Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society

35(1) • 2021

INTRODUCTION

The processes of socio-economic and cultural transformations vary in their severity and often affect the pace and direction of changes in the functioning and development of business entities, institutions and spatial systems of different scale – from local to global. This is reflected in the emergence of new forms of economic and recreational activity and in the dynamics, stagnation, recession or the disappearance of existing ones, as well as in changes in the spatial and institutional determinants of the activities of entities. This idea is referred to in the presented works, in which the selected issues of the functioning of industrial enterprises, transport enterprises, the organisation of urban space and new forms of recreation were discussed.

Increasing technological advances and the manufacturing of increasingly complex products mean that many companies, especially those operating in countries with less economic potential, cannot independently generate modern products based on their own manufacturing base and operating on a limited market. One way to grow them is to develop their activity in conjunction with large corporations, most often international ones. They become an integral part of their production activities, carry out some of the work related to the production of components, service activities that enable their business to develop or find more favourable conditions for entering complex market structures. This issue is raised by a paper addressing the reasons for the internationalisation of the company's activities, with the improvement of its economic efficiency and entering new markets in mind. Based on the use of the postal survey, market and institutional motives for the process of internationalisation of the companies surveyed were identified (I. Drabik).

The main factor influencing the increase in the degree of innovation of companies and institutions is the mastery of the cooperation skills of various business entities. Clusters are assumed to be one of the activities that provides the conditions for the development and implementation of innovation activities. Their role is highlighted in a number of strategy papers on economic policy support for this form of organisation. Against this background, an attempt was made to indicate the contemporary conditions for the development of clusters in connection with the possibilities of internationalisation of their activities (G. Czapiewska).

An important part of the functioning of the company are the economic effects of the business. It is assessed through the company's financial statements. This notion is referred to in a paper on the financial liquidity of Zakłady Mięsne Henryk Kania SA (Poland). It was assumed that the opinion of an independent auditor increases the reliability of the financial information presented in the financial statements and is the basis for remedial actions undertaken. It was pointed out that the company's payment capacity had changed, affecting the risk of losing financial capacity to continue its activities (A. Kuciński). The transformation of the economy has increased the importance of the services sector, which makes today's workspace fundamentally connected with office infrastructure. As a result, offices often influence the concentration of service activities and the creation of business districts. This issue is referred to in a paper addressing the concentration of office buildings in postindustrial sites. It discusses the transformation of the building development of the post-industrial area and the functional-spatial structure of the office district on Strzegomska Street and Muchoborska Street in Wrocław (Poland) (A. Kierzkowska).

Health infrastructure plays an important role in the functioning of urban districts. Currently, there is a lack of existing urban planning indicators in the spatial planning system regulating, among others, the distribution of medical services in planned development areas, which causes the lack of inclusion of clinics or other health institutions in planning documents. This is particularly true in areas with developing housing and growing population. This was referred to in a paper presenting the results of research on the availability of health care clinics in municipalities belonging to the Wrocław Functional Area (Poland). It has been shown that the number of clinics in many municipalities is not suitable for a systematically growing population. Similarly, the location of some clinics does not correspond to the actual needs. In the final part, based on demographic forecasts, it is stated that the demand for medical services will increase in most of the municipalities surveyed (J. Ładysz).

It is assumed that further efforts to compensate for development disparities in national space will increase the role of rail transport, as reflected in the investment measures already taken in this area. Against this background, an analysis of the functioning of the Broad Gauge Metallurgy Line was undertaken. It was highlighted that this line could have a positive impact on the development of international transport (K. Sala).

Urban transport plays an increasingly important role in the functioning of large agglomerations. It is a cheap, fast and safe means of enabling the movement of people. Security and the quality of services play a particular role in its functioning. With these assumptions in mind, the paper analyses the most important factors influencing safety in public transport and addresses them based on the example of the solutions used in the Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Komunikacyjne w Krakowie (Poland). New challenges and prospects in the development of national public transport were outlined (K. Janczarska-Bergel).

Assuming that tourism is an important factor in the dynamic development of the city today, the development of this activity in urban districts has been addressed. It was highlighted that a major problem for the city authorities is the rapid and unbridled development of services through global platforms for accommodation and passenger transport, and that the world's powerful leaders on these markets – Airbnb and Uber – have become very important, but also difficult, partners for negotiations with local authorities. It has been pointed out that the actions taken by local authorities are essentially focused on solving ad hoc problems and do not aim at coordinating tourism development activities in a holistic way (M. Żemła, D.E. Jaremen, E. Nawrocka).

In the field of tourism and recreation, new forms of recreation are emerging – one of them being mantrailing. The paper indicates that the main motives for this form of rest are determination of the needs and predisposition of the dog and the desire to know its characteristics directly in the working conditions in the field. Based on the results of the survey, the participant's profile and motives for practicing this form of recreation were determined. In most opinions, there was a lack of strong indications of breeds preferred in mantrailing (W. Warcholik, D. Chmielowska).

We encourage you to develop the presented research issues and publish the results of your work in our journal.

Zbigniew Zioło, Tomasz Rachwał