in regional and local distribution, that are characterised by a different economic base. It seems that similar studies have not only scientific value, but also a huge relevance in application, enabling to verify and adjust the strategy of their development in terms of modern conditions of economic crisis, as well as to outline the possibilities of redeveloping economical base in the phase of the recovery from the crisis.

We wish to mention that we open our magazine for presentation of new research achievements in changes of spatial distributions of different scale, occurring as a result of economic crisis.

*Zbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał*