

INTRODUCTION

Processes of socio-economic development taking place in the space of the world in various ways are realized in different scales of spatial systems. Depending on various factors, they influence the economic and social potential dynamics of countries and regions. In spatial systems, it is visible via the intensification of the process of socio-economic potential changes, seen as its development, stagnation or recession. These changes are made under the influence of polarization processes differentiating national, regional, and also local systems. It must be acknowledged that the processes initiated in the years of recovering from the economic crisis will strengthen and influence the deepening differences between national and regional systems. This is why it is important to analyse the range of their changes, which led to their contemporary structure.

This main theme can be found in all the presented works, analyzing the differentiation of tempo and directions of changes of regional systems. The leading article illustrates these processes with the assessment of structural changes in employment in regional systems of the European Union. By using the similarity assessment of the employment structures in the years 2000–2008 and 2008–2012, a classification of the European regions was made, differentiating between 5 classes (M. Markowska). As a result of the change processes, the character of the European regions has change, which was visible in a significant decrease in the numbers of industrial regions and an increase of the number of regions focused on services (M. Markowska, A. Sokołowski, D. Strahl, M. Sobolewski).

In the next article (M. Smętkowski) an analysis has been made of the changes of the level and dynamics of the developments of the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe in the times of economic growth, looming crisis and the first years of recovering from it. In the light of changes of the GDP value, main attention has been paid to the changes of the economic potential of individual countries and regional systems. The article's author notes that the economic crisis will differentiate the regional space of the Central and Eastern Europe in a much greater way than national economies. It means that the regional structures of these countries had experienced different conditions to speed up the economic development. In the present, the dynamics of modern industry and services connected with advanced technologies growth is an especially important factor of the economic development (A. Skórska). The meaning of this modern economic activity has been studied in different countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the light of the size and share of employment in comparison to employment in total. The presented research indicate that there is a very differentiated share of employment in high-tech industry and services, which, as it is assumed, indicates different level of progress and share of modern sectors in the economic development of these countries.

Establishing special economic zones is an important factor stimulating the economic growth, especially of the less developed regions. As a result of appropriate national politics,

a range of advantages can be created, which influence the decrease of the localization costs and production-services activities of the economic entities appearing in these countries. This issue has been illustrated with the example of special economic zones in Russia (E. Woźniak).

In the advancing process of civilisation growth, as a result of the intensifying mechanisation, automation and robotisation of the production, the role of industry as an employment market is decreasing, while the role of the services sector is increasing. At the same time new services sectors appear, connected with communication, especially in terms of information, as well as finances and scientific-technology activities. This issue has been illustrated with the changes of the services sector in Poland in the years 1995–2012, covering the final phase of the industrial development and the start of the information phase (J. Dominiak). This is also referred to by the dynamics of changes of the building sector in Poland, especially housing (M. Płaziak, A. Szymańska), which compared to the needs is still marked by many shortages in inter alia the Upper Silesia agglomeration facilities (M. Dyszy). These processes also influence the shaping of the industry structures of Silesia (Lower Silesia, Opolskie and Silesia voivodeships), which is also characterised by a large differentiation of the innovation potential (P. Brezdeń). Changes of the management system also influenced the load sizes in national sea ports (Gdańsk, Gdynia), in which there is a visible decrease in sales in the years of implementing the market economy (1995–1997) and the economic crisis (2007–2009) (M. Tarkowski).

The changes of the world's economy also influence individual countries, which can be seen in notes presenting the changes of the structure of the Irkutsk economic region (A. Ya. Jakobson, N.V. Batsun) and an attempt of an analysis of the similarity of the psychological depression mechanisms to the Siberia cities recession (K. Lidin).