

# Abstract

**Theoretical and Practical Dimension of Place-base Territorial Policy.** The aim of the research, the results of which have been presented in this monograph, is related to both theoretical and methodological as well as cognitive and application levels. The theoretical and methodological objective is to provide a theoretical framework for a place-based approach in development policy which embraces the pattern of socio-economic development factors in the context of new challenges of regional policy. In addition, what has been presented is an algorithm of the research procedure that makes it possible to verify theoretical assumptions, which is based on a quantitative approach (the use of mathematical and statistical methods and spatial econometrics) and a qualitative one (the use of qualitative research). The cognitive and application aim of the studies is a diagnosis of the state of the implementation of place-based policy in a less developed region, which is Wielkopolska, along with the identification of socio-economic development factors in the context of new challenges of regional policy and producing recommendations concerning their use in practical intervention measures. The period of the conducted analyses covers various, depending on data accessibility, series of observations within 2004-2018, allowing for the signalled historical determinants. In view of the existing restrictions on access to data in the examined spatial patterns and the period adopted, the results of the direct research are an important complement to the geographical information database used in this study. The field studies were carried out in 2019 in the area of nine purposely selected communes of Wielkopolskie Voivodeship representing various development types.

The book has been divided into nine chapters including the introduction, theoretical and empirical parts, and conclusion. The first chapter, an introductory one, presents how authors understand the determinants of contemporary spatial differences in the socio-economic development level, which is the basis for their motivation and the way the research procedure presented in this book as well as the organisation of its results are conducted. The second chapter is the theoretical part of the monograph. It covers both the proposals of the systematisation of the source literature regarding the explanation of the diversification of socio-economic development in space and the intervention impact on this process, as well as proposals to define, operationalise and use regional policy factors of development in practice. On the basis of these assumptions,

what has been presented is the author's proposal to detail the operational use of the place-based approach to explain and influence the development process. It rests on three elements of the triad: territorial capital — development diffusion — institutional determinants, the use of which is treated as indispensable for the effective implementation of cohesion policy measures ensuring sustainable development and fostering convergence. On the ground of the adopted assumptions, a conceptual model is constructed, which is taken as the basis for detailing the existing conception of a place-based approach and on which the further process of research investigation and explanation is built in this book. The third chapter describes the methodological bases of the conducted research procedure. The subsequent section shows the results of the empirical research carried out on the basis of the adopted theoretical assumptions which served to verify parts of formulated research hypotheses. This chapter presents the results of the analysis of differences in the level and dynamics of changes in the socio-economic development of communes in Poland. Chapters five, six and seven point to the results of the in-depth research of Wielkopolskie Voivodeship communes. The implementation of a broad programme of direct research using the techniques of questionnaire survey, in-depth interview and focus research relating to the purposely selected nine communes of Wielkopolska representing various development types allowed determining the impact of new challenges of regional policy on shaping socio-economic development factors in less developed regions. The fifth chapter has been dedicated to the issue of territorial capital, the sixth to development diffusion, and the seventh to institutional determinants. Thus, the triad of challenges which are the bases for place-based policy has been discussed in detail. In order to sum up the conducted in-depth research, the eighth chapter compares the assumptions about the programming of the intervention of regional place-based policy regarding the analysed communes to the opinions on its effectiveness given during the implementation of the direct research. Chapter nine concludes the reflections provided in this book, showing the outcomes of empirical verification of the research hypotheses formulated at the outset. The results obtained relate to the present directions and assumptions of the 2020+ regional policy, specified in the strategic and programming documents and operational recommendations are formulated to strengthen the impact of cohesion policy in the areas consistent with recommendations which are based on the results of the research conducted. Finally, owing to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which at the turn of 2019 and 2020 completely changed the conditions in which the countries and regions of Europe and the world operate, initial opinions and forecasts are presented concerning the direction and the scope of reorientation of the existing priority interventions of cohesion policy, which will have to allow for economic and social consequences of the long-lasting lockdown of the economy and introduced limitations on freedoms regarding making and maintaining social relations. Particular attention was paid to the new challenges of local government, which it has to face in these new conditions.

The innovative character of the research, the results of which are contained in this monograph follows from: (1) the systematisation and operational definition of the development factors considering the contemporary challenges of regional policy and specificity of development conditions of less developed regions, (2) a multivariant

approach to the systematisation of socio-economic development factors allowing for differences in the endogenous resources and exogenous impacts determining inequalities of the socio-economic development level in space, (3) the proposal of a methodology for measuring and forecasting the impact of factors on socio-economic growth, (4) the determination of the influence of new challenges of regional policy on shaping socio-economic development factors of less developed regions.

**Keywords:** Cohesion policy, factors of development, place-based approach, spatial disparities of socio-economic development, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship.