

PRACE NAUKOWE

Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu

RESEARCH PAPERS

of Wrocław University of Economics

Nr 476

Local and Regional Economy in Theory and Practice



Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics
Wrocław 2017

Copy-editing: Rafał Galos
Layout: Barbara Łopusiewicz
Proof-reading: Barbara Cibis
Typesetting: Beata Mazur
Cover design: Beata Dębska

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Wrocław 2017

ISSN 1899-3192
e-ISSN 2392-0041

ISBN 978-83-7695-661-9

The original version: printed

Publications may be ordered in Publishing House
Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu
ul. Komandorska 118-120, 53-345 Wrocław
tel./fax 71 36-80-602; e-mail:econbook@ue.wroc.pl
www.ksiegarnia.ue.wroc.pl, ksiegarnienaukowe.pl

Printing: TOTEM

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Introduction

The hereby publication presents the result of the 24th scientific conference entitled “Local and Regional Economy in Theory and Practice” organized by the Department of Regional Economy at the Faculty of Economics, Management and Tourism of Wrocław University of Economics. The aforementioned conference was held on 29-30 September 2016 in “Cieplice” Hotel in Jelenia Góra. The patronage over this science disseminating event was extended by: Jelenia Góra City, WODNIK Ltd. Water Supply and Sewerage Company from Jelenia Góra and Marciszów municipality.

The subject matter of the conference covered such areas as e.g.: local and regional development, local and regional management, the application of quantitative methods in regional studies, partnership in local and regional development, research directions in local and regional development and cooperation of academic centres with local government units.

The representatives of national and international scientific centres, regional and local government structures and other entities from economic practice, interested in local and regional economy problems and also PhD students participated in the conference proceedings. Over 60 people took part in the conference, during which papers were delivered and posters were presented by the representatives from over 30 domestic and foreign scientific centres and institutions.

The conference, which has been cyclically organized since 1992, has once again contributed to the extension and consolidation of the relationships developed within the framework of the created platform, aimed at exchanging both scientific and practical experiences at the local, regional, national and international forum. Its proceedings were focused on disseminating research results, exchanging experiences and developing the discussion forum on theoretical and practical aspects of local and regional development. They also resulted in deeper and more extensive cooperation of academic centres, local government units as well as research and development units in the cross-border perspective.

The conference is regularly attended by the representatives of academic circles from Poland and abroad. So far we have had a pleasure to host the research workers from such academic centres as e.g. the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia, as well as the representatives of economic practice, e.g. city presidents, mayors, municipal governors, county governors, presidents of regional development agencies, local entrepreneurs etc.

This publication is a collection of thematically selected, English-language articles discussing the broadly approached issues of local and regional economy. Its

authors represent the following scientific centres: University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Warsaw School of Economics, Poznań University of Economics and Business, University of Łódź, University of Zielona Góra, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Gdańsk University of Technology and Wrocław University of Economics.

By extending our appreciation to the conference participants for the joint meeting we would like to express our hope for the further mutual cooperation.

Małgorzata Markowska, Beata Bal-Domańska, Andrzej Raszkowski