

INTRODUCTION

Current trends in civilisation development and related processes of globalisation and European integration influence the need for constant improvement and implementation of effective methods of managing national economy, as well as the economy of local government units. These processes activate complex social, economic and cultural transformations. They affect changes in the potential and structures of industry and its environment, starting with global and European scale, through regional, to local one. At the same time, entering the information phase of development, the implementation of new production methods and the emergence of new categories of services influence the restructuring of previously shaped functional and spatial structures of industry. We assume that the research issue of transformations of industry in spatial systems requires continuous and more precise understanding of its complex and ever-changing functional and sectoral structure. This very idea is referred to in the present volume, represented through articles written by authors from various academic centres.

Attempts to study this complex problem taking into account globalisation processes and their negative effects on development management play an important role in research. Management processes that seek balanced economic and social development remain an important issue (F. Piontek). In the process of companies' development, new spatial forms of concentration of industry emerge. They are the so-called clusters, whose primary feature is creating links between enterprises and institutions of different lines of business. This issue was discussed based on the example of furniture clusters in different phases of their life cycle (the Livenza cluster, located within the so-called Third Italy, and the Kępno cluster). Obtained research results may become the basis for planning the development of production, services, business environment institutions and the activities of local authorities (W. Dyba, T. Stryjakiewicz). Transformation processes lead to a diversity in the concentration of industry, as well as changes in its specialisation. This issue was partly illustrated by empirical studies, based on the example of changes in the value of selected features of industry in Dolnośląskie voivodeship (Poland) in the years 2005–2016 (P. Brezdeń). Transformation processes are strongly influenced by the quality and effectiveness of economic and financial policy instruments aimed at restructuring Polish industry. In this context, presented was an analysis of changes occurring in the first years of national economy transformation, as well as an assessment of implemented economic instruments, such as: prices, taxes, tariffs and non-tariff solutions, settlement and court proceedings with creditors, government and industry restructuring programs, institutions supporting restructuring, financing of research works, subsidies, concessions, sureties and guarantees of the Treasury, government investments, protection of the market against imports, as well as offset transactions (D. Klimek).

Individual regions are characterised by different structure of production plants that play an important role in their economic base. An example of this are growing

companies located in the ports of the Baltic Sea area connected to maritime economy (T. Bocheński). For the development of national economy, an important issue is the strive for improvement of the efficiency of energy sector which should influence the reduction of negative effects of climate changes and take into account the principles of sustainable development (A. Pach-Gurgul, M. Ulbrych). In this context, the development of renewable energy is of particular importance (P. Czapliński, I. Kavetsky). In order to accelerate economic development, particularly of areas overcoming the economic collapse, an important factor influencing their economic growth has to be the creation of new investments, especially in the automotive industry. This industry has been treated as one of the crucial sectors of the economy, which has become an important development impulse, which is particularly clearly highlighted by the example of Colombia. It impacts the fastest the economic activation of the country and the improvement of the public mood (M. Wójtowicz). For the less developed areas, an important development factor is the export of raw materials to economically developed countries. An example of this is the significant export of lumber from Ukraine to European Union countries (A. Czaplińska, I. Kibych) and the innovation potential of Eastern Siberia (V. Rudneva).

Currently, the development of enterprises and the increase in their economic importance is primarily influenced by the implementation of technical innovations which allow for the offering of competitive products and services (M. Janas). A number of development factors focus around large cities connected to metropolitan areas, while areas located outside of them remain disadvantaged. Against this background, an attempt was made to determine the extent to which new industrial technologies allow for the implementation of the Smart City concept (J. Rudewicz) and also the extent to which reindustrialisation processes affect the development of peripheral areas (J. Sołtys, S. Dorocki).

In the years of economy transformation and implementation of the market economy rules after 1989, the sectoral and spatial structure of industry has undergone significant changes. This has influenced the transformation of urban post-industrial areas. These areas, due to their desirable location in urban space and large surface, are extremely susceptible to new business locations related to non-industrial economic activities. They also cause significant morphological and physiognomic changes in urban space (D. Sikorski). A similar process of functional changes is observed in former mining areas. Presently, a new form of tourism activities – the so-called geotourism – is developing in said areas. (M.W. Lorenc, M. Kobyłańska). Economic and functional changes in regional structures, particularly of metropolitan areas, require the development of new planning concepts. They aim to functionally and spatially integrate the economic activity while rationally using the available land (B. Stelmach-Fita).

The processes of shaping national structures are largely based on economic changes in European structures. In this regard, an important role is attributed to research on the variability of socio-economic structures of the European Union and, on this basis, the determination of the variability of national structures. This was based on an analysis of similarity of employment structures in the European Union countries and the assessment of changes taking place in the years 2008–2017 (M. Markowska, D. Strahl, E. Sobczak, P. Hlaváček).

Research papers presented refer to selected aspects of the influence of industrial and service activities on the economic and social changes in spatial 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 everyone to share the results of their own research in the upcoming volumes of the Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society.

Zbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał