



УДК 332.14

Patrzalek L.

INTRAREGIONAL POLITICS – PREMISES AND PURPOSES

Представлено проблеми, пов'язані з передумовами та цілями внутрішньорегіональної політики. Висвітлено ідеї ендогенного розвитку як альтернативи внутрішньорегіональної політики.

The problems concerning the premises and purposes of the intraregional politics have been introduced. The ideas of the endogenous development as an alternative to the intraregional politics have been expressed.

Intraregional politics, the subject of which are the local self-governments or the endogenous development of the local authorities, are words that -partly synonymously related- very often appear in discussions about the intraregional politics both in the countries of the West European Union in the eighties and lately in Poland.

The ideas of the endogenous development - that are conceived as a supplement or an alternative to the intraregional politics - concentrate on mobilizing existing potentials and realizing regional and local common interests.

The ideas of the development of the endogenous potentials grew in Europe in the beginning of the eighties and their tempestuous progress results from many premises.

Firstly, the ideas dealing with the development and stimulating of the endogenous potentials are a reaction against traditional local politics, that is not always effective especially on the suburban areas, structurally weak. The local politics is "traditional" in a way that it considers the restructuring of the regions mainly by means of external capital and external (central) influences to be possible.

Secondly, because of the processes of the European integration, the debate on borders, institutions and the competence of regions and the way of mobilizing local and regional potentials gains considerable impetus. Regionalization process are expected to give way to impulses to the economic rise, unification of working conditions and the standard of living.

On the one hand, it is assumed that interventions of the European Union authorities well-fitting to the local and regional requirements will stimulate endogenous potential of development.

On the other hand, the connection between the supranational interventions and the initiatives from below is to be conducive to the processes of decentralization inside the members' countries of the European Union (Klaassen 1989, p.7).

The third premise is connected with bigger and bigger importance of neo-liberal doctrines discrediting the standing and the value of the regional policy of the country.

The neo-liberal doctrine expresses the standpoint that the processes of equalizing excessive disproportions in the particular area will take place sooner or later because of the influence of the market actions and mobilizing endogenous potentials from below.

The premise of the development of the intraregional politics are also regionalistic movements. They, directed against the centralistic country, lead to the intensive activities of the

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

local and regional communities and their readiness for self-determination. The regional living space is interpreted by local and regional communities as usable, maintaining identity, having the ability to make decisions and regional development is not only estimated by quantitative indicators but also by qualitative and structural ones, in which cultural, social, political and ecological values are of great importance.

There are three fundamental assumptions that are determinant in forming ideas of the development of the endogenous potentials:

People living within a particular area have unused abilities, skills to produce particular products and services, and natural resources that exist as well as knowledge and skills – give the reasons for big economic independence and stability of the region.

Political and cultural alternatives that are formulated by the regionalistic movements should be estimated as emancipating and social potential of the restoring particular area.

Ecological conditions of the regional development imply an increase, industrial expansion and decentralization of the political authority.

Not only is the estimation of the quantity and the quality of the resources crucial while considering the development of the endogenous potentials, but also an analysis of their disposal is directed according to the interests of the main participants of the local and regional development. (Brugger 1984, p.9). The consequences of it are double: to the kind of interregional public and private groups and to the co-operation of central, regional and local authorities. These consequences together with unused abilities of development of the area give chances to the process of development from below. There should exist many propitious conditions to make the most of chances:

1. the economic, cultural, ecological and political potential that is able to stimulate the development;
2. the possibility of selective, interregional exchange to achieve the aims connected with the development of the endogenous potentials;
3. the deciding structures and processes that are propitious to using the endogenous potential;
4. the integral understanding of the development and enabling the local communities to anticipate their area as economic, social, ecological and political living space;
5. the communication between groups (small communities) within the regions should be sufficiently working;
6. the existence of political leaders and leading enterprises for whom aims connected with the development of the region are of a great importance;
7. the development of co-operation between the suburban areas.

In the light of the conditions mentioned above it should be pointed out that the ideas of development of the endogenous potentials, treating the region as usable, maintaining identity, having the ability to decide area, especially pay attention to the following aims.

Firstly connected with the stability of the region as economic area, in order to make it come into being in the national and international markets , secondly with the development of new forms of co-operation within the region and for the region.

The aims of the idea of the development of the endogenous potentials also concentrate on ecological problems. Among them are tasks connected with economical and safe using of the regional and local resources, the production of high-grade products, using pro-ecological and energy-saving technologies and energy-saving inter- and intraregional technical infra-structure.

The economic aims of the intraregional politics concentrate on technical innovations, economic development and competition as conditions to create new places of employment.

These problems are common for pro-innovating oriented intraregional politics of the local self-governments.

Pro-innovating oriented intraregional politics perceive firms as the systems open to the environment, while the area and location as important conditions of human activity and co-operation. (Ewers et al 1980, p.27). These general assumptions imply three hypothesis:

- Internal features of the firm such as the quality of production factors, the structure of organization, relations must be different not only because of the size and belonging to the sector but also because of the location conditions.
- The complexity of the environment of the location and differences in the internal structure especially of small and middle firms, that are conditioned by it, influence their innovating abilities. Kinds of innovation, realized or avoided in firms depend on the situation of the environment.
- The location where there is a big concentration and differentiation of the enterprises activity creates more possibilities of innovation than the one where there is a low concentration.

Because town areas, in the matter of the potentials of man power, the possibilities of interaction and manager service, show bigger complexity in comparison with country and suburban regions, innovation processes more often take place in the areas of the bigger concentration of enterprises as systems open to the environment.

Nation-wide economic policy and interregional policy of the country is said to be important in pro-innovating oriented intraregional politics of the local self-governments.

Regional policy that wants to counteract existing disproportions between suburban, structurally weak and industry centres is to mobilize and to influence the state economic policy, among other things the policy of supporting industry and innovation. Small and middle enterprises dominate in the suburban and structurally weak areas, so the regional policy there means an increase in effectiveness of intraregional policy of the local self-governments supporting innovation of small and middle enterprises. Talking about these two datums – on one hand supporting the innovative ideas of small and middle enterprises, on the other hand economic policy – the main aim is to transfer the financial means, that are allocated for research on small and middle enterprises, creating establishments dealing with consultation on innovation and creating institutions of information in the region.

The ideas of pro-innovative oriented intraregional politics of local self-governments separate from traditional regional politics. These ideas emphasize that there is a need of separation the regional politics from fixing its attention on setting people in enterprises and development of technical infrastructure, and drawing its attention to improvement of regional innovative conditions. Such expressing of basic aims of regional policy of the country meets the interregional politics of local self-governments that notices endogenous potentials that can be found in new forms of co-operation and co-ordination and that can be and should be stimulated to activity (Winiarski 1994, p.177). On one hand because of the economic effectiveness one should tend to interdepartmental and interregional co-operation, on the other hand, because of the political and structural reasons, to co-operation that integrates the main political and economical participants. Their understanding of necessity of co-operative solving the problems and of their interdependence is an indispensable condition of efficient work and flexible supporting the innovation. This form of co-operation directed mainly to small and middle enterprises is understood as supporting innovative ideas oriented according to possessed resources. Considering such a way of approaching the subject, information become one of the most important innovative means.

Small and middle enterprises are imputed to show deficit of technological know-how, that should be reduced by consultation that is outside the enterprises or by a good communication infrastructure i.e. by including particular participants in the computer network and using external

and internal data bases. These ways of using sources of information should be complemented by factors connected with the level of qualifications and policy of location.

The purposes of economic intraregional politics realized by local self-government originate – together with results of development and increase of employment in region – from an enterprise. There create intra- and interregional connections based on innovative results connected with enterprises either delivering things or being purveyed. These connections cause that intraregional politics is concentrated on:

- Co-operation between businessmen , local and regional politicians, that concentrates on identification and overcoming innovative difficulties that businessmen , who are in the regions or districts and who realize innovative technologies , are often faced with.

- Influence on enterprises that deserve to be supported in the form of intentional subsidizing.

It is to be propitious for increasing innovative results in the region and overcoming obstacles.

- Supporting co-operative and innovative abilities of enterprises and magnifying effects that imply from the synergism of using tools.

In the world of economy, in the ninetieths, things are trending away from standardizing mass production and directs towards specialized production with universally used materials and tools. These tendencies influence on businessman's awareness of necessity for co-operation with employees and suppliers, in order to meet short-term and all the time new demands of the market. In these conditions production systems are characterized by flexible specialization i.e. division into smaller production units, changes in the organization of work and in interdepartmental and industrial connections. The processes of destroying hierarchy and creating collective structures on the level of enterprise, created by highly-qualified employees and engineers, would probably be results of this re-integration. It means -after all we observe it now- that multinational big concerns are trending away from standardizing mass production and organised dividing of work not only by shifting quasi-autonomous production units, but also by creating connections between sub-suppliers and small enterprises, that realize particular stages of production on their own responsibility.

Described tendencies of re-structural changes of multinational enterprises into independently acting units, controlled by the head office that assigns tasks and decides about investment, will have bigger and bigger influence on the development of endogenous potentials.

The systems of flexible specialization and decentralization of systems of concerns and creating smaller quasi-autonomous production units also mean moving in the direction of regions, districts.

The region together with its potentials of manpower, natural resources, the tradition of culture and human's mentality and "soft" infra-structural localization factors create "life-giving" basis crucial to the development of systems of flexible specialization.

Economic development processes intensely depend on existing of potentials of development in endogenous space. Especially regions that apart from differentiated structure of production are specialized craftsmen's qualifications and production unions, create good, differentiated and flexible production environment for development of technological innovations and new forms of organizations of production. The condition of their regional spreading is existing of, if possible strongly connected, differentiated and flexible internal and external regional action of transmission.

What intraregional politics of local self-governments, that especially developed in the eighties, has in common, is aiming to give its contribution towards effective regional politics by mobilizing endogenous potentials in region.

The ideas of stimulation of spread the endogenous potentials of the development concentrate on three kinds of issues:

- The development of region is not only estimated by quantity factors. There are also quality and structural factors in demand and cultural , political and ecological values.

- Intraregional politics of local self-governments is to create and develop methods of participations of citizens and to increase their activity.
- Intraregional co-operative dependences are to result from ecological premises.

When talking about the development of the term "endogenous potential of development" there appear many new conditions. Creating decentralized structures of enterprises, shifting competences of State onto supranational institutions and losing importance in the world of national economic centers, appreciates - more and more – region as economic and living space, and co-operation and co-ordination in regions, on economic, institutional, administrative and political planes, become an important premise for effective acting in the world market.

References

1. Brugger E.A.: "Endogene Entwicklung" : Ein Konzept zwischen Utopie und Wirklichkeit , in: Raumentwicklung t. 1/2, Bonn 1984
2. Ewers H.J./Wettmann R.W. , (1980) Innovationsorientierte Regionalpolitik, Bonn
3. Klaassen L.H.:Entwicklung des europaishen Raumes durch regionale Zusammenarbeit , in : Raumforschung t. 1, Bonn 1989
4. Winiarski B.:(red) "Polityka regionalna - kierunki i instrumentacja" ["The regional politics - trends and instrumentation "] Wydawnictwo Akademii Ekonomicznej, Wroclaw 1994 .

Рекомендовано до публікації
д.е.н., проф. Зайцевою Л.М. 03.12.03

Надійшла до редакції
21.11.03