

**ZAGADNIENIA EKONOMICZNE W UJĘCIU HISTORYCZNYM ORAZ TEORII  
I POLITYKI GOSPODARCZEJ**

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## **STRESZCZENIA**

### **METHODOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SCIENTISTS' RESEARCH CONDUCT**

#### **Summary**

The reconstruction of the scientists' research conduct allows to get a better insight into the processes of creation, discovery, and the dynamics of a science. The methodology of the economics is referred to as a philosophy of science applied to the economics. The paper deals with the trends and concepts formed in the methodology. It addresses the issues of the scientists' methodological awareness, exogenous and endogenous aims of the development of science. It specifies more precisely the context of discovery which, unlike the context of justification, attracts the scientists' attention definitely rarelier, although it does not mean that the thesis of a symmetry between these two contexts is unquestionable.

A scientific discovery and a related mechanism of developing a new knowledge lead to a discovery-generating situation. The paper demonstrates criticism of an opinion that the development of knowledge is marked by the hypotheses constructed on the grounds of facts, and it states that the theory precedes experience and that facts are theory-oriented. The paper discusses the normative and directive beliefs of the scientists which regulate their research practice.

Keywords: science, methodology, methodological awareness, hypothesis.

### **THE CLASSICAL ECONOMICS AND CATEGORY OF PROPERTY**

#### **Summary**

This article presents attitude to category of property in classical economics. As known, this is the liberal economic thought which determines that private property was treated as unalterable. English as well as French economics guarded private property. Some exception was John Stuart Mill, a classical economics imitator, who allowed for a possibility common property existence. He was also interested in different varieties of socialism. The classical economics perceived property as a freedom rights protection. These two categories were strongly connected with each other and made the most important pillars in the classics' doctrine.

### **ECONOMICS AS A SCIENCE OF SOCIAL ENERGY IN THE POLISH ECONOMIC THOUGHT AT THE TURN OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

#### **Summary**

For more than thirty years one has observed the growing interest in application of the energetic analysis in the economics. Yet in the history of Polish economic thought an attempt to connect economic and energetic categories was undertaken as early as at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. A book entitled „Logic of economics. Fundamental economic concepts from the position of the science of energy” („Logika ekonomii. Zasadnicze pojęcia ekonomiczne ze stanowiska nauki o energii”) was published in 1896. In this dissertation Zygmunt Heryng proposed the interpretation of the socio-economic phenomena by means of social energy and the least efforts principle.

In this article we describe Zygmunt Heryng's energetic concepts and their possible inspirations, the most significant arguments against his propositions, and selected modifications of his concepts, which consist in taking consciousness and knowledge into consideration. We also link the output of the Polish energetic thought to the second law of thermodynamics.

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE AUTONOMIC SILESIA IN THE INTERWAR POLAND**

#### **Summary**

There were specific solutions in social protection in the Silesian Voivodeship in the interwar period. Apart from the compulsory national system, there was also a voluntary insurance, called „brackie” („fraternal”) insurance.

The uniqueness of the Silesian system of the social protection was a result of the specific political conditions characteristic of this place, as well as economic and ethnic ones. Another reason of this situation was the unique system of national law and international law (both the regulations of the Organic Statute and the Geneva Convention were in force here).

### **BEHAVIORAL ASSUMPTIONS OF THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS**

#### **Summary**

The paper reviews behavioral assumptions of the New Institutional Economics. Opportunism, limited cognitive competence, and bounded rationality are under consideration. The incomplete information and limited mental capacity determine the cost of transacting which underlies the formation of the institutions. The institutions are formed to reduce an uncertainty in the human action.

## **THE GROWTH RESEARCH IN THE PROSPECT OF THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMY**

### **Summary**

The article is a contribution to the clarification of the importance of the neo--institutional approach in the economic growth researches. The increase of the interest of the institutional approach in the economic analysis results mainly from the imperfection of the neo-classical model which tries to explain reasons of the economic growth and development. This interest also results from the contradictions between projections of neo-classical model and observations concerning cooperation between agents. The institutional analysis suggests different approach to examine the economic systems. It tries to find reasons of wealth and permanent poverty in different fields. In the opinion of the institutional economy the important role, despite the traditional factors, is played by the institutions which facilitate and are conducive to the effective management.

The article describes the importance of the institutions in the developing of the social-economic order. The analysis starting point is the theoretical depiction of the neo--institutionalism, concept and significance of institutions (both formal and informal), inter-actions between them, and also the concise depiction of institutional factors which influence the economic growth.

## **THE CLUSTER AND MICROECONOMIC AND MACROECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**

### **Summary**

The role of localization as a factor of firm's competitiveness seems to be underestimated. Globalization process has diverted economists' attention from microeconomic determinants, especially from the geographical factors. The concept of clusters doubts this thesis and shows that localization is one of the main modern factor of the regions and firms competitiveness. The main aim of this article is to show different classifications of the potential advantages (benefits) of clusters which are presented in the economic literature. Special attention is paid to the concepts of A. Marshall, M. Porter, and Ch. Ketels and the classification used by OECD. The article also presents the theoretical origins of this economic concept. The enormity of the potential benefits, showed in the article, confirms the thesis of the special cluster competitive advantage.

## **MONETARY POLICY DURING THE SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION IN POLAND**

### **Summary**

The contemporary state functioning on the basis of market mechanism owns many factors and mechanisms which interact the economic process. The money plays the particular role in this process. Monetary policy is this field of macroeconomic policy which deals with money control.

From the beginning of transformation period monetary policy played a very important role because Poland faced hyperinflation. Also the systemic transformation from central-planned economy to market economy needed the serious changes in the sphere of money circulation. The prospect of Poland's integration with the European Union and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) also played a key role in this process and influenced obviously the direction of the institutional and economic changes. The transition process towards market economy forced political and institutional changes which facilitated money to play important roles both on the microeconomic and macroeconomic level.

The main aim of this article is to present the subject of monetary policy in Poland in the systemic transformation period. For the sake of the limited capacity of this article the analysis of Polish monetary policy (1995-2005) has to be narrowed down only to some aspects and the most important issues. Therefore, the presentation and analysis will focus only on the issues connected with the main aims of monetary policy and its results.

In the first part the main goals of the National Bank of Poland will be presented and then the second part will focus on the effectiveness of the monetary policy during the systemic transformation.

## **FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE BANKS' CONSOLIDATION PROCESSES IN POLAND**

### **Summary**

After World War II for more than 40 years only the state-owned and cooperative banks operated in Poland. This situation was imposed by the legally binding principles of the central-planned economy. Although at the end of the 80s changes in banking law permitted to establish the new commercial banks, even with foreign capital, these improvements didn't cause the quantitative and qualitative development of banks in Poland. This development took place at the beginning of the 90s, after the political transformation and also due to the contribution of the biggest foreign financial institution.

The growth of the number of banks didn't influence on their effectiveness. For this reason the program of banks' privatization was introduced very quickly. This program anticipated the gaining of the strategic foreign investors. Owing to the lack of capital of Polish origin, the foreign capital became the main investor and made changes within the scope of the running strategy, management methods, organizational culture and interpersonal relations.

After 18 years the share of the foreign capital in the assets and capital of Polish banking sector amounts to 70 percent and it is possible to suggest a thesis that the banking sector is one of the most developed sectors of Polish economy. The foreign capital which takes an active part in the consolidation processes also contributes to this situation. These consolidation processes result from the necessity of strengthening the Polish capital banking sector (it is considered that more than 50 commercial banks in Poland are too many, especially that part of them is weak and has little share in the banking market) and from the globalization of the financial markets (acquisitions and mergers among banks on the European market which are investors in Polish banks).

Privatization process, consolidation, and constantly growing competition are determinants which influence Polish banking sector very much. Also an active participation of the foreign capital in these processes guarantees the high level of banking services and development of Polish economy.

## **REVISED LISBON STRATEGY AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY IN POLAND– SELECTED ASPECTS**

### **Summary**

The Lisbon strategy is a long-term project aimed at reforms and transformations leading to the most competitive economy in the world according to the perspective planning up to 2010. The key objective of such a strategy is to acquire, so called, full employment, i.e. the employment in which any causes of the structural and persistent unemployment (counterbalance) will be eliminated to a considerable degree.

Despite the decrease in unemployment, it should not contribute to the negative professional activities. On the contrary, in order to carry through the aims in their full effect, they strive for high increase of employment, i.e. required decrease in unemployment and the determined percentage of the professionally non-active people. The high-employment economy cannot impede the increase in productivity, i.e. yield capacity.

Demands are not made to promote low employment in the scope of ineffective lines of business and/or enterprises, but – by contraries – to restructuring at a high standard level. It entails – inter alia – modified public budgetary expenditure in order to launch a variety of many projects to be invested in natural persons and legal persons, investments outlays to be paid R+D, various innovations and highly sophisticated development of computer science techniques. Also the modernisation of the social policies in the direction to favour the increase of the employment and modification of the system of the expenditures of the social expenses, has become a well-considered challenge to Polish economy. The main priority should be mainly the employment the elderly, the disabled and low – professionally qualified persons. And the limitation of the social benefits replacing the earned incomes assigned to those persons should be the next priority.

The objective of this paper is to determine the progresses of the Lisbon Strategy during the years of employment between 2000-2007. Achieving the goals appeared to be quite a problem and nowadays practically the majority of the economists and politicians do not believe that the economic transformations shall be carried out by the EU member countries. However, is the Lisbon Strategy 'dead', as stated by Romano Prodi, just after his term of office in the European Commission? Are any possibilities to improve its activity? Which reforms must be taken up to cover the social policies to relax the situations leading to the growth of employment? Thereby, the basic questions are still worth answering.

## **THE IMPACT ON PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS – SOME ASPECTS**

### **Summary**

In modern economies agriculture is being treated in privileged way what is expressed in a significant scope of regulation of that sector. The regulation often has protectionist nature while in other sectors dominates the principle of free trade and unhindered competition.

The state intervention in the agriculture is accomplished by a wide range of instruments which generate direct and indirect effects on the production decisions of farmers. The agricultural policies in OECD countries evolve in direction characterized by using instruments which do not generate any effects on production or the minimal ones. Unfortunately, there are strong barriers generated by the separate interest groups.

## **ECONOMIC REFORMS OF ANGELA MERKEL'S GOVERNMENT – STATE DIAGNOSIS AND EVALUATION ATTEMPT**

### **Summary**

The article presents the main economic reforms initiated and implemented by the government's Great Coalition in the years 2006-2007 and evaluation attempt as well. The research is concentrated on the thesis that Angela Merkel's government decisions are an element of „stop and go” policy. It means it is not consistent enough to ensure conditions of stable and sustainable development and acceleration of the structural changes.

## **THE SWEDISH REGIONAL POLICY – PREREQUISITES, GOALS AND OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES**

### **Summary**

The proper regional policy of every high developed country is crucial for its further social and economic progress. The Swedish regional policy consists of two equally important parts: growth policy and redistribution policy. Both policies have been evolving for a few decades now continuously changing domination over each other. The article reviews a short history of this evolution and then focuses on nowadays regional differences and policies that occur in Sweden. It seems that today it is the growth policy that is predominating over the redistributive one. Government bills stress the need for innovativeness, inner specialization and utilization of the comparative advantages in the regions. If this kind of competition between regions is not introduced and promoted, Sweden may lose its high position of a leader in high-tech industry and its world famous policy of welfare. However, the redistribution policy is not neglected. It is still an important part of its regional policy and a kind of being unique in the times of globalization. Hopefully for Sweden, if the high growth is sustained for a long period, both welfare of citizens and development of economy may benefit from these policies.

## **INVESTMENT CONDITIONS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE WORLD**

### **Summary**

Investment climate, which can be defined and classified in many different ways, has a significant influence on the influx of foreign capital. It is commonly assumed that it involves the general conditions determining the influx of foreign capital and the investment risk that results from them. Until recently, legal regulations have played a significant role since they specified the rules governing the activities of the foreign investors. These days, however, the importance of these regulations, as well as other traditional factors, is decreasing in favour of more modern factors, which is caused by the standardisation of the most of the primary ones. In terms of the investment attractiveness Asian countries, particularly China, begin to stand out.

One of the results of the favourable investment climate is the influx of foreign capital. In general, an increase in the foreign direct investment (FDI) can be seen in the world, but the distribution of these investments is not equal. In the recent years we have observed an increase in the share in value of FDI of Asian countries, especially China.

## **THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE-TRADE AND FOREIGN TRADE POLICIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **Summary**

This paper reviews benefits from free trade and reasons why some trade instruments are still in use. It also examines the level of freedom in European Union trade policy.

European Union members are obliged to obey the same trade policy rules. The weighted average tariff rate is common and non-tariff barriers reflected in the EU policy include agricultural and manufacturing subsidies, import restrictions, non-transparent and restrictive regulations, and standards. However, some additional barriers may be found in the trade policies of the most of the EU countries, for example: weak enforcement of intellectual property rights, government procurement, supplementary biotechnology, sanitary and pharmaceuticals rules, corruption.

It seems that although the EU trade liberalization and integration have been in progress for several years now, the economies of the member countries are not still the completely free trade economies.