

ISSN 2081-4461  
e-ISSN 2449-9781

Nr 19  
2019

BIBLIOTEKA  
REGIONALISTY  
REGIONAL JOURNAL

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Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics and Business  
Wrocław 2019

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Cover photograph of Białe Lake taken by Rafał Dobrowolski

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ISSN 2081-4461

e-ISSN 2449-9781

The original version: printed

Printing: TOTEM

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## **Introduction**

The processes observed in the modern world are characterized by various kinds of changes, often of a rapid and concurrently multidirectional (turbulent) character, which results in a considerable increase in the level of uncertainty in all areas of socioeconomic life. This applies to the fact that spatial development is characterized by constantly increasing complexity, which is a result of an increase of the degree of openness in social and economic life, deepening specialization, widening multisubjectivity as well as differentiation in functional-spatial arrangements. The openness of socio-economic life leads to an increased population mobility, transfer of goods and accelerating dynamics of information civilization, which results in new standards of behaviour challenging the current value systems. Increasing scientific and professional specialization develops society's creative abilities, enabling the utilization of more advanced technology. Specialization directly brings improved quality and competitiveness, forcing far-reaching reforms in the spheres of education, production organization and public services. Since not all spatial units adapt to these dynamic changes in a similar manner, this causes an escalation of disproportions in their development level. This differentiation is deepened as a result of polarization caused by various degrees of susceptibility of space elements to the absorption of modern achievements of human activity. Consequently, the phenomenon of differentiation in the level of social and economic development is observed in the modern space. The concurrent empowerment of society regarding particular spatial elements (regions, subregions, local units) means that they are more interested in creating development processes.

In this issue of the "Regional Journal" one can find a collection of interesting scientific articles devoted to current issues and problems in local and regional development, cities and regions, spatial development in contemporary realities, regional policy, public administration as well as creativity and innovation.

Wishing our readers a pleasant read, we hope that the findings presented in this publication will be an inspiration for further discussion and research devoted to regional development.

*Stanislaw Korenik, Piotr Hajduga*

