

Introduction

Processes of social and economic and cultural development are the effects of not only the rational activities undertaken by the business entities and organizations that work in the special legal and financial context but also the effects of forming entrepreneurial attitudes. The attitudes are related to society's intellectual resources that include abilities to understand the modern trends in the development of civilization, especially the mechanism of forming the knowledge-based economy. Understanding these trends is the essential condition to make the strategy for continents, countries as well as local and regional systems. The main role in this process plays human being with appropriate personal characteristics, education and professional skills corresponding to the new requirements and ability to the efficient work organization. Also the legal and institutional context plays important role in the improving effectiveness of labor because it stimulates the forming the entrepreneurial attitudes and the business development, or contraire it sets the barriers.

Particularly important characteristic, that accelerates the process of social and economic development on both national and local scale, is entrepreneurial attitude based on the knowledge and professional experience. The procedure of forming the attitude should be realized not only by different levels of educational process but also by mass media. These activities are especially important at the dawn of new stage of informational society's development where the knowledge-based economy has fundamental significance.

The very important question appears: What kind of knowledge we should deliver to young people and how to improve the performance of educational system in order to prepare them to develop the economy that uses the modern science and technological achievements as well as the new forms of management when the conditions in the world, Europe, country and local or regional systems change?

New volume of series "Entrepreneurships – Education" touches these matters. Its content is related to the previous parts on: the development of entrepreneurship against the backdrop of the challenges of civilization; the role of entrepreneurship in improving the competitiveness of society and economy; and the role of entrepreneurship in the economy activation.

The articles in this volume concerns: the support for development of knowledge-based economy; the role of structural funds and development of innovativeness in companies; the role of entrepreneurship in the development of special systems; the importance of business ethics; and the entrepreneurships in education.

Our presumption is the entrepreneurship should be treated as the essential element in shaping the knowledge-based economy. In the first part the role of the entities supported the development of this economy was emphasized. These problems are touched by introductory text that focuses on the relations between social and economic features important for the development of knowledge-based economy (Z. Ziolo). One of the things that helps the development of knowledge-based economy is the potential of higher schools presented in the case of Małopolskie District (A. Harańczyk), the other is the transformation of human factor in the higher schools (M. Borowiec). The potential of human resources in research and development is focused as well as the matter of the applications of new technological and organizational solutions (W. Kilar). The importance of technology transfer centers (U. Grzyb) and technological parks (A. Surdet and K. Wach) are emphasized too.

The financial support for the development of innovations in specific companies is the important aspect of the knowledge-based economy. The special role belongs to small and medium enterprises that are more and more important parts of national economy (J. Pach). Innovativeness of this kind of companies is supported by the aid programmes realized in European Union in reference to Lisbon Strategy, including our country (P. Mielcarek), thanks to financial resources from structural funds (R. Lisowski). Good illustration of these programmes is the support for local business delivered by the economy development agencies (J. Sosin). It is worth to emphasize the product innovation as important element that let the entrepreneurs to conquer the foreign markets (M. Wilczyńska). Analyses of the innovation in confectionery trade (D. Janczewska) and craftsman's shops (M. Włodarczyk, J. Janczewski) are the illustrations of the performance of works for the improvement of innovativeness among Polish companies.

The development of the entrepreneurship and knowledge-based economy impacts on the growth of systems on different scales, as presented by cases of: Poznań Metropolitan Area (A. Świdurska); Gdańsk and Gdynia (B. Pytko); and chosen regions of France (S. Dorocki), Ukraina (I. Żurba) and Austria (W. Osuch).

The education and the promotion of moral attitudes in business plays the important role in the diminishing the negative effects of the development in business, when entrepreneurs and managers strive to the growth with no matter of costs or ethic questions. General premises are expressed in the slogan *Economy – Community – Solidarity* (A. Surdej). Its realization should limit the social stratification in new stage of economy (T. T. Brzozowski). Ethics in management plays the crucial role in the transformation of modern world by putting down the occurrence of the exclusion from the society (A. Oleksiejczuk, E. Oleksiejczuk). The special part in this matter has the conscience of businessmen including the managers (K. Maślanka) who follow the principles of social responsibility (K. Bem) and apply ethical management (A. Stanek). For the development of business the limitation of the pathological phenomena is very important, i.e.: the dishonest behaviors of company (B. Rogoda); the creative accountancy (M. Tokarski); and the poor ethics in the auditing organizations (G. Voss). The education about business ethics (K. Nowak) and ethic in social interactions (Z. J. Ożdżyński) may limit these problems.

The volume is concluded by the discussion in consideration of education about entrepreneurships that should be improved in regard to the contents and forms of the teaching. It is expressed in the base of curriculum for “basis for entrepreneurships” classes in general high schools, profiled high schools and technical high schools (T. Rachwał, J. Kudelko, M. Tracz, K. Wach and W. Kilar). There is also the need for new methods and didactic instruments for the entrepreneurships teachers (M. Tracz, T. Rachwał). The important matter is the delivering the contents and the shaping the abilities of teaching the entrepreneurships (K. Sowisłok), the estimation of young people's attitudes for the labor market (J. Mrozek, I. Szczepaniak-Wiecha) and developing the business (M. Kosała, M. Rzepecka).

We will be grateful the readers for comments, suggestions and propositions that help us to excel the contents and methods of the series “Entrepreneurships – Education”.

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