

MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

5

**RESEARCH PAPERS
OF WROCŁAW UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS
No. 148**

**PRACE NAUKOWE
UNIWERSYTETU EKONOMICZNEGO
WE WROCŁAWIU
nr 148**

MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

5

**Transformations and Dynamics in Management
Concepts and Cases Corporate Renewal**

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Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics
Wrocław 2010

Scientific Council

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Wrocław 2010

ISSN 1899-3192

ISSN 2080-6000

Printing: Printing House TOTEM

Print run: 150 copies

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Introduction | 9 |
|---------------------------|----------|

Part 1. Contemporary theoretical aspects of corporate renewal

| | |
|--|----|
| Adela Barabasz, Grzegorz Belz: Management triumvirate in processes of corporate renewal..... | 13 |
| Bartłomiej J. Gabryś, Mariusz Bratnicki: Temporal nature and characteristics of corporate entrepreneurship. Growth and renewal implications | 28 |
| Szymon Cyfert: The application of strategic renewal mechanisms in the process of organisational boundary management | 39 |
| Kazimierz Krzakiewicz, Szymon Cyfert: Reframing in organisational renewal processes | 48 |
| Piotr Ney: The utility of tacit knowledge in corporate renewal..... | 55 |
| Jan Skalik: Changes in management systems of jeopardized organizations... | 69 |
| Przemysław Zbierowski: Organizational renewal through positive management and entrepreneurship..... | 76 |

Part 2. Cases of corporate renewal

| | |
|---|-----|
| Grzegorz Belz, Arkadiusz Wierzbic: Key areas of corporate renewal of Polish enterprises during crisis of growth | 93 |
| Agnieszka Kolodziejczyk, Zbigniew Antczak: Manager skills in virtual-network conditions – an attempt at identification in the light of survey research | 108 |
| Rafał Mrówka: Application of the open source business model as a tool for corporate renewal..... | 119 |
| Zdzisław Olejczyk: Model of innovation process in communal capital companies. Case Study of MPWiK Wrocław | 129 |
| Tomasz Szpikowski: Process of renewal in a company in crisis. A case study..... | 144 |
| Witold Szumowski: Role of HR in corporate renewal | 153 |

Part 3. Ideas for research in transformations and dynamics in management

| | |
|---|-----|
| Maria Aluchna, Beata Mierzejewska: Intellectual capital in Polish corporate groups. Current trends and future challenges | 167 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Adela Barabasz: Psychoanalytic perspective on coaching – organization on a couch | 182 |
| Agnieszka Bieńkowska, Zygmunt Kral, Anna Zabłocka-Kluczka: Organisation management taking controlling into consideration as the way of organization renewal | 193 |
| Grzegorz Krzos: Hybrid organizations. The causes of organizational hybridization..... | 205 |
| Janusz Marek Lichtarski, Ewa Stańczyk-Hugiet, Marek Wąsowicz: In search of project management efficiency. Renewal of public sector institutions | 215 |
| Sylwia Stańczyk: Scandinavian management as the recipe for health | 226 |
| Joanna Żukowska: Coaching as a tool of managerial support | 237 |

Streszczenia

| | |
|--|-----|
| Adela Barabasz, Grzegorz Belz: Triumwirat zarządczy w procesach odnowy przedsiębiorstw | 27 |
| Bartłomiej J. Gabryś, Mariusz Bratnicki: Temporalna natura i charakterystyka przedsiębiorczości organizacyjnej. Implikacje dla rozwoju i strategicznej odnowy | 38 |
| Szymon Cyfert: Wykorzystanie mechanizmów odnowy strategicznej w procesie zarządzania granicami organizacji..... | 47 |
| Kazimierz Krzakiewicz, Szymon Cyfert: Reframing w procesie odnowy organizacji..... | 54 |
| Piotr Ney: Użyteczność wiedzy ukrytej w procesie transformacji przedsiębiorstwa..... | 68 |
| Jan Skalik: Zmiany w systemie zarządzania zagrożonymi organizacjami | 75 |
| Przemysław Zbierowski: Odnowa organizacyjna poprzez pozytywne zarządzanie i przedsiębiorczość | 89 |
| Grzegorz Belz, Arkadiusz Wierzbic: Kluczowe obszary strategicznej odnowy polskich przedsiębiorstw podczas kryzysu wzrostu | 107 |
| Agnieszka Kołodziejczyk, Zbigniew Antczak: Umiejętności menedżera w warunkach wirtualno-sieciowych – próba identyfikacji w świetle badań ankietowych..... | 118 |
| Rafał Mrówka: Wykorzystanie modelu biznesowego <i>open source</i> jako sposób odnowy organizacji | 128 |
| Zdzisław Olejczyk: Model procesu innowacji w spółkach komunalnych. Studium przypadku MPWiK Wrocław | 143 |
| Tomasz Szpikowski: Proces odnowy w przedsiębiorstwie przechodzącym kryzys. Studium przypadku | 152 |
| Witold Szumowski: Rola działu HR w procesie odnowy przedsiębiorstwa ... | 163 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Maria Aluchna, Beata Mierzejewska: Kapitał intelektualny w polskich grupach kapitałowych. Współczesne trendy i przyszłe wyzwania | 181 |
| Adela Barabasz: Coaching w ujęciu psychoanalitycznym, czyli lider na kozetce | 192 |
| Agnieszka Bieńkowska, Zygmunt Kral, Anna Zablocka-Kluczka: Zarządzanie z uwzględnieniem wymagań controllingu jako sposób na odnowę organizacji..... | 204 |
| Grzegorz Krzos: Organizacje hybrydowe – identyfikacja przyczyn hybrydyzacji organizacji | 214 |
| Janusz Marek Lichtarski, Ewa Stańczyk-Hugiet, Marek Wąsowicz: W poszukiwaniu efektywności zarządzania projektami. Odnowa organizacyjna w sektorze instytucji publicznych..... | 225 |
| Sylwia Stańczyk: Zarządzanie skandynawskie jako recepta na rozwój | 236 |
| Joanna Żukowska: Coaching jako narzędzie wspierania kadry menedżerskiej | 246 |

Introduction

The idea of this thematic issue of Research Papers *Transformation and Dynamics in Management* has been inspired by the scale of transformations which were experienced by Polish firms in last three years. Those processes have been reflecting strategic challenges caused by the global financial crisis. One could find it interesting that in Polish management literature of last twenty years there were not many works focusing on the concept of corporate renewal. A possible explanation may be that managerial issues concerning the Polish economy of last twenty years have been responding to such themes like creating strategy of growth, maximizing organization efficiency, developing efficient marketing strategies and developing modern human resources policies. As the Polish economy of last twenty years could be described by creating the market and expanding domestic as well as foreign enterprises operating here, dealing with crisis and redefinition of their own business were not that interested topics for practitioners as well as researchers.

And then, year 2008 brought brand new challenges for doing business in Poland. Dynamic growth of majority of enterprises was stopped for the first time in their history. Questions of how to survive the crisis and adjust to new market situations become of critical importance. Very often the main issues in dealing with the crisis situation have been focusing on optimizing organizational model of a long time growing company. Moreover, the redefinition of existing products and markets and also the economic model of operations made necessary strategic adjustments much more complex.

The aforementioned challenges brought our attention to the concept of corporate strategic renewal, which has been emerging in Western management literature for last twenty years. We believe that utilizing the renewal concept for the interpretation of crisis transformations might help to understand how Polish enterprises with dynamic growth only experience faced unexpected global crisis. It may also help to identify common themes of such renewal processes supplying good ideas for management.

Our call for papers for this issue resulted in many articles sent by authors from the majority of Polish universities of economics, from which we have selected twenty. They are presented in this issue in three groups. The first group focuses on theoretical concepts connected with understanding the phenomenon of renewal and its utilizing in different strategic and managerial contexts. The second group describes basically a few selected cases of corporate renewal of enterprises which where induced by quite different strategic circumstances. The third group is treated by us as a selection of contemporary research topics, which may provide inspiration for the next thematic issue.

Jan Skalik