

INTRODUCTION

Shaping the socio-economic and cultural development of spatial systems of different scale is a fundamental task of state and local government, as well as of the community. The present volume of the Studies of the Industrial Geography Commission of the Polish Geographical Society contains two groups of articles addressing different issues of conditions and opportunities of stimulating growth processes which will serve to increase the level and quality of life of the society.

The focus of the first group of papers is on selected issues that allow to determine the differentiation of the socio-economic development of spatial systems. Other important factors of economic development are innovation, revenues, and education level of the society. This topic is referred to in the article which, in the context of selected indicators in voivodeships cross-section, presents the level of innovation, income, and education of the population, as well as statistical relationships between them. Considering the values of the indicators adopted defined was the degree of diversification of particular voivodeships in terms of the level of their development (W. Maciejewski).

In the process of intensification of socio-economic ties, transport infrastructure plays an important role. This served as the background for the issue of imports of rolling stock in the years 1945–2017, with particular attention paid to imports of electric and diesel units and components and technologies for rolling stock production. Presented was a change in the main areas of import which resulted from the transformations of the management system (T. Bocheński, S. Wojtkiewicz).

Transport activity is crucial in the organisation of large cities. The potential and quality of mass transport, as well as the changing diversity of individual transport are of particular importance. The use of different modes of transport in the city is associated with costs and time of covering the distance. These issues were illustrated by studies conducted on a sample of adolescents aged 19–24. For them, the most important is the time and spatial availability which influences the choice of modes of transport, while costs are less important in this case (M. Płaziak, A.I. Szymańska).

The ability to contribute to the household budgets plays an important role in the processes of economic development and raising the level and quality of life. Possibilities for this are mainly due to economic (e.g. reducing employment as a result of shrinking labour markets) and cultural reasons. Unreasonable credit activities often lead to negative phenomena related to the over-indebted households which generates difficulties in the fulfilment of credit obligations. In light of preliminary results of the study, a significant diversity of values of outstanding credit liabilities of natural persons was indicated in national context (P. Nowak).

The location of Poland in the European space and the resources of educated employees make it attractive for locating international service centres. This served as the background for an analysis of the interactions between centres of international coverage and smaller entities that operate within local systems. Particular emphasis was

placed on the flow of hidden knowledge resulting from the transfer of human capital between service centres and enterprises located in the West-Pomeranian region (K. Łobacz, P. Niedzielski).

The second group of papers included in the present volume concerns the development of tourism which is now becoming an important element of the development of economy of many countries, regions and local systems. This is indicated by analyses concerning the development of tourist services of large urban centres: Szczecin (B. Osóch, K. Tessar), Mauritius (B. Wójtowicz), Pueblos Mágicos (A. Winiarczyk-Rażniak, P. Raźniak), as well as the economic and social development of the less-developed countries (M. Jasiński). The papers suggest that a significant impact on the development of tourism activities is also exerted by efforts to raise and spread knowledge on the qualities of selected areas, e.g. Chochołowska Valley (A. Ciurej, A. Chrobak, A. Wolska, S. Kowalik) and of tourist facilities (M. Cembruch-Nowakowski). Nowadays, in the face of a progressing ageing of the society, an important segment of tourism development is senior tourism which, however, requires the adequate and suitable accommodation and recreational facilities for the elderly to be located in attractive places (M. Żmuda-Pałka, M. Siwek). Various forms of agrotourism can be of major importance for local authorities and households, as illustrated by the models proposed (M. Bajgi-er-Kowalska, M. Tracz).

Presented research papers illustrate the different aspects of socio-economic transformations in spatial systems of certain scale. We encourage you to continue and further the research in this field which will allow for the more precise determination of the conditions, changing factors, and actions of the decision-makers undertaken to improve the competitiveness of spatial systems through the use of local resources and through attracting external factors, leading to raising the level and quality of life.

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