

INTRODUCTION

The journal contains three papers of general character – dedicated to regional policies in UE and Poland, and two having more applicable form. The later are approached from the perspective of the region and commune.

The journal starts with the article of **Przemysław Kulawczuk** – under the title *Behavioral Interventions in Regional Policy. Motivating Entrepreneurs to Use Support Instruments for Innovation*. According to P. Kulawczuk, in spite of the fact that Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) play a significant role in the national policies of emerging economies, they still suffers from the underdeveloped financial sector services. Commercial financial sector is inefficient in delivering funds to SME, the important role in this area is played by regional policy supported from European regional funds. The distribution of development funds is realized with serious problems, because SME are reluctant to financial sector services and besides typical grants, debt-type instruments meet serious problems. Polish SME are also reluctant to use support instruments aimed at developing innovations, R&D, and intellectual property (IP) protection. The article presents the results of the study undertaken by the University of Gdansk (UG) on using behavioural interventions to increase the propensity of Polish SME to apply more ambitious development measures through support instruments.

Two following articles of **Yavor Kolarov** are dedicated to effectivity and efficiency of Energy polices in UE. In article *Inadequacy of Energy Efficiency Measurements Based on GDP*, the author examines the most widely used indicators and identifies their deficiencies. Indicators are based on the ratio between energy consumption and gross domestic product (GDP) and are currently used by multiple key organizations, including Eurostat and the World Bank, as the main energy efficiency indicators. An analysis of energy efficiencies reported for multiple countries and the structure of their energy spending show that the reported values are counterproductive for comparing economies in the context of environmental protection. An additional problem in the indicators is that they do not properly model international trade. The responsibility for energy spending is shifted toward the producers of energy-intensive goods and services. In conclusions author stated that existing indicators measuring energy efficiency as GDP

per unit of energy use are inadequate and misleading as principal tools of measuring energy efficiency and implementing the idea of sustainable development.

In the second article *Negative Social Effects of Energy Taxes in the EU* **Yavor Kolarov** makes assessment of taxes measures as key to improve energy efficiency towards sustainable development. The EU member states have implemented excise duties on fuel and electricity according to the EU Energy Tax Directive. The author examines the purchasing power for energy products relative to the *per capita* GDP for a wide set of countries within the EU and in the rest of the world. The analyses show that taxes on energy have success in inciting energy savings. Simultaneously, the price levels of energy in the EU member states have increased to levels significantly higher compared to other countries in the region and the world. Finally he concludes that the calibration of energy taxation in the EU at high price levels suitable for Western European economies with high *per capita* GDP is leading to strong negative social effects and increasing poverty in Eastern European member states. The current implementation of these policies does not recognize to a sufficient extent income levels, regional social inequalities, and the low price elasticity of demand for energy.

In first articles related with policy implementation under the title – *The Role of Regional Authorities' Policy in Supporting Innovation Potential of Pomorskie Voivodeship* **Anna Golejewska** undertakes the innovation dimension. Under the influence of UE regional policies regional authorities in Poland are increasingly involved in designing their own strategies to support and enhance innovative local dynamics and improve the performance of their regional innovation systems. The author assess the role of regional authorities' policy in building innovation capacity of Pomorskie Voivodeship. The results show that local government authorities of Pomorskie Voivodeship are active in supporting innovativeness of the region. According to the author cluster policy and bottom-up process of defining smart specialisations may be assessed positively. Less positively she assessed institutional aspects. She sees a lack of separate governance structures of the regional innovation system, such as planning, organization, motivation and monitoring.

Final article of **Aleksandra Chabiera** – *Development of a Small Community through Specialized Tourism* presents the study case of Narol municipality's activities in the context of transferring neglected heritage into an agent of development – resulting in social and economic growth. According to the author, some communities face environmental protection factors which deeply influencing the choice of development and may crucially limit industrial activity. Narol community, located in Southeastern Poland, near the Ukrainian border (Subcarpathian Voivodeship), has landscape protection of several levels covering 100% of the territory, so the possible development could not consist on industrial investments. Narol assets (nature reserves, landscape and monuments), would predestine commune for a touristic destination. The paper presents the implementation strategy how Narol could adopt, and has started several activities aiming at transforming their territory into a cultural center of the region.

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