

Studia Ekonomiczne 61

WYBRANE PROBLEMY REGIONALNEJ POLITYKI ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO ROZWOJU SPOŁECZNO-GOSPODARCZEGO

Komitet Redakcyjny

Krystyna Lisiecka (przewodnicząca), Anna Lebda-Wyborna (sekretarz),
Halina Henzel, Anna Kostur, Maria Michałowska, Grażyna Musiał,
Irena Pyka, Stanisław Stanek, Stanisław Swadźba, Janusz Wywiał, Teresa Żabińska

Redaktor naukowy

Andrzej Rączaszek

Redaktor

Beata Kwiecień

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STRESZCZENIA

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF AN INCREASING SCALE OF DEMAND FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Summary

A far-reaching aim of the state's social and economic policy is to create a policy of balanced socio-economic development. Should it be a macroeconomic problem, the factors enabling realization of such a plan need to be identified. One of the main conditions that determine the economic and social policy would be demographic factors, more precisely – the demographic situation and structure, as well as the demographic processes that affect it. The fundamental demographic changes which took place during the transformation period have shaped the population's new demographic structure. This structure resulted in some social needs, which in the environment of market economy can be satisfied by the social services market. Therefore, this study discusses the scale of social needs resulting from the demographic situation and structure, as well as the formation of the social services market in response to the social consumption needs.

ROLE OF THE STATE IN CREATING COMPETITION IN THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

Summary

One important determinant of the speed and success of transition will be the efficiency of transformation and development of the infrastructure sectors. A great deal of attention has been paid to the issues such as privatization, restructuring, user prices, and terms of access in these sectors. Following emerging world wide trends in liberalization of the network-based infrastructure sectors like telecommunications, gas, electricity, and railway the government assumed that the introduction of market mechanisms was the only way to achieve transformation of this sector. These strategic objectives include: improvement of supply security, reduction of costs of energy generation and supply, and improvement of competitiveness in the energy sector. The major conclusion from the analysis is that the course and effects of liberalisation process are determined by regulatory state actions where the main objective is to create, protect and develop competition. The process of liberalisation of infrastructural sectors and development of competitive markets of electricity, gas and telecommunication in countries of the European Union has not been completed yet. In practice, the developing European market is still not fully integrated. It is characterised by functioning of the various domestic regulation systems interrelated by common rules resulting from the EU directives.

SILESIA VOIVODESHIP'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Summary

Environmental protection is very important for the citizens' life quality improvement and is one of the most crucial areas of local authority's activity, especially in the Silesian region. Silesian voivodeship is a specific region, one of the most problematic areas in Poland (including environmental problems). A high degree of industry concentration and urbanisation has caused lasting transformations of the area. They are reflected by great pollution of atmospheric air, water and soil contamination. The amount of wastes produced in the region is incomparable to any other region in Poland. On a local scale, the problem is even more intense as the sources of emission and production of wastes are concentrated mainly in the area of the Upper Silesian and Rybnik agglomerations. Silesian voivodeship takes the first place in Poland in terms of emission of particulate pollutants to the air and gas pollutants. The state of the environment has considerably improved in the recent decade and is diversified within the voivodeship; next to the degraded and devastated areas, there are also places of recreation and natural wealth. The improvement in the environment quality is mostly result of the strategic, pro-ecological actions taken by the self-governmental administration.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AGAINST DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES (THE SILESIA PROVINCE GIVEN AS AN EXAMPLE)

Summary

The demographic processes, and especially lengthening of the average human life-span as well as the decrease in the Total Fertility Rate have a significant influence on the functioning of the social security systems. This influence occurs especially in relation to the retirement and pension insurance, social protection and health care systems; it can be seen in the scale of the whole country and in case of the Silesian province itself. The mentioned demographic processes cause not only the need for the implementation of the structural reforms of those social security elements, but also for the search for and implementation of the new institutional solutions, such as e.g. preserving insurance. Those processes also result in departing from the social security universalistic paradigm to-wards the model in which the selective solutions are preferred.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Summary

The process of political transformation, focused on the economic changes which are connected with market structure, was a base, which made a lot of changes in the macroeconomic policy of the region. After political and economic changes Silesian society expected an upturn in the social security, an improvement in meeting the basic social needs and development of activity of people in the labour market and also an improvement in family living conditions. However, economic restructuring, which affected mainly the mine and metallurgy sector, caused a lot of negative consequences. It has been found that many actions weren't completely right, for example some mines or vocational schools which had been put into liquidation.

EDUCATION ON THE HIGHER LEVEL IN ADMINISTRATION, CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC ECONOMY

Summary

Contemporary social and economic transformations are the reason that preparing the competent personnel of the public sector is becoming necessary. It applies to the department administration, self-government management and non-governmental organizations. The public sector education takes place in many faculties like civil service, public management, public economy. The scope of study subjects reflects the basic pro-grams of major (the most popular like management or economics). It results in dominance of the legal or economic elements. There is a need to reform the structures of civil service and to introduce the new forms of managing the public matters. Therefore, it seems necessary to implement the new approach in education of the economic and administration theories.

PRESUMPTIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL POLICY OF THE SILESIA VOIVODESHIP

Summary

Contrary to the well-known stereotypes, Silesian Voivodeship (Province) has a significant potential in the field of education and culture. The diverse offer of many educational institutions as well as cultural and tourist attractions (including such a valuable asset of the region as the remains of the industrial culture) require proper management and promotion. The educational and cultural policy, executed with that purpose in mind, can contribute to the reduction in the scale of such problems of the province as multidimensional social exclusion, relatively low cultural competencies, the degradation of post-industrial areas or the economic emigration of the young generation.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Summary

This article analyses a psychological situation of social exclusion. Discontent with living conditions and the level of meeting the needs, comparing one's own situation with that of others and the negative result of it, the loss of dignity and identity, helplessness, disorientation and alienation – as highly stressing circumstances – cause discomfort which results in important consequences in cognitive, emotional and behavioral spheres.

SELECTED SYMPTOMS OF SOCIAL PATHOLOGY IN THE SILESIA DISTRICT

Summary

The Silesian voivodeship, due to its special character connected with urbanization, industry and diversification of the social potential, is a particularly interesting region to examine the social pathology and its transformations. Serious social and economic changes result in the transformations of norms and value system, changes in human behaviour as well as in the increase of pathology. It seems that exists a serious connection between the economic and social situation and the volume and scale of pathology in this region.

ERGONOMICS APPLICATION IN WORK POSITIONS EQUIPPED WITH SCREEN MONITORS

Summary

The growth of quantity of the work positions equipped with screen monitors caused that more and more workers do their work in hard conditions. Besides, the speed in-crease of information manipulation and involvement growth of attention this kind of work is deprived of the variety of activity and changeable effort. Doing activities imposes the workers long lasting, static work of muscles that is necessary for the stabilization and for balancing the body position and doing precision tasks. The load of eye organ is also bigger. Exposition of the worker to these factors decreases the effectiveness of action, increases danger and can cause some health problems. They are generally musculoskeletal and chronic movement organ diseases, eye failures and skin affections. There are a lot of factors that influence on comfort of the work with the computer, especially the individual elements forming computer position. Among other things, there are furniture parameters (desks, chairs), forming a spatial structure of the computer position, the factors of the material environment of work, especially in the range of lighting the work place and microclimate. The suitable work breaks and physical exercises have also a positive influence. The basic rules of the work system and equipping the computer positions are formulated in legislative that is the Minister of Labour and Social Policy decree from 1998. It is important to fulfill the minimal ergonomics demands that are described in decrees enclosure. Then the work position will be comfortable, safe, well-lit compatible with Ergonomics demands. Carrying out in the continuous way ergonomic evaluation of work positions equipped with screen monitors has revealed that on many of them there are irregularities to a different degree and workers do their administrative activities in the conditions which don't fulfill the ergonomic demands. First of all, spatial placing must be changed, its equipment and lighting must be corrected. The assurance of the ergonomic solution of work position is one of the easiest way of preventing workers from the health problems.

PROBLEMS WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK

Summary

GUS' statistics as well as literature reports, own researches and observations have shown that implemented health and safety regulations in the work legislation managing systems as well as the risk evaluation of the work positions in smaller institutions did not bring a significant improvement of the conditions of work safety. New attitude to health and safety at work legislation issues did not cause the limitation of a number of people injured in accidents in general, and also in fatality and serious accidents. Taking into account the accident rate Silesian Province is also and still at the top of the provinces. The work that has been done so far in the aid of improving health and safety at work legislation does not limit the amount of accidents both on the European and world scale. It should be suitable to think that, among other things, weight of activities, in this range, has been transferred to promote health and safety at work legislation issues and evaluation of the occupational hazard, training and informing. Increasing the community awareness with regard to ensure safe and hygienic work and keeping good health has become the aim of the international, domestic and local campaign. It's a pity that earlier a lot of mistakes and negligence in this field have been made.