

## PREFACE

The administrative reform in 1998 brought about many changes in the programming process of regional development in Poland. The transformation of the regional development policy affected the subjective as well as objective system. This continuous process involves the interweaving of ideas based on regional development theories with the insights of practitioners. Due to the fact that the funding of the regional development policy in Poland is strongly dependent on the European Union budget, the discussion of the target shape of regional development policy in Poland is linked to the debate on the directions of development of the whole Union.

The general aim of this publication is to present the current problems in this area. The papers constituting this issue of the *Studia Regionalia* journal, concern both the theoretical and practical dimensions. The volume is addressed mainly to foreign readers interested in the current state of the debate on regional development policy in Poland.

The first two articles of the present issue (*Programming of the socio-economic development in Polish regions: Current state of affairs and needs; Regional development plans and programs in Poland. Current situation and challenges*) present a critical analysis of the regional development policy and the current methods of programming, from the perspective of the whole country. Both papers provide guidance and suggested directions of development planning evolution in Poland. The third study (*Programming the development at the territorial level in Poland. Author's opinions with a focus on weaknesses*) focuses on similar issues and includes an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the programming process of development in local self-governments (of *voivodeships*, *poviats* and *gminas*). The necessity to introduce an integrated policy development at each level (EU, countries, regions, locally) is the key thesis of the next article (*Territorial dimension of integrated development policy – expectations and challenges concerning to planning and institutional systems*). Particular emphasis was put on the territorial dimension of programming and the elimination of discrepancy between the institutional system and the practice of planning.

Two subsequent articles change the focus of attention to the level of the European Union. The first (*Political economy of European Cohesion Policy in Poland*) presents the author's assessment of the current cohesion policy and the prospects facing this policy after 2013, together with their possible consequences for Poland. The calls for changes in cohesion policy can be found also in the second article (*Jobless-growth or employment-oriented development – dilemma of the new EU financial perspec-*

tive), which includes an analysis of the impact of the EU funds on the Polish labour market, with particular emphasis on the cost of job creation. The authors compare the effectiveness of regional policy in terms of job creation and GDP growth.

The next two papers: *Structural change in industrial clusters – scenarios and policy implications* and *Knowledge economy policy in Polish regions* contain further suggestions for improvement of the system and directions of development programming. In the first article the authors consider two scenarios for the development of one of the most important areas of development policy impact, namely industrial clusters: (1) hierarchization of relationships and specialization among clusters with similar industrial profiles, and (2) concentration of higher value adding activities in clusters and dispersal of lower value adding activities from clusters to locations with cost advantages. The author of the second article focuses on knowledge as a factor determining regional development and a development policy objective. The paper has two goals. The first is to examine the level of the knowledge economy development in the Polish regions (NUTS 2 units, voivodeships). The second purpose is to analyse the regional authorities' policies aimed at supporting the pillars underlying the knowledge economy.

Two subsequent studies (*Foresight studies in facilitating the development and management of a region. Practical experience in Silesia*, and *Analysis of employment change in the manufacturing sector of voivodeships' economies. Application of the extended shift-share technique*) focus on the tools of regional analysis. The first one presents the selected aspects of the comprehensive foresight studies carried out in the Silesian region between 2006 and 2012. The studies included an analysis of regional, technological, metropolitan and spatial considerations and investigation of the relations between them. They were carried out in three stages and constitute a uniform whole as far as their intellectual and strategic aspects are concerned. The latter study presents an analysis of the utility of the components of change analysis (shift-share), which is rarely used to diagnose the regions in Poland.

The last papers in this publication (*Programming development of the Baltic Sea Region*, *Development policies of Polish voivodeships in the light of new EU financial perspective*, *Development of metropolitan areas in Poland based on the example of Cracow Metropolitan Area*, *The Area Development Plan as a Tool of Managing the Gmina Development*) cover selected aspects of regional development planning. The first one presents the planning in the context of the pan-European macro-region. The author refers to the evolutionary theories of growth, which emphasise the importance of institutions, learning process, as well as self-reinforcing and spatially differentiated regional processes as key engines of growth and increase in regional prosperity. The main aim of this paper is to verify the conclusions of those theories with regard to the Baltic Sea Region. The following paper presents a discussion of the possible implications of the new financial perspective for development planning at the regional level (based mainly on the Małopolskie voivodeship). The third paper is a study, in which the author has attempted to determine the place of metropolitan areas in regional development policy.

The discussion concerns the trends in the development of metropolitan areas from the perspective of market mechanisms, complemented and adjusted by the policy of territorial development. The last publication refers to the issue of the area development plan as a key instrument for managing the gmina development. It presents the essence of the spatial planning process, combining legal regulations and procedures of the development plan with the description of competencies of individual government bodies.

*Tadeusz Kudłacz  
Dariusz Woźniak*