

## INTRODUCTION

Discovering the mechanism of transformation in industry and services in spatial structures of various scale is one of the basic tasks of science, enterprises management, public and private institutions, local-government and non-government organizations, etc. This issue is usually addressed from the perspective of: changes in the participation of various sectors in its overall social, economic and cultural potential, spatial diversity of industry and services in spatial structures of various scale, changes in sector-spatial structures, and influence of selected elements of the surroundings on the behaviour of enterprises, sectors, and territorial forms of industry concentration.

This mainstream of investigation is the concern of broad research and extraordinary scientific achievements of Professor Dr. Hab. Stanisław Misztal, who has chaired the Committee for Industrial Geography of the Polish Geographical Society for many years. It is evidenced by the presentation of his scientific achievements, his activity in the field of geographical sciences (Z. Ziolo) and his wide-range creativity, expressed by the publication list of considerable length (W. Kilar).

The issues addressed in this volume are generally linked to the development and search for new research problems connected with changes in function and behaviour of industrial enterprises, industry of regional structures, and the services sector in the period of transformation of the economy system and transition to the information stage of civilizational development. It must be emphasized that in this process, the role of industrialization as the elementary factor shaping the labour market is changing, but the importance of industry in offering ever new products that enable improving efficiency of economy is not. This idea is referred to in the article by T. Strykiewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań), who discusses changes in industrial geography and their reflection in the 25-year-long history of the Cracow conferences, organized in the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University of Cracow.

Processes of transformation of economy, including industry and services, are continuous phenomena, therefore this question belongs to current research – and applied issues, and should be examined using a dynamic approach, in connection with certain categories of the environment. Transformational processes in economy, including transformations of industry and basic services, are influenced by changing environmental conditions, which determine e.g.: characteristics and economic potential of particular enterprises, general process of civilizational development, and global, European, national and regional conditions (Z. Ziolo – Pedagogical University of Cracow).

A crucial role in this process is played by conditions connected with general developmental tendencies, which lead to building an economy based on knowledge, taking into consideration global geopolitical processes (J.T. Hryniewicz – University of Warsaw). One of the methods aiming at this goal is strategy building as an innovative organisation management tool (W. Demecki, P. Żukowski – Wyższa Szkoła Menedżerska in Legnica).

Economic development and transformational process connected with it are influenced by the rules of competition, which enable opening of an economy to the international market, and that is expressed in the quantity and structure of exports (A. Wieloński – University of Warsaw). To a great extent, this is possible owing to the innovation potential of enterprises and competitiveness of products on the EU market, e.g. in the steel constructions sector (D. Janczewska – Społeczna Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Zarządzania in Łódź). Particular meaning in this respect is attached to organisation and ownership links between enterprises (P. Śleszyński – Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) and goods exchange with the Eastern neighbours (T. Komornicki – Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw).

Processes of transformation in industry occur with varied intensity and in varied directions in regional and local structures. This is illustrated by analyses of: spatial dimension of transformation processes in the Pomorskie voivodship (P. Czaplinski – Akademia Pomorska, Słupsk), changes in functions of industry in the socio-economic potential of development centres in the Śląskie voivodship (A. Wiedermann – Pedagogical University, Cracow), spatial diversity of economic forces of the leading enterprises in the Świętokrzyskie voivodship (P. Brambert – Uniwersytet Humanistyczno-Przyrodniczy, Kielce), or development of industry and services in the local structure of Jelcz-Laskowice (J. Bałach-Frankiewicz – University of Wrocław).

An important role in this process is played by certain instruments that support the revitalization activities in cities (K. Świerczewska-Pietras – Pedagogical University, Cracow), by measurements of innovative potential (P. Siłka – Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), analyses of efficiency of development of high technology enterprises (A. Świdurska – Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań) and influence of financial crisis on enterprise restructuring (K. Bauer – Jagiellonian University, Cracow), as well as influence of financial instruments on regional politics (J. Soboń, R. Szewczyk – Maritime University of Szczecin) and pro-developmental institutions influencing economic activation (P. Brezdeń, J. Drozdowska, W. Spallek – Uniwersytet Wrocław).

Economic transformation processes and the associated development of the service sector significantly affects the development of the services which used to be underinvested, which is illustrated by changes in the hotel network of the Cracow agglomeration (M. Malarz – Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University), activation of the constructions and trade sector (T. Skotarczak, M.J. Nowak – Zachodniopomorski Uniwersytet Technologiczny, Szczecin) and the possibilities of using water resources in the development of local structures (A. Wagner, R. Mazur, P. Kramarz – AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow, Pedagogical University, Cracow ) as well as the development of human resources for the intensely growing tourist and recreation sector (R. Malarz – Pedagogical University, Cracow).

We do hope that the above-mentioned issues will continue to be developed, therefore we encourage the Readers to investigate these problems and to publish the results in our volume.

Most revered Professor, On behalf of the Members and Associates of the Committee for Industrial Geography of the Polish Geographical Association, we dedicate this volume to you, to express our appreciation and gratitude for your initiative and activity in developing and indicating new research directions in Polish industrial geography. We sincerely hope that you will continue to develop your research and to support the activities of our Committee.

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