

Introduction

The issue of local entrepreneurship is an important area of research and polemics at the level of practice and academic discussion, resulting from its determining role in accelerating socio-economic development. Very often, there is an impulse to implement creative solutions through innovative initiatives from the local community and the innovative activities of individuals and businesses. The result is an increased impact of local entrepreneurship on the labour market, stimulating competitiveness while creating and strengthening local identity. The authors of the articles assumed that people play a significant role by stimulating and shaping entrepreneurial attitudes in the socio-economic development of the local systems that create development strategies and sources of financing. The other crucial element is education, which stimulates and shapes entrepreneurial attitudes.

Regarding this topic, the issue of making the concepts and methods of socio-economic development more realistic at a local level is discussed. The results of analyses of theoretical assumptions of community building in urban areas were presented using the example of the cities of Detroit, Fordlandia and Empire (Golonka & Rychlik). Theoretical and philosophical assumptions regarding socio-economic development and individual entrepreneurship were analysed. The authors paid particular attention to false assumptions of the economic concepts used to build some of these communities. A realistic concept of an individual human being is also included, explaining the importance of intellectual and volitional powers in activities undertaken, along with examples from socio-economic practice. It was pointed out that well-established socio-economic concepts cannot always explain complex processes and cope with current problems, leading to deep socio-economic crises.

Individual entrepreneurship must cope with increasingly complex conditions considering changes over time, global competitiveness, growing market expectations and often the obsolescence of previously used ideas, especially in dealing with the crises increasingly affecting the global economy. This critical issue was presented based on original survey results conducted in the creative sector of small fashion enterprises operating in Poland (Murzyn-Kupisz, Szilágyi-Csüllög & Kiss).

Issues related to the interconnectedness of economies are related to research on payment problems at the level of individual countries and regions (Filip). The problem of delayed payments may spread and affect spatial systems at various scales as it is linked to a system of mutual dependencies. It is worth emphasising that, compared to neighbouring economies, Polish entrepreneurs were in the best situation in reducing delays in payments between enterprises and having a short debt collection cycle.

The importance of financial conditions in increasing competitiveness was also emphasised when supporting entrepreneurs operating in creative industry markets (Kopeć). This is achieved through financial incentives, tax preferences and other public policy instruments. As emphasised, sectoral public policy can be used to shape both expected consumer attitudes towards culture and the competitive environment of a given creative sector.

The importance of European funds in developing entrepreneurship in Małopolskie Voivodeship was then emphasised (Solecki & Kobis). As indicated, these funds are an instrument that mobilises entrepreneurs to undertake various projects that are key to the region's economic development. As a result of their implementation, new jobs were created, often related to new technologies and innovations, additionally strengthening the competitive position of Małopolskie Voivodeship. The Małopolskie Entrepreneurship Center, as a coordinator, effectively directed financial resources towards the micro, small and medium-sized enterprise sectors and supported entrepreneurs in minimising the effects of the crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The role of European funds in stimulating local entrepreneurship is also indicated by research on the identification of effects and barriers to implementing the Rural Development Program 2014–2020 by local action groups in Małopolskie Voivodeship supporting entrepreneurship in rural areas (Brańka). In addition to the many positive effects of using these funds, numerous barriers to obtaining them have been identified, including changing and often unclear interpretations of regulations and the long waiting period for project evaluation, during which the costs included in the documentation have changed. In addition to barriers resulting from legal and administrative regulations, the persistent stagnation of local communities after the COVID-19 pandemic, the outflow of young people and the requirements related to maintaining jobs by entrepreneurs benefiting from funding were pointed out.

Social media marketing is critical in increasing the competitive position of enterprises and local government units, as shown in the Energylandia amusement park and the town of Wadowice as tourist destinations (Batko). Both the amusement park and the town are developing communications via social media. The town actively uses online accounts on four social networking sites to promote its assets and to inform and educate the public.

Education plays a special role in developing entrepreneurship by increasing the awareness of children and young people at various levels of education regarding its importance in socio-economic life. Entrepreneurship education not only prepares young people to run their businesses but, above all, to actively participate in socio-economic life. In connection with this, issues related to the education sector and ongoing changes in educational policy were discussed. A comprehensive review of the literature was conducted in research on the effectiveness and productivity of schools in Poland (Brzezicki). Directions for further essential research directions were also indicated, including the technical efficiency of institutions and the cost-effectiveness of educational activities, both important for decision-makers in local government.

Research has also addressed the impact of the participation of selected secondary school students studying technical professions on foreign internships on their subjective assessment of the level of practical skills achieved (Iwaciewicz-Orłowska). The presented research concludes that participation in foreign internships brings significant benefits, both directly related to improving professional competencies and others, such as learning about other cultures and the international organisational environment and developing the ability to communicate in a foreign language. Apart from organising various types of internships, workshops and laboratories for pupils and students, an important issue is the appropriate level of preparation to meet the needs of the labour market and start a business. A fundamental issue in this respect is entrepreneurship education and an appropriate curriculum, including developing skills related to a broad understanding of business processes, using

basic analytical methods and techniques, and creating business plans. A critical evaluation of the educational program in the new core curriculum for business and management was undertaken (Świątek). Risks related to limiting the scope of educational content at the basic level, previously considered necessary by experts and researchers in entrepreneurship education, were pointed out. These result from changing the program and relocating some critical content to the extended program. Conclusions regarding the assessment of the new subject point to negative aspects of the entrepreneurship education program.

The works presented here cover current and diverse issues which will be developed in subsequent research. Our journal will continue to play a role in this process, and we encourage academics to present further research on its pages. Their results are important due to their cognitive, methodological and application value, especially concerning local and regional systems.

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