



PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES **MACROECONOMIC AND REGIONAL ASPECTS**

ПРОБЛЕМЫ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ
СТРАН ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ И ВОСТОЧНОЙ ЕВРОПЫ
Макроэкономические и региональные аспекты

PROBLEMY POLITYKI EKONOMICZNEJ
PAŃSTW EUROPY ŚRODKOWEJ I WSCHODNIEJ
Aspekty makroekonomiczne i regionalne

Editors: Aranka Ignasiak-Szulc
Wojciech Kosiedowski



WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE
UNIWERSYTETU MIKOŁAJA KOPERNIKA

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Central and Eastern part of our continent until recently constituted the periphery of the global economic system and was faintly visible in international structures, but in recent years the situation has changed in a diametrically opposite: contemporary Central and Eastern European issues teeming with intense transformations are arousing a great interest in Europe and the world. These changes favor the very last enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty and the European Union and the consequent problems of these organizations with neighborly relations with the Community of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community and other political and economic groups, operating in the former Soviet Union. Of course, these changes occur due to many external and internal factors, among which a particularly important role belongs to economic policy of states located here. Each of them after the recovery (or obtaining) sovereignty a quarter of a century ago, entered the bumpy road of system transformation, trying to meet the challenges of development and the demands and aspirations of their societies. These roads have proven to be not only divergent, but also more or less tortuous, and sometimes even turning back. Despite the fact that these countries are characterized by similar conditions of geographical and geopolitical location, comparable socio – historical considerations, and especially the common heritage of the era of “real socialism”, their economic policy was and still is very diverse, both in terms of the objectives and priorities pursued and means, methods and instruments of influence on economic life. This thesis focuses particu-

larly on countries not participating in the process of European integration, but not only – countries that are already members of the EU, also quite a few differ among themselves in this regard. These differences are even more apparent that relate not only to the so-called macro-economic policy, but also because, along with the system transformation reforms some changes in territorial system and regional structure were made, resulting in the weakening of centralized management of development and liberation of local government. Empowered regions were eager to use their new prerogatives, boldly entering the political arena, sometimes even contrary to the expectations of the central authorities.

In general, all agree to the fact that the changes taking place in our part of the continent should be tracked and analyzed with special care. However, as so far, the experience of our near and far Eastern neighbors are still little known, which does not facilitate the development of mutually beneficial cooperation. Considering this, with the will to at least partially fill the gap noticed, The Center for Central and Eastern Europe Research operating at Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, along with the Department of European Integration and Regional Studies of that University, is organizing a series of international conferences under the name “Regional Development”, addressed to interested scientific, political, administrative, business, government and other circles from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The last of these – the sixth – debated under the patronage of the Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, Mr Piotr Calbecki, on 20–21 September, 2013 in Torun, under the title “Managing Strategic Development of the Region – Perspective 2014 – 2020. Recommendations for Poland and Central – Eastern Europe”. This project was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional Operational Programme of the Kujawsko – Pomorskie Voivodeship. It was attended by about 50 participants representing almost all the major national centers and 35 foreign guests from: Azerbaijan (Baku), Belarus (Grodno, Gomel, Minsk, Vitebsk), Kazakhstan (Astana), Lithuania (Klaipeda, Kaunas, Vilnius), Latvia (Daugavpils, Riga), Russia (Kaliningrad, Moscow, Tomsk), Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Pereyaslav Khmelnytsky).

During two plenary sessions and four meetings in sections more than 40 speeches and statements were delivered.

A nice addition to the conference was a simple ceremony to commemorate the jubilee of XX years of fruitful cooperation between the Department of European Integration and Regional Studies of NCU with three foreign institutions: the University of Daugavpils (Latvia), the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius (Lithuania) and the Institute of Economic Research of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk (Belarus). In the course of this celebration the ViceRector of Nicolaus Copernicus University, Professor Włodzisław Duch gave to the present representatives of these institutions, initiators of many activities implemented jointly: Professor Vladimirs Mienshikov from Daugavpils, Professor Algirdas Stanaitis from Vilnius and Dr. Anton Slonimski from Minsk – Medals of Nicolaus Copernicus granted by NCU. At the same time, many wishes, congratulations and words of appreciation received the originator and *spiritus movens* of this cooperation – Professor Wojciech Kosiedowski from NCU, Dr. H. C. from University of Daugavpils, who also chaired the Scientific and Organizing Committee of the conference.

This book contains an important part of the achievements of the above described project. It contains 26 original texts, prepared on the base of conference reports presented in English and Russian language. They all relate to important current issues of economic and regional policies pursued in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The editors of the volume arranged them into 5 chapters. The first part includes the analyzes and commentaries to selected issues of macroeconomic policy (at national level), the second one contains articles on new regional policy conditions, in the third one new determinants of regional development are characterized, in the fourth one the evolution of public finances and their role in the development process is highlighted, and the fifth shows some regional research methods.

Wide range of concepts, views, opinions and interpretations reflecting interesting and informative experiences and challenges through which Central and Eastern Europe rapidly catches up the delay