

INTRODUCTION

Changing conditions influencing the economic development processes affect various sectors of the economy (represented by industry and service companies). The intensification of globalisation and the internationalisation of production and services require constant improvement of research aims and methods in the field of distinct sectors of the economy.

The present volume is composed of articles dealing with this particular area, that is they relate the changes in the activity of selected branches of industry and service sector. Given that the industrial processes are still one of the leading factors of development, the relationship between declared and actual Polish industrial policy was analysed (M.J. Radło, P. Spałek). In this context, the importance of economic instruments materialised as state aid was emphasised. Said aid was provided to industrial companies during the years 2007–2014, i.e. the years of crisis and overcoming it. P. Dzikowski assumes that the proximity of competitor, as well as supplier and customer to a great extent influences the economic and innovation activity of less technologically advanced companies. The results presented in the article come from analysing 2,300 industrial enterprises, taking into account the links with national and international companies. Those enterprises to a varying extent focus on research and development which is undoubtedly linked with product quality and market capacity. As a result of the current restructuring of Polish industry, furniture industry is among the fastest growing sectors (W. Dyba). Its intensive development is connected mainly with high quality and competitive prices of offered products which grants it vast market possibilities, in particular in economically developed countries. To increase its competitiveness, individual enterprises form clusters. Through that they raise their economic and technical potential and thus become more competitive on international markets. In recent years the beer industry has been developing with particular intensity. Said industry is represented by a number of international companies that in the environment of a highly saturated market compete with one another with growing fierceness. On a saturated market small breweries that undertake production of local varieties of beer, often drawing from traditional methods, may find their place more easily (B. Wojtyra, Ł. Grudzień). During the transformation of industry, a significant number of factories was closed down. What remained, however, were post-exploitation areas along with the infrastructure. Therefore, a new issue arose, that is the revitalisation and restoring of their economic potential (M. Kobyłańska, Ł. Gawor). Post-mining areas are in particular need of revitalisation as the landscape is dominated by heaps. The potential adaptation for tourist purposes is most often suggested, however, it is worth considering to treat them as anthropogenic resources that can be further processed in the future. This concerns mainly flotation tailings associated with copper mining.

Services and their growing share in the GDP play an increasingly important role in the economic development of the country. Significant in this area are modern services that are complementing the activity of industrial enterprises, as well as those responding to the market need of consumers (J. Dominiak). Of particular significance are services connected to advanced technologies, requiring professional qualifications of employees, and properly developed education system. Certified quality management systems in which quality, the level of novelty and need for new markets are important also influence the quality and level of services activity (W. Sadkowski). This sector is getting more diversified. The trend reflects the technological progress, implementation of new technological processes and produced goods. An illustration of this complex process is the example of Singapore which is a major hub concentrating production and service activity necessary for the proper functioning of world economy (P. Szyja).

It appears that the articles presented raise new issues allowing to link specific actions of economic policy with the possibility of development of dynamically growing sectors of industry and improving the quality of services.

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