

Introduction

The problem of forming industrial structures in the process of system transformation is unexceptionally up-to-date and requires through empirical research and theoretical approaches. The basic condition of rational course transformation process of the national economy is systematical introduction of the market economy roles in particular sectors including private enterprises. Effective control of those processes is needed to include inner conditions which are involved in functioning particular subjects, national economics and outer conditions which are involved in the process of Poland and UE integration and globalization process. Outer conditions, which influences creation of industrial structure should be taken into special consideration and it should be treated as a complex process, which determines transformation of industrial civilization into information civilization. It deals with the change in economy functioning and the change of broad meaning social structures. It involves various transformations, especially in arrangement of manufacturer factors. It appears that knowledge is vital. That means that economy based on knowledge (information civilization) becomes more important than economy based on natural resources.

Diagnostical studies play the crucial role in the transformations as they describe, explain and determinate directions and tendencies of future transformations. Poland faces a big development challenge, which means conversion of traditional economy (old) into modern (new) civilization. Various adaptive processes of economy systems should be intensified so as to live up to standards of changing conditions of world economy.

The fifth volume of Works of Industrial Geography Committee refers to this idea. It deals with problems of forming industrial structures. In this way the Authors take part in a broad discussion on directions of restructurization of Polish industry, which should be competitive in structure of UE and what is more in global economy. We hope we will be able encourage young scientists to be more interested in research of industrial geography as well as make the analyzes more significant.

This volume has been opened by dissertation by S. Misztal (Institute of Spatial Management PAS, Warsaw) on spacial aspects of industrial transformation in years 1988–1998. The Author considers ownership transformation within the country and particular voivodeships. The privatization process of the biggest industrial enterprises as well as the role of foreign capital in ownership restructurization of Polish industry have been estimated.

J. Dębski (The High School of Finances and Management, Białystok) has analysed local growth poles in Poland. This research concerns voivodeship cities and the area in the vicinity. As a result, the Author came up with original classification of communal, local growth poles in Poland.

Z. Makiela (Academy of Pedagogy, Cracow) has analyzed the problem of special economy zones in Poland, especially special economy zone Europark Mielec. The Author has presented the structure of the firms run business in this Zone in comparison to foreign investors in podkarpackie voivodeship.

W. Gierańczyk and A. Stańczyk (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń) have presented classification of international corporations according to a level of their internationalization and have discussed the factors influencing the development of the corporations. The analyses of concentration degree of the corporations in three global increase poles, that is USA, Japan and UE has provided interesting results.

E. Wajda (Academy of Pedagogy, Cracow), has reported the development of Motorola – telecommunication company, which belongs to the biggest world industrial companies. The Author has presented the history, changes in production, employment and organization structure. Synthestic remarks on anticipatied development corporations in the world summarize her research.

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