

INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic and cultural development of spatial systems of various scale is associated with the changes in economic base. In the process of changes, as a result of internal determinants and external stimuli, its economic, social, and cultural potential is restructured. This affects the transformation of regional and local structures occurring as a result of the diversification of the behaviour of individual elements represented by specific economic sectors and developing enterprises. Therefore, in the research process, of significant importance is the search for new methods of analysis which allow for explaining the fluctuating behaviour of economy, sectors of economy and representing them business entities. Learning the regularities connected is of great importance both for the development of science, as well as practical application in terms of honing the methods of managing and modernising development strategies.

A crucial element of the economic base of national, regional, and local systems is the level and structure of employment that specify the size and quality of the labour market. This is referred to by the proposed method of dynamic multidimensional scaling of employment structure changes. The changes observed in this regard in the years 1999–2016 indicate different trends of changes in the potential and structures of labour market in various countries of the European Union. They result from the different behaviours of potential of selected sectors (M. Markowska, A. Sokołowski, D. Strahl). In the economic base, of significant relevance are also dynamically developing enterprises that, through the process of internationalisation, impact the development of exogenous functions of a given spatial system. By presenting selected Polish enterprises it was demonstrated that in the process of internationalisation of activities, their entrepreneurial orientation plays a huge role (A. Głodowska, M. Maciejewski, K. Wach). In the process of regional transformations new business entities emerge. They undertake the creation of innovative products which leads to the formation of new structures, the so-called technology parks, in the urban space. Their activities and development draw on the modern knowledge-based economy. Research carried out in Lublin (Poland) has shown that activity in a technology park positively affects the economic security of enterprises located within the park. Moreover, it also has a positive influence on creating innovative enterprises in the city, helping to strengthen local economic security (A. Rutkowska-Gurak). To attract investments in order to boost development, particularly of centres failing as a result of liquidation or significantly limiting the industry activities and the increasing unemployment during the transformation of economy, new economic instruments allowing for the creation of special economic zones were introduced. The first zone of this type was created in Mielec. It became the location for a number of new industrial enterprises (R. Pitera). Currently, as a result of decisions made in terms of economic policy, conditions created previously for special economic zones refer to the whole country, which may strongly affect further transformations of the economic structure. These transformations are also associated with the

changing factors influencing the productivity of individual sections of economic activity (M. Cyrek). In the analysis of the productivity of enterprises of essential weight are costs, especially those connected with the quality of the products manufactured and services provided (W. Sadkowski). Socio-economic and cultural factors are not the only agents strongly affecting the transformations in the structure of industry. As evidenced through the example of one of the provinces in Turkey, in numerous areas of industry, similarly significant are the elements of the natural environment of a given place (M.S. Şahinalp).

In management processes, intentional shaping of adequate spatial structures with the use of new economic instruments is of vital significance. An example of this is the proposed location tax on retail which is treated as a way of rationally shaping the settlement structure (P. Śleszyński). In this respect, of great importance are inertia processes in terms of transformations of branches of industry and services which affect the small variability of regional structures. Apart from economic policy, it is one of the factors influencing the economic resilience of regions (G. Masik). As a result of diversified intellectual resources and the quality of human capital, individual regions have different opportunities to develop industrial activities. An opportunity to support the development of such activities taking into account the specifics of each region are smart specializations (D. Murzyn). Economic and ecological conditions of local systems play a significant role in the development of industrial activity. To some extent, the municipalities may create favourable conditions for the development of enterprises' activities, but also barriers halting the development may occur (K. Sala).

Along with the increasing financial resources of households, various forms of tourism activities develop. They stimulate the economic development of regional and local systems. In this regard, a helpful tool is SWOT analysis, which should be used to determine the most advantageous directions of development for tourism activities (M. Żemła). The intensification of tourist activity, in addition to numerous benefits, also generates a number of negative phenomena. This is indicated by the changing attitude of the inhabitants of Krakow (Poland) towards the intense, excessive growth in tourism, leading to negative outcomes (M. Tracz, M. Bajgier-Kowalska, B. Wójtowicz). In regional systems of high environmental and cultural and social attractiveness, tourism is one of the most significant factors of socio-economic growth, as presented based on the example of the Department of Vaucluse in France (K. Janczarska-Bergel).

Papers presented in this volume relate to selected aspects of transformations in industrial and services activities, as well as their influence on the shaping of the economy of regional and local systems. The issue appears to be topical and should be further developed both in the context of socio-economic geography and spatial management. This is because the problems of economic growth, equalling existing disparities in the development of spatial systems, and raising the level and quality of life are valid now and will be valid in the future as well. Thus we encourage those willing to share the results of their own research on the issue to contribute to the upcoming volumes of the Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society.

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