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Introduction

In the processes of transformation of the national economy, the role of various economic sectors is changing. This is reflected by the changes to their potential and participation in economy as measured most often by the gross domestic product (GDP), size of employment, value of sales, etc. This also applies to the industry sector which, as a result of the transition to a post-industrial and communication economy, loses its importance in favour of the services sector.

In the industrial phase of civilisation development, the industry sector was seen as a primary factor in economic development, which most often was determined by the size of the labour market. Nowadays, alongside the advancing automatisation and mechanisation of production, the role of industry in the activation of work resources is declining. This occurs with the progressive increase in production value. The process is affected by a growing productivity and the implementation of new and more efficient production technologies. However, the impact that industry and services have now on the development of spatial systems is determined by the employment rate, which is especially important from the point of view of the activation of work resources and reduction of unemployment. However, other characteristics defining the influence of industry and services on the socio-economic development are also taken into account. They relate to such indicators as budget revenue of local government units, the income of those employed in industry and services, the size of influx of foreign direct investment, the size of infrastructure investments associated with industry, etc. Those afore-mentioned processes affect the behaviour of individual branches of industry in regional structures of various countries to different extent.

Papers included in the present volume refer to the mentioned research trend. They comprise the results of research connected to the development of national and regional industrial structures. The volume begins with the article on the influence of industry and services on socio-economic spatial systems (Z. Zioło). It presents the theoretical concepts of the direction of influence of industry and services on spatial systems of different scale. The author provides in his paper examples of diverse impact of industrialisation processes on spatial transformations of said systems.

Processes of economic transformation are accompanied by a change in the share of industry and services in employment structures which was illustrated by empirical studies and by a proposed model of changes in employment in Warsaw and its neighbouring districts (M. Markowska, A. Sokołowski). The implementation of new technologies significantly affects the development of industrial activity, which is manifested through regional patent activity of OECD countries (M. Szajt). Depending on the stage of socio-economic development, the degree of change in spatial structures of industry varies. This can be observed based on the example of transformations of industry in

regions of Turkey (K. Temurçin, Y. Aldirmaz) and the Greater Accra region in Ghana (K. Temurçin, I. Kervankiran, M.G. Dziwornu).

Nowadays, the heavily growing automotive industry plays a dominant role in the socio-economic development. This was illustrated through the example of Mexico (M. Wójtowicz). Military industry plays an important role in the development of research, as well as technological and innovative advancement (P.L. Wilczyński). It consumes significant financial expenditures allocated for research and development by leading countries, and the transfer of technological experience on other branches of industry raises their modernness. Also foreign direct investment have a significant role in development processes. They are connected with strategic objectives of international corporations that are searching for new locations in the world space. New locations of branches are most often found in countries with lower level of socio-economic development, so that the competitiveness is raised as a result of lower costs. This was exemplified by economic links of the post-Soviet countries (J. Kaczmarek-Khubnaia).

Significant budget surpluses of China affect the acquisition of numerous modern corporations that usually have difficulties in terms of financial liquidity (R. Koszek). The purpose of these activities is mainly entering the markets of the European Union and the United States, which are protected by specialised tools, as well as gaining access to advanced technologies of production that the acquired companies are in possession of.

The contemporary spatial structure of the country observes the emergence of new types of activities that use the unconventional, renewable sources of energy, such as biomass (K. Sala) and wind energy (P. Biniek). They refer to European tendencies related to actions aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The entrepreneurial attitude has a primary impact on the development of socio-economic spatial systems. It enables the creation and development of various types of business entities, innovative industrial enterprises in particular. Therefore, it is important to seek for methods of defining the influence of various factors determining the growth of entrepreneurship in different countries (M. Czyżewska, T. Mroczek, A. Lewicki, A. Cwynar).

It should be assumed that the research issues outlined will be valid in the future and will require constant further exploration of both the theoretical views, as well as their verification through empirical studies referring to different scales of spatial systems in the world space and to business entities representing different sectors of industry and services. For that, said entities will be the basic conditions for socio-economic development and activation of work resources. In turn, modern technological development trends will influence the improvement of quality of research and education which will enable the implementation of new technological processes that will raise the competitiveness of spatial systems of different scale.

We invite and encourage you to cooperate with the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society and to present your new research achievements in our volumes.

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