

## INTRODUCTION

As a result of the globalisation processes the international connections between various sectors of national economy are strengthened. This is particularly applicable to financial, capital, production and service connections. The degree of intensification of said ties is to a great extent dependant on the changing external conditions resulting from economic development and the knowledge-based economy, as well as on internal conditions of particular countries and regions.

Articles found in the present volume refer to that very idea with their authors undertaking selected problems of the field. The preliminary article (Z. Zióło) presents national and international determinants of development of enterprises against the background of the functioning of an industrial enterprise. Furthermore, different categories of their relationships with international environment were given. Later on, M. Markowska and A. Sokołowski present a useful tool for analysing changes in the structure, i.e. the decomposition method. The development of industry still plays an important role in stimulating labour market resources. The market itself in turn is shaped by the changing tendencies of industry development. This idea became the background for the similarities of employment structures in the European Union countries with emphasis on the importance of the industrial sector in particular countries (J. Wąsowicz).

Evolution of the production and employment structure in economy in national environment is an indication of the influence of various determinants (R. Śliwa, P. Wałag, S. Tabor). International conditions for the shaping of national industry are represented by a participation index in a global value chain. The index may be used to determine the function and share of national industry in international relationships (M. Ulbrych). Market relations for a given product play a crucial role in the functioning of large industrial enterprises. The network of relations for European manufacturers of trolleybuses serves as an example of that (M. Połom). In creating market networks the innovativeness of products offered is of key meaning. One of the ways of ensuring said innovativeness is the patent activity of particular European regions (M. Szajt) and countries (P.M. Woroniecki). Economy-transformative processes entail changes in national labour market which is illustrated by the analysis of structural changes in Polish (K. Sala) and Hungarian (Á. Pál, F. Gyóri) industry. In the process of economy transformations the role of industry in the development of regional systems has changed (J. Kudęłko). This is manifested through the restructuring of the shipbuilding industry in Poland (T. Palmowski, M. Tarkowski) and the development of offshore wind power, a new economic activity (P. Czaplński). The fluctuating economic situation of the crude oil market is another issue influencing the industry (A. Pach-Gurgul). Restructuring of industry involves the substitution of failing enterprises with new economic activity of other sectors. An example of such a process are the post-industrial areas of textile industry in Manchester, Łódź and Lyon (M. Miśkowiec), post-industrial areas

in Małopolska (M. Ciechowski), as well as management of areas of post-mining waste dumps (Ł. Gawor, W. Warcholik, P. Dolnicki).

We believe that the articles presented open up new research areas connected to transformations of industrial structures influenced by the changes in international conditions, as well as those of national, regional and local meaning.

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