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MODELS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of the article is to present models of regional development in the theoretical aspect. The author relates to various manners of perceiving its development and the resulting consequences in the form of characteristic factors, obstacles and control instruments.

1. INTRODUCTION

During recent years, many countries have noted a renaissance of regional issues. A turn towards regional thinking is connected with the crisis of the 70's, which affected the economies of highly developed countries and was visible through: a slowing of the economic growth rate, increased unemployment, acceleration of inflation processes and an increase of debt and interest rates. Also in Poland, it can be observed that regional development of the country has become an object of serious consideration. The reasons for this are to be found in the strive to join the European Union (one of the conditions of membership is co-operation with organs responsible for regional development and adapting to required standards in Europe), challenges of civilisation, changes of the functioning principles of the Polish economy, and in the increasing awareness of local communities, which are trying for themselves, to solve problems of their own functioning. L. Bagdziński included the following factors among the main causes of the increasing importance of regionalism and the growing awareness of territorial autonomy among local communities:

- drawbacks of the scientific and technological revolution,
- conflicts in spatial management, visible mainly in deterioration of the natural environment,
- the search for new methods of social development,
- utilisation of the positive features of locality in the process economic development [based on 1, p. 9].

2. MODELS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The review of models of regional development presented below has been selected from an immensely diverse literature on the subject. The author has presented those concepts that appear most frequently in literature and can therefore be called "classical" models of regional development. This group includes theories of:

- polarised development,
- integrated development,
- sustainable development,

- eco-development,
- the neo-classical theory,
- the post-Keynes theory,
- endogenous development.

A description of each model follows:

Polarised development is treated as a concept binding three separate partial theories, bringing together three models reflecting various aspects of regional development. This theory contains the location theory, the development pole theory and the innovation diffusion theory. Polarised development is a non-uniform development, whereby differences regard not only income spans and unemployment rates, but also disproportion in the condition of the natural environment, infrastructure possessed, access to capital, services, possibilities of gaining education and training. Development processes do not appear everywhere and at the same time. “There are privileged places providing comparative benefits defined by economic activities. These are places that effectively compete with others for capital from investors. The sources of privileged positions of certain locations and towns are various. Often, they are beyond the domain of economy and location factors” [2, p. 24-25]. Factors stimulating economies in the surrounding areas are most often (though not always) urban agglomerations or towns that have their own “propulsion units”. Polarised development offering an opportunity to utilise broadly understood resources and development predisposition may, at the same time, lead to neglect of less obvious opportunities for development, which would need a stimulus – intervention from outside. This happens because any help for poor regions is regarded harmful to economic efficiency and slows down the overall dynamics of development [cf. 3, p. 14-15].

The paradigm of integrated development, sometimes called integral development, can be connected with Marshall’s concept of an industrial district, which was recalled and developed by the eminent expert in this area, G. Becattini [see 4, given for 5, p. 43 and further]. He defined a district as “a social and territorial unit characterised by an active presence in a given geographical and historical space – a community of individuals and a population of companies between which (i.e. between the local community and the companies) there exists a perfect osmosis. For districts, there exists a relatively homogeneous system of values and manner of thinking, which – based on the principle of mutuality – expresses certain work ethics, activity and family. A common system of values is one of the initial condition for development and reproduction of a district in accordance to which (system of values) principles and institutions develop to propagate them and to pass them down from generation to generation. These institutions include the market and company, as well as the family, churches, schools, local government, political, cultural, charity, religious and artistic organisations, etc. This does not mean that there are no conflicts of interests between various members of a district. However, the rule is their submission to a higher, common cause” [5, p. 45].

The sustainable development hypothesis, also called uniform development, undertakes an attempt to formulate the paradigm of a state’s spatial policy, taking into consideration both effectiveness criteria and public aspirations for equality and justice. The core of the sustainable development hypothesis consists in the concept of constant improvement of the quality of the life of local communities supported by balanced social, economic and ecological factors. The whole idea is based on the assumption of the necessity to make

decisions that are economically effective, socially acceptable and environment friendly. “Development (...) should take place in such a manner as not to disrupt any of these areas. A decision cannot create a threat in this scope” [6, p. 66]. The paradigm of uniform development pays special attention to economic development, which, stimulating an increase of public wealth and raising its living standard has positive impact on the other domains and on social development and is concentrated on satisfying collective needs as fully as possible. However, not all scholars agree that a paradigm of uniform development exists at all [cf. 7, p. 13]. They claim that the term contains an inherent contradiction, since the essence of development is a lack of balance, an irregularity in a given area and evening out proportions can take place only through transfer of its results to other areas. Hence the suggested name “development balancing paradigm” for this mode of proceeding.

The fourth model listed – eco-development, is connected with observance of the values of the natural environment and careful shaping of spatial order. It is an attempt not only to find optimal relations between man and nature, but also to improve the quality of the environment, since, as a result of subjugating and changing of nature by man, we can observe man’s increasing dependence on nature. This model, a synonym of safe social and economic development guarantees survival and development to present and future generations by preventing, minimising or complete elimination of changes and damage brought by human activities. It is usually defined as a model of social and economic development of a certain area based on assumptions of natural determining factors while maintaining ecological balance [cf. 8, p. 3-17 and 9, p. 119-123]. In this situation, technological development and improving technological solutions should have a significant influence not only on the economic development of the region, but also on the improvement of the natural environment. Eco-development is sometimes identified with sustainable development¹. However, most authors² do not connect these two theories of development, emphasising the essence of each – sustainable development is a balanced development, while eco-development is a self-sustaining development. The basic rules of eco-development include:

- complex and dynamic perception of natural, social and economic phenomena in a given area,
- interactive perception of reality, within which there exist a number of bonds and relations between various ways of utilising space,
- consideration of components of the natural environment as elements that can perform various functions,
- evaluation of changes in the environment from a viewpoint of values, whereby, the main feature is nature’s ability to ensure permanent development [cf. 12, p. 49-50].

The neo-classical concept is based on the claim that there exists a natural tendency for differences to even out, with regard to possession, by a region, of development factors due to their movement from region to region. Levelling out differences between regions takes place as a result of transfer of capital from relatively cheaper (thus less developed) places. Similarly in the case of surplus labour; cheap manpower migrates to places where the price of labour is higher, causing attenuation of amplitudes. Therefore evening out the level of development is a result of the following market mechanisms: spreading

¹ For example, S. Kozłowski treat development in this manner [cf. 10, p. 33 and on].

² The author of the article is inclined towards such a view, cf. also [11]

of economic activity to less developed places and reduction of pay in places hitherto more developed. Opponents of this model, emphasising that, indeed, an immediate result of differentiation of employment opportunities and condition is the flow of resources from places where chances for a job are small to places with better employment prospects, however, the positive impact of such migration is short-lived, especially for the region from which labour migrated. It is obvious that migration assumes a selective form – people with higher qualifications are more mobile and willing to migrate over longer distances and for longer periods of time. Thus, in the long run, selective migration intensifies unevenness of economic capabilities, as it deteriorates the labour supply structure on the market in regions with high unemployment, while simultaneously improving the situation in regions with low unemployment. Therefore, on the one hand, the flow of human capital leads to a reduction of the price of labour in regions of immigration, and, on the other hand, to a deterioration of the quality of labour in regions of emigration.

A completely opposite approach is presented by the post-Keynes development paradigm based on the demand model of production and employment by J. M. Keynes [see 13]. The starting point for formulating this theory was the hypothesis of the tendency for extreme rates of pay of production factors to even out. “In more developed areas, productivity is much higher than in areas at a lower level of development, which is why, even in a situation of considerably higher costs of production (...) economic activity is much more profitable there than anywhere else. Highly utilised places are attractive so attractive that they draw new production factors: labour and capital, flushing them out (the backwash effect) from the surrounding areas [14, p. 172]. For this reason, in accordance with the theory, a limited spatial range of the influence of more highly developed areas leads causes regional disproportion to deepen.

The paradigm of endogenous regional development is based on the internal development potential of a local community, whereby, this potential is understood as the inherent development capabilities of a region determined by the resources it possesses. Therefore, the basic factor in development is activation of the inherent potential of the region, taking into account even (or at least) such features as the uniqueness of the region or the distinctness of its tradition. These strengths have to be identified, skilfully utilised and systematically improved, as it is the manner of utilisation of these resources that the region’s social and economic development depends upon. This concept, based on the local culture and tradition, refers to the approach by C. Weaver and W.B. Stöh, where “development is stimulated only by the inner needs of a region and export is strictly controlled by the region (innovation is local, inhabitants are actively involved), otherwise called selective autarchy and strategic regional superiority” [15, p. 364].

A collection of all the presented models, together with a short description is contained in Table 1. One should bear in mind that these theories explain real-life phenomena in an incomplete manner, as these phenomena are more complicated than the paradigms attempting to explain them. One could say that all of them are right, but only with regard to certain fragments of the social and economic reality and only at a certain time, since, in the process of social and economic changes there occur many kinds of phenomena and with various intensities. How difficult it is to include all these elements while, at the same time, ignoring factors characteristic only for a given region, one can see when one tries to

Table 1. Regional development paradigms

Model	Characteristics
polarised development	spatially non-uniform, appears at different times and in different places, generated mainly by "growth locomotives"
integrated development	homogeneous throughout the area, results from a commonly accepted system of values, both by institutions and by communities
sustainable development	even growth of the entire area, concentrated on the best possible manner of meeting collective needs
eco-development	takes into account mainly requirements of the natural environment in order to retain nature's ability to regenerate itself
neo-classical theory	over a longer period of time, there is a tendency to even out levels of development between regions as a result of mobility of growth factors
post-Keynesian theory	regional disproportion does not even out because better utilised regions undergo increasingly dynamic development
endogenous development	from the bottom upwards, inspired and dependent on the inherent potential of a region

Source: author's own work

define regional development. Due to the limitations mentioned earlier, these definitions usually are very general.

3. SUMMARY

The article undertakes an attempt to present how important knowledge of regional development paradigms is. It allows one to identify the advantages and disadvantages of each of them, and thus, to select the most beneficial one to the current social and economic situation of the region. This choice must be made in accordance with the vision of development of the country. A conscious decision regarding the selected option will not only make it easier to apply the appropriate tools and development methods, but will also simplify the formulation of a regional development strategy.

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MODELE ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

Celem artykułu jest pokazanie w aspekcie teoretycznym modeli rozwoju regionalnego. Autorka odnosi się do różnych sposobów ujmowania jego rozwoju oraz wynikających stąd konsekwencji w postaci charakterystycznych czynników, barier i narzędzi jego sterowania.