

## FROM THE EDITOR

**Dear Readers,**

The volume is composed of seven papers which have been developed by a range of Polish regional scientists, representing several universities and research institutes from Poland. The publication comes as a result of the 51<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Regional Science Association held in Barcelona, Spain in 2011 where the authors presented and discussed papers which later served as a basis for individual chapters contained in this volume.

The overriding theme of the publication is territorial cohesion from the perspective of Polish researchers. The texts published herein provide both, theoretical as well as empirical, insights into how territorial cohesion is perceived and what are the expected effects of territorial cohesion policy. Specifically, the volume contains several empirical studies and analyses which – on the one hand – concentrate on depicting effects of cohesion policy on Poland and its territorial units and – on the other hand – the readiness of these territories to develop in a territorially coherent way.

The first article is entitled “Territorial context in the research on the EU cohesion. One-speed or multi-speed Europe?”. It has been developed by Mariusz E. Sokołowicz (University of Lodz). This paper contains a broad review of current discussions among regional economists regarding the extent to which the theoretical achievements of institutional economics as well as the demand for diversity of research methods in regional science (*i.e.* triangulation of quantitative and qualitative methods), can be reconciled with methodological regimes and the need to ensure the comparability of results.

The second article entitled “Impact of cohesion policy on Poland” has been developed by Marek Kozak (University of Warsaw). This paper outlines key difficulties in designing a national cohesion policy which would complement well the European-wide cohesion policy. The author further claims that most studies and reports on cohesion policy impact on Poland’s development lead to overly positive conclusions and proves this point by discussing the progress of implementation of cohesion policy programmes.

The third article is entitled “Leaders and outliers in the race of regions – EU Cohesion Policy in Poland in the light of macroeconomic modeling”. It has been developed jointly by Joanna Kudelko, Zbigniew Mogiła and Janusz Zaleski (Wroclaw Regional Development Agency). In this text the authors put the effects of cohesion policy on Polish regions to the test – concentrating on three Polish regions.

The described research draws on the regional HERMIN macroeconomic models of Mazowieckie (HPL5MZ), Dolnośląskie (HPL5DL) and Świętokrzyskie (HPL5SW) which are regionalised versions of the Polish national HERMIN macroeconomic model (HPL5).

The fourth article entitled “Polish local governments’ capacity for territorially coherent development” has been developed by Maciej Turała (University of Lodz). This text provides insights helpful in determining what was the impact of the financial crisis on local capacity for territorially coherent development. The chapter contains an analysis of the level and dynamics of debt in Polish local governments and the spatial distribution of wealth across them.

The fifth article is entitled “Polycentric Development and Growth Areas”. It has been developed jointly by Pawel Churski and Jan Hauke (Adam Mickiewicz University). This paper contains an in-depth analysis of the dynamics of polarisation of socio-economic development in Poland. The authors discuss the magnitude and direction of changes as shown by disparities in socio-economic development in Poland over the years 2000-2009.

The penultimate, sixth article is entitled “Territorial cohesion of Polish border areas – spatial planning aspect”. This piece of work has been developed by Dagmara Kociuba (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University) and it contains a summary of Polish experiences related to current cross-border co-operation in the scope of spatial planning.

Finally, the seventh, last article is entitled “The impact of the migration processes on the low cost airlines’ routes between EU countries and Poland after its accession to the EU” has been developed jointly by Ewa Pancer-Cybulska, Ewa Szostak and Łukasz Olipra (Wroclaw University of Economics). This text concentrates on a specific issue related to transport accessibility and migration issues. The authors assess the impact which the emigration ensuing after Polish accession to the EU had on the routes of low cost airlines in Poland. What is more, the authors examine how growing emigration and growing number of low-cost carrier flights helped to improve territorial cohesion of Polish regions with the core of Europe.

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