

INTRODUCTION

The ever more complex industrial and capital structures fundamentally influence the growing globalization processes, and the European integration processes related to them. In that respect, a significant role is played by industrial enterprises which fulfil various functions in the social-economic space (from the world functions, through national, regional, to local functions), and among which the production and spatial ties are growing. The initiating drive of those particularly complex processes is the growing competition and the quest for broader sales markets for certain products, beginning with the local markets, through regional, national, and through the European and world market. Therefore, regardless of their function, industrial activity of the enterprises will be characterised more and more by various relationships with the international environment. That environment will be creating specific conditions of functioning and development of enterprises of various sizes, and it will force them to be competitive on the market. Learning those complex processes is indispensable not only in order to create rational development strategies of the particular enterprises, but also to manage various types of firms, including small and medium-sized business entities. The continuous process of internationalization of industrial production causes that the industrial enterprises are going to demonstrate ever growing ties with the global production, capital, market, and organizational structures.

In the stream of these leading and current research problems, there are the articles of the next volume of Industrial Geography Papers, in which the main emphasis was laid on the international conditions of industry development. It seems that they are an interesting review of the current research problems undertaken by national academic centres.

Making an assumption that the fundamental influence on the world industry development processes is exerted by the industrial corporations dominating in the world, Zbigniew Ziolo (Pedagogical University, Krakow) undertakes the problem of the differentiation of industrial space in the light of the concentration of the management headquarters of the multinational corporations. He assumes that the place of management plays a crucial role in the directions of the development of the industrial space. In those places, strategic research is conducted with regard to the directions of development of the corporations, and decisions are made about new locations, consolidation and takeover of existing enterprises, as well as regarding penetration of new markets. The place of Polish industry against the background of the industry of Central and Eastern Europe is presented by Domanski (Jagiellonian University, Krakow). The author mainly emphasises the process of formation of industry as demonstrated by the changes in the size of production, the product structure, export capabilities, and the influx of direct foreign investments. Kostrubiec (Silesian University, Katowice) analyses the process of delocalization as a symptom of industrial space self-regulation, which he treats as an expression of the changing conditions of regional relation-

ships enabling entrepreneurs to improve competitiveness. Tobolska and Matykowski (the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan) present industrial activity under the circumstances of the growing internationalization and globalization on the example of selected products. The problems of ties between industry and foreign capital resulting from direct investments is analysed on the basis of the example of the Lower Silesia Voivodeship (Brezden), economic changes of the traditional industrial centre in Chorzow under the influence of the foreign capital (Tkocz, Silesian University, Katowice), relationships between the direct investments and the globalisation processes (Sala, Swietokrzyska Academy, Kielce). Gieranczyk (the Mikolaj Kopernik University in Torun) takes into consideration the new role of enterprises in economy during the period of system transformations, whereas Paszkowski and Luchter (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) deal with the problem of measuring the effects of transformations in international perspective. Wieloński and Szmigiel (Warsaw University) conduct the analysis of European conditions of the small and medium-size industrial enterprises in Poland. Activities and development of small and middle-size enterprises in the international context are presented by Reško (Higher School of Professional Education, Nowy Sącz) and Wielgus (US, Krakow). The analysis of selected lines of production relates to the functions of information technology enterprises in temporal perspective (Micek, Jagiellonian University, Krakow), shaping co-operation and consolidation of brewing industry in the European perspective (Huculak, Jagiellonian University, Krakow), the development of tele-information sector in Trojmiasto as an indicator of globalisation processes (Smytkowska, Gdansk University). Komornicki (IGiPZ PAN Warsaw) deals with an interesting and new issue of export as a measure of industrial development. Jaworski conducts an analysis of a recent offset phenomenon as a factor of industrial growth, and his general considerations are exemplified with Finland, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the Republic of South Africa. Taking into account the legal aspect, the author presents offset activities in Poland. Rachwał (Pedagogical University, Krakow) makes a research into directions of technological re-structuring of the enterprises in South-Eastern Poland viewing them as a competitiveness rising factor. Makiela (Pedagogical University, Krakow) discusses functioning of "Petrobaltic" Oil and Gas Deposits Prospecting and Mining Company during the period of economic transformations. The production shape of the multi-national company Nokia, which presents a high technological level, and its spatial development are discussed by Wajda (Pedagogical University, Krakow), whereas Fedan (Pedagogical University, Krakow) in his article deals with changes in dairy industry in Przemyskie region.

The presented articles tackle with various aspects of industrial enterprises, demonstrating international conditions of the industrial development and pointing at diverse tendencies towards change with reference to particular functions, production potential and line. Interesting input from the authors and ample empirical data enable insight into the specific enterprise location within constructed strategies of regional development.

Zbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał