

INTRODUCTION

Local and regional systems are not isolated socio-economic systems, but rather they are being affected by both the national and international systems of various countries or organized groups of countries. This is why it is an important issue in the processes of analysis and assessment of the local and regional systems to determine their connection to the wider socio-economic systems. Depending on the production-services profile, the local and regional systems can fill in selected market niches in the international structures, which becomes an important factor for them, allowing them to grow socially, economically and culturally. At the same time, the local and regional systems are also affected by such factors originating from the international environment, which through their attractiveness can draw in external development factors. It depends largely on their level of attractiveness for taking different forms of production and services activity on their location.

In connection to the presented themes, the issue of this volume oscillates around international conditions of the development of local and regional systems. The presented works allow for considering the relations of the local and regional systems from different points of view. The volume is opened by the study of the analysis of the differentiation of the socio-economic potential of the Poland's voivodeships (A. Golejewska). Based on the selected statistical methods, the author has analyzed 15 indicators characterizing the potential of voivodeships, which served the classification reasons. The positive conditions for the influx of external development factors are the specifically created special economic zones (SEZ), the aim of which is to create the positive conditions for the development of especially the areas undergoing the processes of recession as a result of the economy transformation. Special attention has been paid to the main factors determining the development of SEZ, as well as the risk factors (M. Typa).

The European space is characterized by a large differentiation in the range of the possibilities for activation through industrial activity, an expression of which is the presentation of the spatial dissemination and potential of the peripheral sub-regional systems, which in a large amount cover the Central Europe (J. Sołtys, S. Dorocki). Similarly in the European space different position in the ranking structure is being held by city centers connected to the existence of the enterprises headquarters (Raźniak et al.).

The influence of the international conditions on the regional has been presented through the influence of the foreign capital on the shaping of the space of the Lower Silesian voivodeship (P. Brezdeń) and the functioning of the industrial activity zones of the Wielkopolskie voivodeship (B. Wojtyra), as well as the development of the economic activity in the municipalities of selected voivodeships (T. Pilewicz).

The spatial socio-economic structure there is an ever stronger presence of the role of the scientific-technologic systems, which are the main factors of the regional systems

modernization. An illustration of that situation is a study referring to the city of Gdynia (T. Palmowski, M. Tarkowski).

As a result of the restructuring processes of the industry in the economic space, many companies collapsed, which as a result led to the creation of vast post-production areas, which in some way, due to their earlier infrastructure management, can influence the subsequent activation of the industrial activity, including localizing the new production activities (J. Rudewicz). The ongoing change of the economic base of the urban centers influences the shaping of their earlier socio-economic structures, an example of which can be found in the changes in the structure of the institutions of the center of the city of Nysa (M. Mayer) and the shaping of the self-government systems and the social services connected with this (W. Szymańska).

The volume ends with the works, where the main focus is put on the issue of methodology, and mainly the abnormality of the distribution and co-dependency of observation with the use of selected tests, conducted on the example of France (S. Dorocki, B. Jenner), the proposed methods for research of the spatial differentiation based on the intensity of information present in the Internet sources (S.D. Brunn et al.) and the ability to use the Orion model in the simulation of the concentration of economic activity on the area of Southern Poland (M. Krygier).

The presented works point out the large diversity of the possibilities of influencing the conditions of the international environment on the local and regional development. Current results indicate the existence of many new, not yet touched research issues, which should find their reflection in geographic-economic studies, mainly in the range of the issue of entrepreneurship and geography of industry.

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