

## STATE REGIONAL POLICY AND GLOBALISATION: DIMENSIONS OF COMPETITIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the issue of regional policy managed by the state in complex determinants of transformation processes occurring in macro scale, main sign (indication) of which is progressing globalisation in both economic and socio-economic dimension. Analyses and characteristic included herein are focused on objectives, forms, and models of state regional policy with special stress put on practical interpenetration and complement of regional and global dimensions of modern transformations and development trends. In this paper we characterise also the initiative for creation and implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies representing one of most important instruments of realisation of the European Union's pro-development regional policy in conditions of tightening competition and global rivalry in area of economy.

**Keywords:** state regional policy, globalisation, regional innovation strategy, competitiveness, development of regions.

## POLITYKA REGIONALNA PAŃSTWA A GLOBALIZACJA: WYMIARY KONKURENCYJNOŚCI I ROZWOJU REGIONÓW

**Streszczenie:** W artykule przedstawiono problematykę polityki regionalnej państwa w złożonych uwarunkowaniach procesów transformacyjnych zachodzących w skali makro, których głównym wyznacznikiem jest postępująca globalizacja zarówno w wymiarze gospodarczym, jak i społeczno-gospodarczym. Analizy i charakterystyki zawarte w niniejszym artykule koncentrują się na celach, formach i modelach polityki regionalnej państwa, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem praktycznego wzajemnego przenikania się i uzupełniania regionalnych i globalnych wymiarów współczesnych przekształceń i trendów rozwojowych. W artykule scharakteryzowano także inicjatywę stworzenia i wdrożenia Regionalnych Strategii Innowacji, stanowiących jeden z najważniejszych instrumentów prorozwojowej polityki regionalnej w warunkach zaostrzającej się konkurencji i globalnej rywalizacji w obszarze gospodarki.

**Słowa kluczowe:** polityka regionalna państwa, globalizacja, regionalna strategia innowacji, konkurencyjność, rozwój regionów.

## 1. Introduction

Transformations in macroscale occurring in our times have multi-aspect character and differentiated long-term effect on the economical, political and social plane (Cuellar, 2006). Progressing shrinking of the space-time and continuous tightening of interrelation ties, mainly economical ones – by means of development of the international trade and foreign investments – are the most visible signs of globalisation processes (Dembinski, 2001). Moreover, significance of international organisations, such as World Bank, World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund and European Union, still increases.

Tightening global interdependencies become possible thanks to, among others things, dissemination of new business information transfer tools, especially the Internet. The world wide web facilitates and speeds up entering into business transactions. Thanks to the Internet, the division of labour in any enterprise can easily cross international borders. That is accompanied by increase of importance and scope of international corporations and relative decrease of influence exerted by the state on economical processes (Hryniewicz, 2004).

Transnational companies modify principles and patterns of their operations. They abandon segmentation of markets and start treating the world as a single large market. Some of these companies participate actively in development of local environment, influencing significantly social-economical situation of territorial arrangements (e.g. regions), in which they are localised (Dziemianowicz, 2001). Indeed, local market businesses are still related to governments, but there are numerous evidences indicating that these relations will weaken, while interdependence with other participants of the global market will increase. With increasing number of entities operating on the global market, significance of their allocation decisions for labour markets also increases, especially in smaller and economically weaker countries. Decisions on localisation of investments taken by transnational corporations result in creation of monopolistic position with respect to countries and regions which compete between each other in acquisition of investments made by companies operating worldwide.

Relations between national and regional markets on one hand and global markets on the other seem to form the two model schemes. The first one consists in prediction that national markets will gradually become peripheral ones with respect to the global market. In the second scheme, the global market would gradually break away from national markets and create its own economical system consisting of global central corporations and global peripheral firms rendering services for central corporations (Hryniewicz, 2004).

Selected phenomena, trends and processes shown above represent important signs of globalisation, additionally influenced by some political and economical occurrences. In the political dimension, the globalisation means, among other things, a change in relations between countries tending towards increasing mutual interdependence. Ideological trends and political programs more and more frequently gain transnational character breaking away from

their national or regional localisation. Moreover, there is an ongoing process of learning to react to occurrences and changes in political situation occurring in different, sometimes very distant, regions of the world. Risk related to barely predictable effects of changes occurring in other countries and on other continents creates specific common platform for various territorial arrangements (including regional ones) and for local communities inhabiting them (Beck, 2002).

Social aspects of globalisation are, first of all, related to the phenomenon of social inequality. There is no doubt that globalisation results in increase of such inequality, both in international and intranational dimensions. International divisions typical for globalisation bear typical feature of division into the centre and the peripheries (Wallerstein, 1974, 1989; Copus, 2000; Zarycki, 2009; Hryniewicz, 2010; Szczepański, and Śliz, 2012). Countries rated among those of the centre play decisive role in economic processes. Other countries, those of weaker position, must properly adjust to the situation and optimally settle their relations to the centre (Friedmann, 1986).

Range of payroll incomes also increases significantly. The wage differential between workers and corporate executives is very big. Average executive emoluments are sometimes several dozen times higher than the average worker's salary, while directors' wages become still more and more unconnected to economic results of the companies employing them.

Globalisation is accompanied not only by increase of social inequalities, but also by reduction of total available number of jobs. Redundancies are accompanied with decrease of real income (except for the margin of those receiving top salaries) and increase of the wage differential between the most reach and the rest of the society. It should be emphasised that globalisation does not absolve countries and their governments of responsibility for future of their own societies. They remain responsible for such spheres as: education, infrastructure, health service, statutory pension benefits, reduction of inequalities, and protection of citizens' standard and quality of living (Garret, 1998).

The state, by means of proper internal policy, realised – in conditions of democratic decentralisation – mainly on the level of self-governmental regional and local structures, can dynamise effectively social-economic processes and, as a result, create foundations for sustainable development, enabling reduction of the distance remaining to the leaders (Tuziak, 2013).

## **2. Regionalisation and globalisation – the two dimensions of macro-transformations**

Regions, as marked-out trans-regional units of territorial division of a country, are subjects of influence of the state realised in the framework of regional policy implemented by the central government. The regional policy in broad sense includes not only allocation decisions of central authorities and their subordinated administrative structures, but also a system solution defining conditions for operation of regions considered as socio-economic entities (Gorzelać, 1989).

The essence of regional policy understood as a systematised set of region-oriented actions, can be encompassed in at least two different ways (Pyszkowski, 2000). In the classical approach, it is perceived as a tool of state interventionism, used for successive levelling interregional differences considered as excessive. Support for handicapped regions with funds remaining in disposal of the state can take different forms, but its essence and objective are always the same – they consists in taking away from most reach and effective regions in credit of those poorer and less effective. Regional policy reduced to simple redistribution of public funds can be an element of execution of authority based on the privilege to divide scarce goods.

In the second approach to the regional policy, which could be described as an „effectiveness-oriented” one, its wider context is emphasised by situating rules, objectives and direction of activities within the framework of region’s policy development considered as a dynamic (i.e. entering into interactions with the environment) territorial arrangement. As opposed to the equalisation model of regional policy, its effectiveness-oriented pattern consists in winning, and not removing, interregional differences. The essence of regional development policy in that sense and its contribution to development of the country as a whole consists in proper use of differentiated features, resources and opportunities of regional social-economic structures and in taking into account even more differentiated development conditions and limitations in the processes of resources allocation. Development diversification can be diagnosed and assessed most accurately on the regional level, with only insignificant „support” provided in that area by central (government) structures.

Regional policy – no matter whether aimed at improvement of situation of a defined region or at achievement of better situation in the scale of the whole country – gains a new dimension in the context of progressing integration and globalisation. Its international character becomes significantly reinforced. Global arrangements, systems and macro-structures enter into complex interactions with regional, local and particular micro-arrangements. Global and local factors interpenetrate creating new configurations which incorporate elements of both levels (Robertson, 1992, 1995; Krzysztofek, and Szczepański 2002; Szczepański, 2005).

Range of phenomena making up globalisation is very wide. As a consequence, globalisation itself is being defined in many different ways. The fundamental concepts characterising globalisation are: width (scope) and depth (intensity) of changes; multitude of links and conjugations between countries and societies as well as between states and societies; unity; economical interdependence; cultural homogeneity of the world; transnational corporations creating global financial and industrial networks. The essence of globalisation consists therefore in increase of intensity of international economic links, including the accompanying social, political, and cultural transformations, and in increase of importance of international institutions. Globalisation occurs together with other civilisation phenomena such as post-industrialism, formation of the information society, or transformation of world economy into knowledge-based one (Hryniewicz, 2004).

Complex globalisation processes include several dynamically interrelated phenomena occurring in parallel: uncontrolled flow of capital and information; internationalisation of labour market making labour force an internationally available resource; development of transnational corporations making their decisions (including, among other things, those related to localisation of manufacturing facilities) according to their own strategy, frequently with passing over interests of countries in which they are localised and registered (Jałowiecki, 2002).

According to Anthony Giddens, „globalisation can be understood as a dialectic phenomenon, in the framework of which occurrences on one pole of the down-aside relation result frequently in occurrence of different or even opposite phenomena on the other pole” (2001, p. 31). Such understanding of globalisation focuses attention on diversity, complexity and range of its effects. Decisions, actions and events distant in space and apparently not interrelated, still influence each other resulting in significant consequences for nations and economies of many countries.

Influence of globalisation processes is also clearly seen in local and regional arrangements. Effects of great significance for local communities are frequently caused by e.g. relocation of manufacturing facilities performed by companies looking for cheaper labour force and new sources of profit. Phenomena occurring in macro scale, in remote countries, or in abstract space of economical and financial transfer, effect socio-economic situation of people living in a specific location. Therefore, it becomes necessary, by means of appropriate measures carried out on the level of both the state and individual self-government communities (regional and local), to elaborate optimum methods of reaction to events and situations resulting from transformations occurring in global scale.

Enlargement of the European Union with new countries changed significantly European political relations and influenced the arrangement of global interests. The above requires from Poland and other new member states to face up to global competition and implement further necessary reforms (Tucholska, 2011; Grosse, 2012). Their main target should consist in involvement in making Europe one of the centres of world's development. Taking high rank

in worldwide economic race and using all development opportunities of Eastern Europe is possible, among other things, by means of active participation in undertakings and programmes proposed in the framework of the European Union's regional policy (Pietrzyk, 2000; Leonardi, 2006; Boć, and Malarski, 2008; Grosse, 2012).

EU's regional policy has three main objectives. The first (spatial) objective consists in reduction of development differences of respective regions by means of providing them with basic measures which are lacking in area under consideration and supporting investments in enterprises to enable them starting their economic development. Several dozens regions of the European Union are covered with the first objective – these are regions in which GDP per capita does not exceed 75% of the average for the European Union and the regions which are underpopulated. The support and equalisation measures in the framework of the first objective eat up almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of funds assigned for support of local development.

The second objective (spatial) consists in economical and social restructurisation of regions in structural troubles, no matter if they are industrial, agricultural, urban, or fishery-dependent. Assistance covers the regions in which four kinds of difficulties occur: transformation of industry or services, decline of traditional types of activity in rural areas, crisis in rural environment, and difficulties in fishery sector.

The third objective (topical) consists in support provided to education and creation of jobs. That objective covers the whole of the Union, except for regions eligible for assistance in the framework of the first objective, where funds for education and job creation are provided within the programme aimed at reduction of development lagging. Activities of the third objective are in particular directed at jobless youth, the permanently jobless and people of social margin. The objective covers also people who are subject to discrimination on the labour market because of their sex, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, and physical or mental disability.

Apart from objectives defined above and realised by means of structural funds (Objectives 1 and 2) and the socio-economic fund (Objective 3), the Union has carried out four community initiatives in order to solve specific problems existing on its territory. These initiatives (funds) include:

- INTERREG III: encouraging for cross-border, international and interregional cooperation by means of undertaking common enterprises aimed at balanced development of neighbouring regions.
- URBAN II: supporting innovative reconstruction strategies of troubled towns and urban quarters.
- LEADER+: oriented at assistance for institutions operating in rural areas in order to create new strategies for sustainable local development.
- EQUAL: supporting initiatives aimed at reduction of factors resulting in unequal access to jobs.

In the framework of funds established by the Union, preference is given to undertakings which are of innovative character and allow for improvement of quality of development strategies. They are expected also to encourage regions of individual countries to carry out modernisation and pro-development activities which are necessary for them to be able to respond to global challenges in the area of creation of the information society and increase of competitiveness of their economies.

### **3. Objectives and directions of state regional policy**

The state (central government) represent an important subject of the regional policy on national level. It elaborates and implements a system of measures oriented at regions as areas representing marked out elements of territorial administrative division of the country.

Objectives of the state policy and regions' policies should be defined explicitly and mutually co-ordinated. Among multiple and diverse objectives of the regional policy in broader sense, the following fundamental ones seem to come to the fore (Jałowicki, and Szczepański, 2002):

- stimulation of a region's development in order to increase its competitiveness with respect to regions of neighbouring countries,
- supporting backward and marginalised regions with little development opportunities in order to reduce differences between individual regions of the country.

Because of scantiness of funds necessary for realisation of all regional policy targets listed above, a hard-to-eliminate contradiction between them arises. Focusing attention and activeness on realisation of one target results in significant reduction funds available on realisation of the other. For that reason, support for regions provided by central authorities must be more selective, or directed first of all where utilisation of investment will be most effective. In practice, however, it is difficult to decide on ultimate effectiveness of use of granted funds. Application of purely economic criteria seems to indicate that supporting weak regions is a less effective solution which effects development opportunities of strongest regions, and thus development of the country as the whole, rather negatively. Political reasons may however require supporting weaker regions, at least in order to avoid conflicts and tensions which can arise on the grounds of deepening interregional differences.

Precise definition of regional policy objectives is thus preceded by making choice between the regional differences equalisation policy, or the survival strategy, and the policy stimulating activeness and competitiveness of the region, or the development strategy. The choice between the survival strategy and the development strategy should be unambiguously decided in favour of the country's regional policy supporting pro-innovation activities, increasing effectiveness of investments and competitiveness of the country on

international markets (Jałowiecki, and Szczepański, 2002). Adoption of such option takes into account conditions resulting from globalisation processes, is consistent with modern development trends and ensures sustainable economic development. Mechanisms of the equalisation-oriented regional policy can be launched only after reaching the superior objective, i.e. overcoming civilisation backwardness of the country by means of fast economic growth and radical structural reforms in economy and in socio-professional structure.

Because of limited funds, state regional policy should be concentrated on those domains and areas, in which financial investment will be used in a most effective way. Priority should be given to benefits in the nation-wide scale, and not only in the scale of individual regions. In practice, development processes in national and regional dimensions are complementary with respect to each other, however according to the „global logic”, the reinforcement of the whole country in competition struggle on the international arena should be given preference.

Among important tasks of central authorities in the area of regional policy, one should rate provision of standards concerning fundamental services in area of education, health, social care, social support packages, public safety, and the judiciary, as well as provision of access to services of higher level, especially to university education and specialised health care. Interregional differences in that area should be equalised by carrying out various actions, most important of which are (Jałowiecki, and Szczepański, 2002):

- elaboration of minimum standards in the area of education and national health service, applicable all over the country,
- running a system of social health insurance, providing guaranteed access to health care for free or at low cost,
- monitoring the quality of public services and reacting in case of not meeting established quality standards,
- providing support for local and regional authorities in promotion of education among young people coming from socially handicapped circles by means of establishment of scholarship schemes and support packages for pupils and students,
- providing scholarships for students living in localities far from university centres and coming from poor families.

Realisation of the above tasks will create favourable conditions for equalisation of opportunities available to inhabitants of different regions, increase level of basic social benefits and services, and make possible introduction of necessary standards in that area.

One phenomenon inseparable from globalisation is the tightening of competition, which is a result of increasing scope of trade exchange, participated also by countries which formerly remained on margins of world economy. Technological progress has enabled and accelerated the process of spatial extension of trade exchange, thus enabling less developed countries to utilise new technologies and to compete on international markets with economically stronger countries.

The competition rivalry, becoming universal in conditions of globalisation, obligates central authorities to carry out activities aimed at increase of international competitiveness of the country by means of: (Jałowiecki, and Szczepański, 2002):

- extension and modernisation of technological and economical infrastructure and creation of conditions for regions and self-dependent business organisations to carry out their own activities in that scope,
- creation of conditions for development and modernisation of social infrastructure (schools, cultural and educational institutions) and carrying out actions in that area in national scale,
- creation of conditions for development and modernisation of the market's institutional structure, supporting enterprise and providing services for businesses,
- creation of national and European database containing business information for enterprises and modernisation of national statistical services,
- creation of an environment favourable for creation and diffusion of innovations and absorption of new technologies,
- education of modern scientific personnel and stimulation of activeness of the research workers,
- stimulation of innovations and dissemination of research results especially among small and medium-sized enterprises,
- development of the learning and information-oriented society by facilitating access to domestic, European and worldwide information networks,
- carrying out effective international promotion of the country.

The above listed tasks should be carried out by the central government in co-operation with regions. At the regional level, needs and opportunities in the area of modern development are recognised better, which is in favour of effectiveness of jointly undertaken activities.

Correct realisation of the state regional policy requires fulfilment of several conditions. Firstly, there must be two independent subjects of such policy, namely, the government realising consistently definite model of the policy with respect of regions, and a self-governing region influencing, in a systematised way, socio-economical development processes occurring on its territory. Secondly, the region must have at its disposal an appropriate economic and demographic potential making possible generation of significant own income (exceeding subventions received from the central budget) constituting a real base for effective realisation of development ventures. Thirdly, there must be a co-ordination between the whole of the government's regional policy and the "internal" policy of self-governing regions, elaborated through negotiations.

#### 4. Role of Regional Innovation Strategies in stimulation of development

In the age of globalisation, competition receives a new dimension. Nowadays, the competition struggle engages not only individual companies, but also whole territorial systems such as countries, regions, towns, and districts (gminas). One can distinguish two main planes of competitiveness (Gorzalak, and Jałowicki, 2000):

- competition of firms localised in given territorial system in the open world economy,
- competition of territorial arrangements themselves for new capital, especially innovative one, generating important multiplication effects, creating modern jobs for well-qualified people able to create innovations and use new technologies.

The two above presented ways of approach to the concept of competitiveness are closely interrelated. Conditions for running business activity created by territorial arrangements represent an important factor influencing competitiveness of companies. Unfavourable conditions can result in bankruptcies or moving businesses to regions offering better conditions. In both cases, socio-economic condition of given territorial arrangement (e.g. a region) is severely endangered.

Modern and innovative firms have a lot of freedom in the area of their localisation decisions and settle where the conditions for their development are the best. Territorial arrangements, especially the regions, should therefore create favourable climate for business and enterprise. Regional authorities, within a definite scope, generate conditions for business operating in a given area and carry out self-contained promotion and advertising activity representing a form of competitive struggle for the capital. Homogeneity of the region considered as strong links between companies operating within its area is also in favour of gaining advantage in the competition rivalry.

In conditions of globalisation of the economy, competitiveness of regions depends mainly on possibility to use existing resources of knowledge, skills and enterprise (Przygodzki, 2007). Regional authorities play key role in that process by means of mobilisation and development of these resources, especially in the area of development of businesses (Tuziak et al., 2006). They support network links between local firms, their links with regional research powerbase and business environment institutions, and create interregional ties. Regional authorities have the best knowledge as for strengths and weaknesses of local industries and are able to identify most urgent needs which require intervention and involvement of funds coming from public sector (Tuziak, 2013).

One of conditions of modern and sustainable socio-economic development is continuous improvement of knowledge and ability to create and utilise new organisational and technological solutions on the regional level. There is no doubt that at present times these are regions which represent the main driving force of the economic development based on research, technology and innovations (Tuziak, 2009).

The fundamental instrument of regional policy realisation, according to global development trends, become Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS). They serve regional authorities to assess needs and possibilities in area of utilisation of knowledge and new technologies in the region and to design and implement schemes aimed at increase of competitiveness of the region by means of increase of innovativeness among enterprises.

Many regions of Europe elaborate and implement their own innovation development policies. No ready-to-use solutions are available in that area. Any region, on the grounds of honest analysis (performed mainly on the basis of research carried out for purpose of RIS), must recognise available resources determining its development potential and define clear strategic vision of targets, before selection and implementation of detailed action schemes will be possible. To this end, regional authorities have to carry out an open and broad discussion on these topics with businessmen, scientists, representatives of commercial chambers, financial institutions, regional development agencies and public organisations.

At present, Regional Innovation Strategies have been elaborated in majority of most active regions of Europe. The countries accessing the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 have been also included in the process of RIS preparation. Such strategies have been elaborated in 16 regions of Poland. In EU regions, not only consistent standards for carrying out specific practical activities aimed at increase of innovation were established. Elaboration of the strategy contributed also to significant increase of innovations in political dimension and establishment of sustainable partnership between businesses and key regional institutions acting for innovations.

Regional Innovation Strategies are economical development strategies based on knowledge and new technologies. Effective implementation of such strategies is aimed at creation of effective innovation systems based on partnership and co-operation between companies, scientific and research institutes, business environment institutions and public administration.

These strategies do not concentrate exclusively on the technology transfer issue, but also deal with the issue of the regional innovation development program in an integrated way, taking into account its dependence on character and effectiveness of interactions between multiple participants of innovation process: enterprises, public administration, universities, research institutes, chambers of commerce, regional development agencies, business supporting institutions and other public and commercial organisations (Tuziak, A., and Tuziak, B., 2007).

The process of strategy elaboration is based on open dialogue between representatives of various groups and must involve an integrated analyse of actual economical and social situation of the region and perspective vision of its future development. Such process leads to elaboration of the regional strategy which, first of all, would respond to needs of business circles – in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. The strategies contribute to

creation and optimisation of the regional system of services supporting innovation by means of identification and launching activities aimed at their supplement.

Activity schemes elaborated in the framework of strategies include, among other things, establishment of technology incubators, virtual high-tech incubators, creation of initial capital funds financing small and medium-sized on early stages of their development, as well as putting into operation mechanism of development and reinforcement of co-operation between research units and businesses.

Those regions which recognised innovation as one of most important elements of regional policy and implemented their innovation strategies, experience positive effects of such decisions consisting in increase of their competitiveness, establishment of innovation system, creation of a friendly environment for creation and development of businesses; and increase of willingness among enterprises to carry out innovation activities.

Innovation strategies implemented in regions mobilise differentiated and dissipated regional resources in order to achieve consensus and co-operation leading to increase of competitiveness of the region by means of integrated and consistently designed instruments and mechanism serving stimulation of modern development processes. Carrying out activities aimed at achieving sustainable effects poses a serious challenge for regional authorities. Effective implementation of strategy documents is usually a difficult task. It requires provision of proper sources of financing and putting into operation effective management structures, as well as carrying out monitoring and assessment of effectiveness of implemented measures.

The main financing source for activities leading to implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies are structural funds of the European Union. The European Research and Development Fund was established in order to finance or co-finance such areas as;

- regional economy based on knowledge and innovative technologies,
- e-Europe Regio: information society serving the development,
- regional identity and sustainable development: promotion of regional cohesion and competitiveness in the course of integrated approach to economy, environment, culture and society.

It should be emphasised that proposals, submitted in the European Union at the beginning of the nineties and concerning realisation of projects aimed at creation of foundations for regional innovation systems, were a reaction to processes and phenomena occurring in global scale. Indeed, implementation of innovation strategies is expected to stop downward trends in technological competitiveness with respect to economies of USA and Japan. The Lisbon Strategy assumed, as its strategic objective, that the European Union before the year 2010 will become the world's most competitive and dynamic economy, based on knowledge, capable of sustainable development, creating new jobs, and increasing social cohesion. Actions aimed at fulfilment of declarations presented in Lisbon include, among other things:

- facilitation of access to new technologies, promotion of innovation and research,
- necessity to reduce costs of running business activity and elimination of redundant bureaucracy hindering operation of small and medium-sized enterprises,
- improvement of access for small and medium enterprises to financial instruments, in particular to initial capital and micro loans.

Hopes and expectations related to implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies are considerable and oriented at increase of effectiveness of long-term, sustainable development processes. In particular, there is a need to initiate a system of incentives and behaviours, which would be able to dynamise innovation processes in fossilised economic structure of the European Union.

## 5. Conclusion

Modern development processes gain more and more complex, multi-aspect, and territorial dimension (Jewtuchowicz, 2005). Present transformations become typically characterised by localisation of global processes consisting in the fact that innovations in area of products, processes and organisation, which pertain to the whole of world economy, are developed in relatively small number of communities existing in rather closed local arrangements. Relations of co-operation and competition are being created between these arrangements, and such mutual relations are sometimes stronger than their links with their own regional environment.

Highly economically and technologically advanced regions and big metropolises are those territorial units which join the global competition struggle determinedly and dynamically. Regions between these poles of global competitiveness are much less saturated with economic activity of innovative character. For that reason, further spatial segmentation of development processes occurs, where relatively small spatial arrangements play role of innovation producers (Nowakowska, 2009). Another types of business activity, which only absorb and utilise innovations created elsewhere, are then located in remaining areas. Those less development-oriented and „technologically passive” sectors of economy also participate in competitive rivalry, which however takes place on rather different planes. Dimensions of regions competitiveness are therefore different, depending on adopted option of regional policy and, first of all, on the place in global economic order which is occupied by companies located in the area of given region.

In conditions of globalisation, regional development depends mainly on ability to utilise in full any available regional resources of knowledge, creativity and enterprise for development of new products and services as well as new organisational and management systems (Chądzyński, and Nowakowska, and Przygodzki, 2007). In that context, very important

becomes the supportive role of the state which realises properly adopted model of regional policy in order to face up to development trends prevailing in global scale. Regional and global development processes are interrelated, therefore they influence each other through a system of differentiated interactions, thus giving modern socio-economic transformations a “glocal” character.

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