

Introduction

In market economy conditions, important factors determining economic, social and cultural development include entrepreneurial attitudes, ability to cooperate and the ability to organise economic activity of business entities in the changing absorption of market and emergence of new needs. An important role is attributed also to polarisation processes differentiating the level of development of individual spatial systems and actions undertaken in order to equal them. These mechanisms are largely related to the level of economic base development of different scale of spatial systems and political circumstances, as well as the quality of implemented legal instruments. They significantly affect the opportunities for enterprise development in different scales of spatial systems – from local, through regional, to national. of great importance for the economic development are also adequate human resources and social capital which stimulate entrepreneurial behaviour of representatives of central and local governments.

Research papers presented in this volume, written by academics from national and foreign centres and dealing with the topic of conditions for development of entrepreneurship, represent this very current. The authors assumed that the intensifying processes of technological progress offer new opportunities for economic, social and cultural development, as well as form new relationships between business entities and their surrounding influencing a change in conditions for entrepreneurship development in different scales of spatial systems. When discussing local development, the authors paid attention to national and international conditions which, in the opinion of foreign investors and national entrepreneurs, influence this process. With particular care the authors treated the topic of reducing barriers to entrepreneurship associated largely with the implementation of legal instruments and financial situation of business entities and households. The present volume discusses the issue of development of entrepreneurship in different scales of spatial systems, starting with the metropolis that is Kraków, through the conditions of forming of entrepreneurship in small towns of the Łódź region as seen by business owners, to sketching the activities of local government for entrepreneurship in partnership with science and business institutions in Rybnik. Also provided are examples of the impact of entrepreneurship on the formation of urban public space and development of renewable energy. Additionally, motives for migration of Poles in the borderland areas are included. Authors emphasise the significant influence that European Union funds have on local development (as seen through the example of Miechów Communes Association), the formation of leisure and sport facility base in Gliwice, and the development of tourism in border areas, particularly the north-eastern and eastern Poland.

Another group of articles concerns the impact of entrepreneurship on the development of business entities. This section deals with the issue of shaping academic entrepreneurship and presents the concept of business model in a microenterprise which uses the rules of knowledge-based economy. Special attention was also paid to the evolution of costs, the quality of functioning of enterprises, the effectiveness and efficiency

of marketing communication tools, and trends of transformations in commercial and service activity in local systems. The possibilities for development of agritourism businesses and the topic of consumers' attitudes were presented.

One of the crucial factors in entrepreneurship development is the properly trained personnel and shaping a favourable opinion of the society facilitating the development of economic activity. The volume discusses various forms of education and the use of tutoring as one of them. Attention was also paid to the development of entrepreneurial competencies and the change in education aims and content at secondary level, as well as higher education level as part of new subjects and specialisations. Important topics related to this issue are also the virtualisation of universities and motivation of staff responsible for organising the educational process. Changes in the labour market, to which secondary and university level education profiles should adapt, have vital importance in terms of development of entrepreneurship. The authors point out the need to adjust them to the expectations of entrepreneurs who create the demand for specific skills of potential employees. In this context, local and regional labour markets play an important role for the youth. On the basis of institutional theory, the diversification of learning outcomes on secondary level was presented.

The volume is concluded with notes from school practice. Students commented on the functioning of their school with special emphasis on the encouragement of constructive thinking. This section also includes a description of measures undertaken by the Department of Entrepreneurship and Spatial Management of the Institute of Geography of the Pedagogical University of Cracow in favour of entrepreneurship education.

The papers presented in the volume analyse the conditions for development of entrepreneurship in selected aspects. It can be assumed that said topic will continue to grow in relevance and the conditions will be more and more thoroughly studied in order to create rational strategies of socio-economic and cultural development of spatial systems, local and regional ones in particular. We hope that the articles included will encourage a search for new outlooks on the crucial topic of conditions for development of entrepreneurship which influences the general socio-economic development and increases national competitiveness.

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