

Introduction

The basic condition for changes aiming at implementation of rules of market economy is a rational course of transformation processes in the whole national economy and its individual sectors, including industrial enterprises and the related spatial industrial structures. Effective control of these processes requires increasingly precise knowledge of related mechanisms, which will enable preparation of increasingly precise instruments that will control the process. Thus, it is possible to assume that in the following years, such processes will belong to the leading research problems, also in the geography of industry. Having in mind our wish to contribute to solving such up-to-date research problems, within the activities of the Geography of Industry Committee at the Polish Geographic Society, we present subsequent research works referring to transformation of industrial enterprises and the related spatial structures. We are aware that research of this type meets at present a substantial information barrier, but this does not mean that it must be neglected.

The fourth volume of Works by the Geography of Industry Committee at the Polish Geographic Society refers to that idea, and it is devoted to problems of industrial structure transformation in the implementation process of market economy rules. In this way, we want to join the extensive discussion on restructuring of the Polish economy, which should become competitive and acquire an increasingly vital position in the unifying Europe, as well as in the system of the global economy. We also hope to increase in this way an interest of junior scientists in research problems concerning the geography of industry, and we begin to succeed as it is reflected by the composition of our authors. We shall be grateful for any remarks and new proposals concerning future volumes of the Committee's works.

Thoughts by B. Domański (Jagiellonian University in Cracow), devoted to an influence of foreign investments upon metropolitan areas in Poland, open this volume. The Author turns special attention to the scale of spatial concentration of foreign investments, their distribution in the structure of metropolitan areas, and factors of new plant location by foreign capital.

A. Wieloński and A. Bazydło (University of Warsaw) discuss the problems of the role of the integration process with the European Union in structural transformations of the Polish industry. They stress the role of foreign capital in the pro-export restructuring of the industry and specify competitiveness of products on the market.

Z. Ziolo (Academy of Pedagogy in Cracow) and S. Piróg (The Marshall's Office in Cracow) analyse location and spatial concentration of decision centres (management) of leading European companies that are treated as specially important elements controlling these complex, frequently supranational, production structures. They also turn attention to their branch structure and size of the production potential in the light of the capital value and the employment level.



Spatial industrial structures shape essentially the settling systems and affect their durability in the socio-economic space. The work by J. Rajman (Academy of Pedagogy in Cracow) includes identification of this interesting problem and it analyses durability of spatial organisation concerning industry and settlements in the area of the Mała Panew basin in the period of over 200 years.

Transformation processes in industrial enterprises have different courses both in the spatial organisation and in individual branches. This is indicated by an analysis by E. Rydz and W. Szymańska (Pomeranian Academy of Pedagogy in Słupsk), devoted to operation of shoe-making industry in the region of Słupsk and by P. Czapliński (Pomeranian Academy of Pedagogy in Słupsk), indicating the role of regional policy in this respect. Various tendencies in restructuring processes in industrial enterprises on selected examples from the area of South-Eastern Poland are presented by T. Rachwał (Academy of Pedagogy in Cracow); whereas K. Widermann (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) analyses activities in favour of restructuring of the Polish metallurgy. P. Śleszyński (Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw) presents an analysis of concentration of seats of major enterprises, thus specifying spatial attractiveness of the City of Warsaw for their location.

W. Kamińska (Świętokrzyska Academy in Kielce) presents legal instruments of the state policy in favour of development in the sector of small and medium-size companies; whereas against this background, D. Reško (Profex Krynica) presents shaping of a trade and service company belonging to this sector.

Restructuring processes, as L. Luchter (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) stresses it, also affect a greater attention being paid to ecological problems. It is illustrated by a change to the scale of gas pollution in domestic professional electric power stations. Transformation processes in the national economy, including the industry, also affect other ways of life. It is indicated by the work by J. Majewski (University of Warsaw), discussing the influence of structural changes in the industry upon the railway transport, and by the work by M. Borowiec (Academy of Pedagogy in Cracow), devoted to changes in directions of studies at the Academy of Economics, reflecting the changes in the economy system.

Processes of economy transformation at other dimensions take place in large states. This aspect is referred to in an interesting study by Z. Szot (Academy of Pedagogy in Cracow), devoted to transformation problems in the industry of the Russian Federation.

Zbigniew Ziolo

Translation by Krzysztof Tucholski

