

INTRODUCTION

Changing social, economic and political conditions in the global and national space affect the differentiation of development opportunities of economic entities and the related different scales of regional systems. This is illustrated by the articles in which the authors undertook to present the results of research on selected issues of socio-economic and cultural changes in spatial systems.

International corporations shaping the economic structure of large cities and related regions play an important role in defining the global economic space. An illustration of this is the analysis of changes in the level of revenues of corporations of dominant cities and world regions as a result of their changing control and management functions. Attention was drawn to the decline in the importance of the most powerful cities so far, such as New York and London, in favour of the intensively developing Beijing, which increasingly takes over the most important control and management functions in the world economy (P. Raźniak, A. Winiarczyk-Raźniak, S. Dorocki, G. Csomós).

The next article presents a new research concept of a resilient city, paying attention to: the definition and concept of the resilient city, comparison of the concept of resilience with the concepts of balanced development, factors of resilience in urban development and the implementation of the concept of resilience in contemporary urban policies (K. Wałachowski).

In the European Union, the conditions and opportunities for socio-economic and cultural development of certain areas are changing. This is indicated by the weakening of the development of the city of Pécs, which is an important regional social, economic and cultural centre for Hungary. The significant decrease in the economic potential of this city creates the need to undertake research on the possibility of its economic reactivation. The possibilities of using historical development factors were indicated, among which the following were distinguished: the central location of the city in the structure of the region, the multiculturalism of this area and the current development of industry (R. Horeczki).

An important research problem is the changing strategic priorities of revitalisation of degraded areas. Based on the example of Ukrainian cities, the following were presented: the concept of creating recreational and green areas, the possibility of reconstructing their space, pedestrian traffic being given greater importance, the need for integrated actions to create public spaces, the uniqueness of the natural environment, the implementation of modern spatial solutions to organise leisure, the possibility of developing creative industries in reconstructed post-industrial buildings and creating places for cultural activities, and the promotion of entrepreneurship (S. Horbliuk).

In the next work, the relationship between industrial and logistics activities and the railway network in the metropolitan area of Szczecin (Poland) was identified. Attention was paid to the current state and prospects for the development of freight rail transport in the studied area. It was found that the cargo streams on the railway lines mainly refer

to freight transport for the needs of seaports and chemical plants in Police (Poland) (T. Bocheński, M. Paško).

The authors of the next article assumed that meeting intangible needs, including participation in culture, is now one of the basic needs of a person living in a highly developed society. Against this background, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sphere of Polish cities was presented. It was emphasized that individual cultural institutions had to adapt to the changing principles of their functioning in relation to the applicable sanitary regime. The empirical verification of the assumption was illustrated on the example of Krakow and Katowice (Poland) in the light of interviews with representatives of selected institutions (J. Petroniec, K. Rokosz-Lempart, A. Kwiatek-Softys).

Subsequent papers were devoted to the issue of tourism services. It was pointed out that an important element of traffic development is the degree of organisation of the tourist trail. An example of this is the presentation of a tourist trail in the province of Alberta (Canada), treated as an important element of cultural heritage. It was found that the route is well organised and adapted to the conditions allowing for a wide selection of active forms of leisure (K. Ziółkowska-Weiss, N. Lewandowska). An analysis of the role of route lighting as an important component of ski resorts was also undertaken. Attention was drawn to the reasons why the inhabitants of Poland choose the offer of tourist trips and the use of this type of routes. The main reasons for choosing this offer were more attractive prices and a smaller crowd on the slope and in the queue for the lift (M. Żemła, A. Bołoz).

Today, a particularly important problem is the reduction of environmental degradation and the re-use of used products through measures taken to promote circular behaviour. This issue is referred to in studies conducted among households in the Podkarpackie and Małopolskie Voivodeship (Poland). It was emphasized that the obtained results indicate certain economic benefits of farms related to the closed circulation of commodity mass (E. Szczygieł, A. Lwowska, M. Hajduk-Stelmachowicz).

We encourage you to discuss and develop the outlined research issues and share your results in our journal.

Zbigniew Ziolo, Tomasz Rachwał