

INTRODUCTION

Among the factors of socio-economic development of spatial systems, service activities are becoming increasingly important. As a result of transformation processes, they affect changes in the labour market structures, new locations of economic activity and the use of local and regional development opportunities. This idea is addressed by the authors of articles of the present issue as they treat about the selected examples of socio-economic development of the European Union countries, as well as regional and local systems.

The European Union includes countries differing in terms of the potential of the socio-economic and cultural development which is expressed by, among others, their labour market structure. This is demonstrated by the paper on the assessment of the degree of similarity of workers in EU countries. It presents the classification of countries in terms of similarity of employment structures in sectors and selected sections of economic activity in 2008 and 2018. The employment structure in selected sections indicated the different state of technological progress and the intensity of knowledge use in economic development (M. Markowska, D. Strahl).

Presently, modern services play an important role in socio-economic development. This fact is referred to in an analysis of the changes in the structure of services in the socio-economic development of the European Union countries in 2008 and 2017. It was pointed out that most countries use modern services as one of the important factors of development (J. Dominiak).

The measures adopted play a major role in determining and evaluating the economic potential. Against this background, literature on the measures of economic, social and institutional resilience used in international research was reviewed (G. Masik).

An essential factor in the development of enterprises may be their cooperation with universities which currently is still poorly utilised. Another article deals with the consideration on the extent to which the proximity of the university could be a factor in establishing a mutual cooperation. As a result of empirical studies carried out on a random sample of 383 companies, it was established that there exists an ambiguous link between the proximity of the university and the companies cooperating with it (M. Olszewski).

Using the concept of multifunctional rural development, the issue of local business zones has been raised. Empirical studies determined that in areas where there are local zones of activity, the values of development indicators are higher compared to the average value for rural areas (B. Wojtyra).

A significant problem of regional systems' activation is the size and structure of tourist traffic. Against this background, the sizes and evaluation of tourist services in Szczecin Landscape Park Puszcza Bukowa (Poland) and the directions of their development were presented. On the basis of preliminary results of the 2019 survey conducted among 311 respondents, tourist traffic was assessed and it was found that the main

motive for tourist arrivals was recreation and leisure. The majority of those arriving is aware the area is protected, they stress the need for further information activities on the attractive place and the dissemination of educational work (B. Osóch, W. Zbarasze-wski).

Gastronomy plays a significant role in the structure of services of local systems. Growing competition causes companies operating in this industry to take intensive actions to increase competitiveness. These issues were presented based on the example of selected restaurants operating in Chernivtsi in Ukraine (T. Yemchuk, O. Arpul).

In studies on the tourist activity of Poles living abroad, an important issue is to define the directions of tourism, including the role that Poland plays in it. Studies on the tourist activity of Polish Argentines concentrated in Buenos Aires show that they mostly prefer leisure tourism on the coast of La Plata. It is mainly characterised by individual tourism (K. Ziólkowska-Weiss, E. Haras).

In the public consciousness of the executives of numerous business entities there exists the need for proecological measures. An example of this are the solutions implemented in the Municipal Transport Services in Krakow (Poland). The company is constantly broadening its activities to improve the state of the natural environment in order to enhance the quality and comfort of life of the city residents (K. Janczarska-Bergel).

Taking into account the significance of the research issue studied we encourage everyone to continue their work and to share the results obtained in subsequent volumes of the "Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society".

Zbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał