

**ZAGADNIENIA TEORII EKONOMII I POLITYKI GOSPODARCZEJ
W UJĘCIU MIKRO- I MAKROEKONOMICZNYM**

Komitet Redakcyjny

Halina Henzel (przewodnicząca), Anna Lebda-Wyborna (sekretarz), Henryk Bieniok, Anna Lipka,
Krzysztof Marcinek, Maria Michałowska, Irena Pyka, Stanisław Stanek, Janusz Wywiół, Urszula Zagóra-Jonszta,
Teresa Zabińska

Redaktor naukowy

Urszula Zagóra-Jonszta

Recenzent

Aleksandra Lityńska

Redaktor

Karolina Koluch

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STRESZCZENIA

SOCIAL PROTECTION AS AN ELEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH CLASSICAL ECONOMICS

Summary

The birth of capitalism in the second half the 18th century ended up with huge social divisions. On the one hand, the rich and successful businessmen appeared, on the other hand workers were condemned to hard physical labour and poverty.

The revealed social divisions were the source of conflicts and debates among the philosophers and economists. The economists, especially the English ones (representatives of English classical economics) believed in a salutary role of a market. In their opinion, a perfect market restored a balance and offered the highest profits to everybody (even workers could have a good standard of living if they reduced their excessive reproduction).

The opposite opinion was represented by a French economist, J.C.L. Simonde de Sismondi. He claimed that it was impossible for a market to provide optimum profits for everybody, because there was a conflict between capital and labour. For that reason, the state should regulate the distribution of the produced goods and modify the market mechanism.

THE PROJECTS OF MONEY REHABILITATION PRESENTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ACADEMIC SOCIETY AND BUSINESS

Summary

After the First World War the government of Poland had many problems to solve. First of all it was necessary to make borders of country, to win the war with the Soviet Union and to unify currency. There were several currencies in circulation in Poland in this time. Moreover, there was inflation which transformed in hyperinflation. The government realized that unification of the currencies and overcoming inflation had been necessary but it also realized that it had been necessary to replace old money by one new currency. That's why many projects of money rehabilitation appeared in the period of 1918-1923. The first project of money rehabilitation was presented by Towarzystwo Ekonomistów i Statystyków Polskich in March, 1919. One of the most important projects was prepared by Szkoła Krakowska – the most significant center of science in this period. A very interesting project was also proposed by one of the most famous economists of these times – Edward Taylor. There were also other projects. In spite of many discussions and polemics the monetary reform was implemented only in 1924 by Władysław Grabski when the situation in Poland was very difficult.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS AND IDEOLOGY IN THE DOUGLAS CECIL NORTH'S INSTITUTIONAL DEPICTION

Summary

The article is an attempt of synthetic depiction of institutions in D.C North's theory. D.C. North is one of the most significant institutional economists. The starting point of the analysis is a general presentation of the issues connected with modern institutionalism. The concepts of the transaction costs and institutions are the part of this theory.

The second part of the article describes the concept and importance of institution in D.C. North theory, who similarly to other modern institutionalists, emphasizes the influence of the transaction costs on social and economic development. The article discusses the matter of the institutional frames which are marked out by formal rules, informal constraints and their enforcement. The character of the institutional changes is the main issue analyzed by North. The article shows the most important determinants of these changes, particularly the role of ideology. The ideology alongside with formal and informal rules defines the rate and direction of the institution's changes.

MAN AS A CONSUMER AND THE PHENOMENA IN THE CONTEMPORARY ECONOMY

Summary

Globalization as hybridization creates transnational connections: products, fashion, people, places, policy, ways of life etc. These phenomena imply the expansion of the economic theory and the scope of its inquiry onto neighbouring sciences.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the behaviour and position of man within the context of the global material culture. In the era of globalization new means of consumption have appeared, for example: shopping became almost a spiritual adventure. This article also discusses the influence of the more and more rapid changes on our lifestyles. Some trends tend to be universal and widespread but some of them are specific for a given country or a social group.

ECONOMIC RATIONALITY AND THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS

Summary

The article concentrates on the chosen consequences for the economic theory resulting from the opposition of two categories – rationality and entropy. We describe conditions and limitations of the traditional depiction of rationality, present the basis for new (entropic) rationality and compare the most important characteristics of rationality and entropy. Finally, taking into consideration the second law of thermodynamics, we postulate the application of the holistic, long-term approach to the analysis of complex relations between economy, society and environment.

SYSTEMIC COMPETITIVENESS – THE SELECTED THEORETICAL ASPECTS

Summary

The problem of systemic competitiveness is one of the newest issues within the theory of the international competitiveness. Therefore, it has still got several meanings and several different definitions. The main aim of this article is to present some of the well known definitions of this term, known both in Polish and foreign literature and to classify the systemic competitiveness within theory of international competitiveness. The article also presents the roots of the systemic competitiveness in social science and classifies its determinants and subjects.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBALIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMY AND ROLE OF THE STATE

Summary

This article deals with a role of the state in the processes of globalization and systemic transformation. It consists of two parts. The first one presents perception of conversion of modern world by intellectuals and scientists not necessarily of the economic education. Different opinions prove that changes are observed with upset. The second part of the text considers the role of the state in the conditions of Polish transformations. It shows the negative results of transformations which in connection with the effects of globalization may have bad influence on Polish economy.

DANGERS TO ENVIRONMENT AS THE RESULT OF TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY CARS AND THEIR ECOLOGIZATION

Summary

The means of transport which accompanied mankind from the beginning are increasing giving not only positive but also negative consequences. The necessity of travelling, carrying goods and excessive consumption economy cause so much damage to the conditions in which people and animals live. The local authorities and global economy are searching for the economic, structural and legal solutions to reduce contamination caused mainly by the growing car transport. So, special attention is paid to the development of more advanced technologies of car production and exploitation. Innovation of vehicle manufacturing and introducing biofuels giving undisputed ecological benefits cannot be quickly launched. The delay may be caused by high costs of this introduction or by lobbyists. There is hope for the society to find their own method to obtain the most effective means of transport and using it in the most economical way.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE IN THE BACKGROUND OF OTHER WORLD'S REGION'S

Summary

Inflow of foreign capital to the Eastern Europe countries became important when the transformation process from the central planned economy to market economy began.

The changes required high capital expenditure which domestic accumulation was not able to provide. These countries did not always carry "open-door policies" towards foreign capital – even when the transformation process started. However, in the majority of them the liberalization of law regulations law took place. In case of candidate countries it was a necessary prerequisite because within the European Union liberty of free capital flow is compulsory.

Particularly the inflow of FDI is necessary for the sake of the role of capital. Since the beginning of the transformation process we have been able to observe the upward trend while in the initial period it was more intensive than the projections assumed. In this study the absolute values and per capita values are taken into account. Also the outflow of FDI is taken into consideration. The analyzed data cover the whole region so it does not show the difference in allocation of the inflow capital between countries.

BUDGET DEFICIT AND THE GOVERNMENT DEBT IN POLAND DURING THE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

Summary

Modern state is based on market mechanism which do not follow a classic budget rule to balance budget incomes and expenditures. The state can influence development capacities of the economy both through the incomes, and through the expenditures of the entire sector of public finance and of the state budget. Increasing taxes the state limits personal profits, which otherwise could be spent or saved. It limits global demand in economy and limits savings, which could be used to finance investments. However, through the increase of its expenditures, the state is capable of influencing the developmental process in economy, which in turn activates private investors. If the state's expenses on other aims grow, it may stimulate the investment processes through the growth of the other part of the global demand. The increase of the state expenses at a certain level of income unfortunately causes generation or increase of the budget deficit. If the way of financing the deficit will be the public loan it may lead to the limiting of the funds available to the private subjects. The financing of the government expenses from such sources as taxes, sale of the state property or foreign loans does not always bring positive effects.

In the first part of this work the problem of the budget deficit has been introduced and the following aspects have been shown: the approach to the budget balance, the concept of deficit, budget deficit, budget surplus in the years 1990-2005 as well as the problem of the budget deficit emergence in those years.

In the second part of the paper debt is discussed. The following issues have been brought forward: the concept of public debt, the rise of the public debt in the years 1990-2000 and the strategies of managing the public debt.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS

Summary

This article presents an importance of life-long learning for contemporary labour market condition. Scale of the life-long learning is much differentiated among the countries. However, it is insufficient in the majority of them. The percentage of those participating in life-long learning varies according to gender, age and an education level. OECD has specified main reasons of insufficient scale of the life-long learning. The effect of an increase in the time spent by an adult on education and training on probability of being unemployed or being active has also been measured.

THE SOURCES OF REVENUES OF THE LABOUR FUND AS ONE EXTRA FUND (1990-2006)

Summary

The Labour Fund has been functioning since 1st January 1990 as extra budgetary fund with no legal status. The basic revenues of the Labour Fund consist of contributions (since 1999 the level of contribution has amounted to 2.45% of gross salary) and subsidies from the state budget (in 2005 and 2006 there were no subsidies).

The long term analysis demonstrates the change in the system of the Labour Fund financing. The state budget expenses have been reduced to a minimum and the public help from the European Social Fund compensates only to a small extent the outflow of these resources.

The objectives for the use of these resources are also crucially different. The budgetary subsidy was mainly used for financing the passive policy of the labour market whereas the EFS resources were allocated to finance the active operations. The heavy burden of the Labour Fund functioning is taken on by the entrepreneurs because the revenues coming from the contributions cover over 90% of resources and it should be stressed that labour costs in Polish economy are considered to be very high by companies.

MAIN DIRECTION OF ALLOCATING THE LABOUR FUND RESOURCES AS A KEY INSTRUMENT OF FINANCING THE LABOUR MARKET POLICY IN 1991-2006

Summary

The Labour Fund has been in operation since 1990 as an institution which finances benefit pay-outs to persons losing their jobs as well as vocational activation programmes for persons looking for work and/or threatened by job loss. The difficulties entailed in Poland's economic reforms have been bringing about a deepening disproportion in the disbursement of the Labour Fund resources. While the Fund has been able to soften the negative impact of downsizing in non-profitable industries, this has been occurring at the expense of the programmes for active counteraction of unemployment. The present article summarises the functioning of the Labour Fund over the period of 1991-2016 and tries to assess the ways in which its resources have been used.

INNOVATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMY – CASE OF GERMANY

Summary

In the 21st century the purpose of macroeconomic policy is shaping the society based on knowledge and intensification of innovation of national economy. These issues are relatively poorly recognized and identified in the economics theory. The research of innovation covers also looking for its aggregated measures. These rankings enable to compare different national economies and determine a relative level of the innovation.

According to presented rankings the position of Germany proves to be relatively high. However there are several weaknesses of innovation of German economy. The most serious of them is "education poverty" and that's why the priority for German economy is a high level of society's education. The efforts must be concentrated on improving quality and increasing standard and scope of education at all levels, from kindergarten through secondary schools and universities to constant education.

TAXATION SYSTEM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF REGULATION IN AGRICULTURE ON THE EXAMPLE OF SPAIN

Summary

There is a strong tendency of decreasing share of agriculture in GDP in highly developed countries. It doesn't mean the fall of importance of the sector in comparison with the remaining sectors of the economy. The rural regions still play an important role in the area of production. Also an increase of the social and environmental functions of agriculture has been recently emphasized. According to the specific conditions of running farms, agriculture is being a subject of significant public institutions interference. System of taxes is an important instrument of state regulation in agriculture. But lack of the suitable data has become a reason of the difficulties in evaluation of the tools effectiveness. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned restriction, the main finding of the paper is that Spanish taxation system in agriculture is rather universal and meets effectiveness demand of the instrument in the process of having an influence on the structural changes in agriculture.

THE REHN-MEIDNER MODEL AND SWEDISH ECONOMIC POLICY

Summary

The Rehn-Meidner model, created by two union economists in 1951, has been the basis of the Swedish economy for several decades. It was supposed to facilitate the achieving goals of full employment, price stability, economic growth and equality in income redistribution by means of solidaristic wage policy, restrictive economic policy, active labour market policy and marginal employment subsidies. The model was designed for an overheating economy, the kind that Sweden experienced in the 50s. Implementation of the model in 50s and 60s proved to be successful as the economy avoided the crisis of overheating. Yet the authorities seemed to disregard the solutions of the model in the following decades of 70s and 80s eventually causing severe crisis in the early 90s. The policies used to drive the economy out of the crisis were, however, strictly related to the model. During the 90s an intense revival of the model's means adopted to the most recent economic circumstances of globalization and worldwide liberalization could have been witnessed. The recent victory in the general election of the centrist coalition, known for their mistrust in the generous welfare state, threatens the full restoration of the model. Nevertheless, the condition of the Swedish economy is much better now than in the 80s, so if the abandonment goes through, Sweden will hopefully not experience another harsh downturn of the economy in the upcoming future.