

INTRODUCTION

In the research on the current processes of social, economic, and cultural development, special place must be given to the development of innovative activities, which significantly affect the increasing competitiveness of enterprises and spatial structures of different scale. Therefore the research subjects of innovativeness must be treated as particularly important, and the ever more precise investigation of its related processes should be taken as a rationale for the development of local, regional and national structures. Innovative economy is crucial for economic growth and for the higher level and quality of life of the society. In this respect, it is important to present and popularize the knowledge of the influence that innovativeness has on economic changes in spatial structures of various scale.

The studies included in the present volume refer to the above research subject. They show different approaches to the analysis of the impact that innovativeness may have on the economic changes in spatial structures. They also discuss the research problems present in the subject literature, and the applied methodologies, illustrated by appropriate empirical studies, conducted in Polish university centres as well as in Irkutsk and Olomouc.

The volume begins with a review of issues of the open economy and its partial empirical examination (K.W. Krupa). The article presents the initiative of 16 federal agencies and offices, which set as a goal to use the employees' intellectual potential and effects of their creative behaviour for the improvement of the economic growth index. The main objectives of the programme are discussed; after modification, they may be applied in the creation of development strategies for other regions, using the idea of the public-private partnership.

Special meaning in raising the competitiveness of an economy is attributed to the quality and modernity of its industry (W. Gierańczyk). The human capital plays a significant part in stimulating the innovativeness in the industry: it largely contributes to raising the competitiveness of industrial production, and to the effects brought by the activities of the construction sector (P. Šimáček, Z. Szczyrba).

The level of innovativeness of economic entities, quality of management and institutional surroundings are the main factors affecting the development of innovative cities. This claim is supported by the articles which investigate: the innovative potential of French metropolises and Siberian cities (A. Jakobson), the development of various types of Polish academic cities, depending on the level and quality of the innovative potential (P. Silka), and the development of the Polish eastern border cities (A. Brzosko-Seremak).

Innovativeness also plays an important role in the development of regional structures. This is emphasized by the articles concerning: the problem of regional innovativeness in the Visegrad Group countries (A. Golejewska), transformation of the Siberian regions with respect to the institutional developmental factors (N. Kaluizhnova), and the restructuring of their economic potential (I. Blinow). Another crucial element in raising the attractiveness

of a region to stimulate the developmental factors is regional marketing and regional brand creation (M. Zdon-Korzeniowska).

The level of innovativeness shapes the structure of the economic base of different countries in a varied degree. This is shown in a work concerning the problem of innovativeness of the Polish economy in comparison with other EU countries (P. Nowak), and in the studies describing the restructuring of the former military areas in the Czech Republic (J. Hercik, Z. Szczyrba). Stimulating innovativeness of an economy affects its flexibility and the changes of social behaviours (T.T. Brzozowski) and is dependent on the financial resources of self-government institutions (P. Brezdeń, W. Spallek).

The articles included in the volume provide a review of research problems and present interesting empirical studies, which may become a model for new investigations, with the purpose of further development of this current and important topic, and with a view to discover and create innovative social-economic solutions in spatial systems of various scale.

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