

INTRODUCTION

The globalizing world's economy generates expanding processes of capital concentration and European integration, as well as forces the restructurisation of enterprises and industrial space of particular countries, including ours. Therefore it becomes an important issue to find the rational directions of the development of the production and service activities of our country's enterprises, of varied forms of industry concentration, and regional or local systems. This aim requires undertaking wholistic diagnostic studies that determine the existing conditions and their influence on the creation of development factors and on the formation of certain transformational processes in enterprises and industrial structures connected with them.

We assume that this difficult but crucial problem calls for systematic research, which will allow us to learn more precisely the rules of functioning and development of this process. It may be presumed that such research is indispensable to the understanding of the occurring transformations and may contribute to the improvement of the industrial spatial policy. Therefore we believe that the research into these issues should be extended and deepened in the field of industrial geography.

These research problems, so up-to-date nowadays, are referred to in the articles that constitute the present volume of *Papers in Industrial Geography*; their authors represent practically all geographic study centres in Poland. They present the results of their researches which complement one another and form an interesting overview of the Polish studies conducted in the field of industrial geography. The discussed problems concern general reflections on the research direction, the analysis of changes in the city and regional space, and the selected trades and enterprises.

Z. Ziolo discusses the research problems of the Polish industrial space restructurisation. He pays special attention to the changing conditions of industry development and presents the possible types of activity of industrial enterprises against the background of the newly introduced macro-, meso- and microeconomic principles.

A. Wieloński and K. Szmigiel make an exemplification of an important issue that is the treatment of regional innovation strategies as a significant factor in the activation of the Polish industrial space. On the bases of the presented goals of the regional innovation systems and the assumed instruments, the Authors present the regional innovation strategies in the EU and Poland, and discuss in detail the example of the Śląsk voivodship RIS and the predictable effects of its introduction in Poland and other EU countries.

M. Tkocz analyses the effects of the hard coal mining restructurisation in Poland. She pays special attention to the rather complex conditions of the hard coal mining restructurisation, and the present effects of the restructurisation as regards the production volume, the employment level and organisational changes.

E. Rydz and W. Szymańska present the effects of Słupsk industrial centre's restructurisation in the period of introducing the market economy. Against the background of the general tendencies of changes in the Słupsk centre's industry and the change of division- and size structure of the enterprises, the Authors show the directions of their transformations as well as the associated changes in the city's industrial space functions and the predictions concerning further transformations in this field.

P. Czaplński discusses the influence of transformational processes on the local industrial structures on the example of the former Słupsk voivodship. The Author distinguishes three stages of industry transformation and determines the changes in the extent of industry spatial concentration and the directions of changes in the industry division structure.

W. Gierańczyk analyses the restructurisation of the industry space in selected cities of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodship in the period of the political system transformations. Against the background of the settlement network the Author presents the changes in the demographic and industrial potential of the cities in the years 1988–2003 and the influence of industry transformation on the changes in the city functional structure on the examples of the urban space structure of Toruń, Bydgoszcz and Inowrocław.

S. Staszewska and D. Marcinowicz describe the changes in the spatial-functional structure of the selected industrial areas of Poznań. In the context of the analysis of industrial areas location in the city's structure, the Authors, on selected examples, present the local authorities' activities, leading to the revitalization of the city structure.

A. Tobolska presents the new models of organisation and operation on the example of five large Poznań enterprises. On the basis of subject literature, the Author determines the basic changes in the production volume, co-operation network and the accepted management systems, as well as the changes in the ownership structure of some production divisions and their relations with their mother companies.

T. Rachwał presents the effects of restructurisation of selected leading enterprises in south-east Poland. On the basis of subject literature and direct field research the Author draws attention to the changes in the employment level and structure, the change of spatial and productive co-operation networks, the effects of financial activity and the change of productivity markers.

M. Męczyński describes the spatial differences in the use of information-communication technology in Polish industrial enterprises. On the grounds of the presented theoretical bases and the characteristics of selected information technologies, the Author analyses the use of information technologies – especially the use of internet and the maintenance of web sites - in various enterprises across the voivodships.

J. Jaworski focuses on the issue of the Polish defence industry restructurisation. Basing on the analysis of the Polish defence industry development tendencies in the years 1945–1990 and its connections with the countries of the former Warsaw Pact, the Author outlines the main directions of the restructurisation of this industry in the period of political and systemic transformations and sketches the predicted direction of its restructuring in the years 1996-2010.

A. Wilkosz discusses the restructurisation processes in the Alstom Konstal S.A. in Chorzów, paying special attention to the range of orders the concern realizes world-wide, and to the localisation of the branches in Poland. Against this background the Author presents the changes in the connection network of the Chorzów enterprise in the years 1950-1998, as well as the contemporary directions of investment and the production volume.

W. Kilar describes the changes in the operation of the Knitting Factory “Jarlan” in Jarosław in the years 1999–2003. The Author pays special attention to such factors as the localisation of the enterprise, employment structure changes, changes in the production potential, supply sources, volume and assortment of production, and the change of target markets.

S. Sala presents the Polish companies as compared to the foreign corporations in the period of globalisation, pointing to the history of their development and presenting some of them against the background of global corporations. Two companies are analysed with regards to their market value, and four others are presented as considered to be the most valuable in the developing markets.

A. Sobala-Gwosdz analyses the foreign direct investments in the Podkarpackie voivodship until the end of 2003. The Autor focuses on the size and structure of the foreign investors, describes the investments in various branches of industry, distinguishes the investments in new and already existing enterprises and discusses their spatial structure.

Giving you this new volume of Papers, we will be grateful for all remarks and new proposals, which we shall try to include in the oncoming volumes. We also encourage especially young academic teachers and geography teachers at schools to undertake research in the field of industrial geography and to share their results with the readers in the next volumes of the Papers of the Polish Geographical Society Committee for Industrial Geography.

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