

INTRODUCTION

Changes in the management system, concerning passing into market economy, influence changes of behaviors of various national economy elements including industrial companies. In new circumstances, individual companies were characterized by different tendencies of the changes:

- Further development of industrial production concerning: the production of hitherto existing products or their new technology-based improvement; reduction of hitherto existing production and introduction of the new one,
- Stagnancy in production activity increase, with the preservation or change of final products,
- Recession, limitation of hitherto existing and new production size,
- Companies' deterioration due to: their disability to adjust to new rules of competitive economy or their disability to apply changes of production processes and final products range, and also pathological activities in form of defectively carried privatization activities,
- Appearance of new types of companies which follow the progressive process of civilization development (IT companies)

The changes of the companies' behavior in new management conditions were connected with: privatization processes, financial supply abilities, introduction of new technological solutions and the control over the markets for their products. They were taking place in the conditions of increasing competition of foreign companies towards progressive opening of domestic economy to the world and European environment. These changes were also accompanied by various, new forms of the integration of the companies by means of their absorption into stronger foreign or domestic financial groups, and as a consequence, their role has changed in more complex organizing, productive, capital and market structures etc.

An important role in this sphere was also played by the decisions of the national policy, seen in making new conditions for industrial companies functioning, for example by making special economic areas.

This main research trend, comprises research theses of this volume, and they exemplify the outlined tendencies of industrial structure changes.

E. Rydz presents the formation process of the Słupsk Special Economic Zone against a background of specific features of specific economic zones in Poland. He emphasizes different features of the Słupsk zone, investment profits existing on this area and he also characterizes individual types of activity of the area companies. B. Namyślak refers to this subject by depicting the size of foreign capital in the individual special economic zones.

Further theses present changes of functioning and development of industry on the area of different scale of space-configurations. A. Tobolska presents different forms of big companies' concentration, presently occurring in Poznań. M. Szmytkowska and M. Czepczyński present space-organizational changes and the role of industry in economic potential of Gdynia. K. Wiedermann analyses the meaning of new leading industrial investments in

structural changes of Upper Silesian Industrial Area. R. Stankowski presents development and importance of small companies in local structure formation of Pleśna commune. M. Huculak analyses proprietary transformation in Polish brewing industry and new organizational structures formation of this industry after 1990.

P. Klimczak, on the grounds of changes in two leading industrial companies – Huta Stalowa Wola S.A. and Wytwórnia Sprzętu Komunikacyjnego „PZL–Rzeszów” S.A., makes the analyses of socio-economic processes formation.

Z. Ziolo presents the process of IT companies formation, which are treated as new elements of Polish industrial environment, existing as precursors of the appearance of new, informative stage of socio-economic development of the country. Presented theses, which are the result of frequently very arduous empirical research, make us familiar with very complex processes of industrial structure changes. Very important is also the fact that the theses are mainly written by young researchers who associate their scientific progress with the geography of industry.

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