

Introduction

The processes of European integration have a considerable influence on social, economic and cultural life of individual countries, regions and local systems. They aim at increasing their competitiveness by expanding particular sectors through the standardization of activities and development of characteristic features of regional structures. At the same time, they refer to the progress of civilization connected with the construction of economy that is based upon knowledge. An appropriately prepared individual who has got familiar with current rules of development and mastered the ability to define his or her position in a dynamically changing space plays the fundamental role. Therefore, the contemporary world place great importance on shaping resourceful attitudes concerning both human individuals, local authorities, activists of non-governmental organisations and institutions, as well as communities. A resourceful person who represents particular lines of work not only stimulates complex processes of development, but also supervises them. He or she is also capable of setting new strategic goals and accomplishes them effectively in changing local, regional, national or international conditions with the help of specific resources and correctly selected methods.

This particularly topical trend of researches comprises the issues of the sixth volume of "Entrepreneurship – Education", entitled "The entrepreneurship in the conditions of European integration". We have raised there the issues connected with: shaping resourcefulness and development of small and medium economic agents in the conditions of European integration, regional and local determinants for the development of entrepreneurship, the role of Community funds for the development of entrepreneurship, shaping resourcefulness in tourism, and also education concerning entrepreneurship. The authors of articles are the representatives of domestic academic centres and self-government institutions who engage themselves in researches and application activities concerning education and are occupied with stimulating development of entrepreneurship in local systems and regional non-governmental institutions, and professionally active teachers who conduct lessons in business basics.

In this volume we included the model presentation of entrepreneurship development in the conditions of European integration, paying attention to various scales of surroundings, internal determinants and the relations that occur between them (Z. Ziolo). We have also illustrated the role of intellectual properties as the factor, which stimulates the processes of development in the integrating Europe (M. Borowiec). European countries provide good examples of stimulating development of business activities, thus we have cited studies that concerned research-development potential as the element of the expansion of entrepreneurship in those countries (W. Gierańczyk). In the volume, we have also included those articles which refer to the opportunities for cooperative connections among small and medium enterprises that are created by, among others, international industrial corporations, and the important issue of recognizing the development processes of such corporations (W. Kilar, P. Lizak). The processes of European integration create new opportunities for modernizing technologies of business entities (D. Janczewska). It may be one of the most important factors for increasing competitiveness of domestic businesses (R. Repetowski) or may lead to bankruptcy (A. Tokarski). As we demonstrate, the fundamental role in the more and more intensified process of integration is played by the notion of business ethics, which would probably contribute to the limitation of pathological phenomena in business activities (T.T. Brzozowski).

Thanks to the progressing European integration, the number of separate business entities that represent the sector of small and medium enterprises increased. This is indicated by the analysis of economic effectiveness of enterprises (P. Filip), employing new techniques of financial analysis (K. Bauer) or the analysis of behaviour of the domestic companies (M. Włodarczyk, J. Janczewski, M. Bisikiewicz).

Shaping people's resourceful attitudes and development of business activities have fundamental importance in economic activation of local and regional systems. This is proved by the researches dedicated to the development of human potential (J. Strojny), conditions for creating a network of cooperation in a region (J. Cebulak) and changes in spatial attractiveness concerning location of individual business entities (E. Baran), including those within the premises of small towns (I. Kopacz). The special economic zones (P. Czaplinski, P. Klimczak) and borderlands (S. Dorocki) create different conditions for development of individual business activity. We assume that the development of enterprises cannot negatively influence given elements of natural environment and should refer to environmental determinants of local, regional and national systems (M. Huczek). As we show, the crucial role in shaping efficient conditions for the development of an enterprise is played also by local authorities, which should limit disadvantageous practices (corruption, among others) that are present in local systems (B. Pytko) and should influence on efficient distribution of service institutions (P. Brezdeń, W. Spallek).

The basic factors for development of an enterprise are capital and financial resources of the population, and they can be increased by Community funds. The funds, designated especially for small and medium enterprises, allow to start a business activity in local and regional systems (J. Pach, M. Solińska, M. Tokarski, D. Murzyn, A. Buś-Bidas, G. Voss) and activate processes of redevelopment of degraded areas (N. Grad, K. Świerczewska-Pietras).

We assumed that the important factor for stimulating local economy is to take advantage of its environmental and cultural attractiveness for the development of tourism. Such activities have great social importance as well. Resources obtained from the European Social Fund made it possible to begin education of personnel within the scope of tourism and recreation (W. Warholik). Equally important are the researches concerning increasingly popular farm tourism (J. Feczko) and new strategies of the development of institutions and enterprises from that sector (B. Wójtowicz). The developed tourism becomes a crucial economic sector of many countries, including distant regions, which are characterized by convenient transport connections with the world centres of growth (R. Rettinger, P. Staszak).

Perfecting educational processes of that scope remains to be the principal issue of the development of enterprises. The assumptions we cited and the preliminary results of European research project realized in the Institute of Geography at the Pedagogical University in Kraków (S. Kurek, T. Rachwał) indicate this. Perfecting contents, forms and methods of business education in the educational process is also important. It should take into consideration chances for development of a business activity in the conditions of European integration and the variability of markets (H. Wąsik, K. Dąbrowski, A. Pradela, Z.J. Ożdżyński, I. Szypuła, K. Sowisłok, A. Dwojak, W. Osuch).

Having in mind the importance of the task to shape resourceful attitudes among our society, we invite the interested persons and institutions to share their experiences on the subject in the subsequent volumes of our set.