

Entrepreneurship in rural areas of Eastern Poland and population migrations - mutual relations and economic effects

Summary

Entrepreneurship is treated by many economists and scientists as an important factor which contributes to the economic development of regions. It is also widely believed that it is an opportunity to improve the standards of living of the inhabitants in rural areas. Therefore, studying the phenomenon of entrepreneurship is extremely important in the context of dynamizing economic processes in peripheral areas which are characterized by a negative migration balance. The problem of diversified development in rural areas particularly concerns the region of Eastern Poland.

Despite many scientific studies, relatively little is known about the mutual impact of entrepreneurship and population migration, as well as the conditions and economic effects of this relationship. Therefore, there are research gaps that need to be filled. It still remains an open question whether the level of entrepreneurship determines population migrations to a greater extent or vice versa - population migrations have a greater impact on entrepreneurship. There is still not enough research to explain which of these two factors contributes more to reducing unemployment in rural areas. Another problem is to determine the importance of the diversification of the industry structure of entrepreneurship in limiting the outflow of people from rural areas in Eastern Poland. For that reason, the results of research on the relationship between entrepreneurship and population migration are particularly important because, on the one hand, they enable a better understanding of the multifaceted processes taking place in rural areas, and on the other hand, they help to develop a more effective support system for the problem regions.

The above arguments were the basis for adopting the research topic, formulating the objectives of the work and research hypotheses. The main objective of the dissertation is to identify the conditions which shape the relationship between entrepreneurship in rural areas of Eastern Poland and population migration, as well as to identify and evaluate selected economic effects of this phenomenon.

The dissertation consists of five chapters. The first chapter discusses methodological issues. It defines terms related to the research topic, justifies the choice of the topic, formulates goals, and research hypotheses. The second chapter presents the phenomenon of entrepreneurship and population migration in the light of selected theories and observations resulting from the study of the literature on the subject, and regarding research gaps in the area of the discussed issues. The third chapter deals with the characteristics of Eastern Poland from the perspective of the conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and population migration. The region is presented in terms of natural, demographic, historical and socio-cultural aspects. The fourth chapter describes the results of analyzes concerning the identification and delimitation of research types in rural areas. Then, the results of the research are presented and interpreted. They focus on determining the impact of population density, location of rural areas, human capital and EU funds on entrepreneurship and population migration. The last (fifth) chapter, which, like the previous one, is of an empirical nature, is devoted to identifying the economic effects of the aforementioned relationship. The chapter presents and discusses the results of the research relating to the impact of entrepreneurship and population migration on the level of unemployment, the amount of income of the commune from PIT and CIT and the average annual income of the taxpayer. The relationships between population migrations and the ownership, size and industry structure of entrepreneurship are also taken into account in the presented analyses. What is more, an attempt has been made to determine which has a stronger influence: entrepreneurship on migration or migration on entrepreneurship.

As a result of the conducted analyses, it was established that the development of entrepreneurship is strongly connected with the location in relation to the main urban centers and main communication routes. Areas located peripherally in relation to such centers are characterized by a clear slowdown in economic processes. It was found that communes located at an average distance of up to 30 km from the center of the region's capital are characterized by the highest entrepreneurship and the largest influx of people. Such a location also serves to obtain higher incomes by residents due to better access to the city's labor market. It has been shown that the highest dynamics of the decrease in the unemployment level are characterized by communes with high entrepreneurship and positive migration balance, and the smallest by communes with low entrepreneurship and negative migration balance. In addition, rural areas with high entrepreneurship and high

unemployment were identified, which proves the existence of forced entrepreneurship. It has been shown that a positive migration balance contributes to the growth of the level of entrepreneurship. On the other hand, the development of entrepreneurship has no influence on stopping the outflow of people from rural areas in Eastern Poland. Moreover, even increasing the diversification of the industry structure of entrepreneurship does not contribute to limiting this process. The research results indicate that population migrations have a greater impact on entrepreneurship than entrepreneurship on migrations. It was also proved that the direction of rural development in the years 2004 - 2019 showed a systematic increase in the level of entrepreneurship with a simultaneous increase in the outflow of population. Directions, as well as the type of support instruments, should therefore be diversified, taking into account the specificity of the local environment and the needs of residents. In order to stop the process of regional polarization of Eastern Poland more effectively, the importance of smaller cities as subregional growth poles should be strengthened.

JEL codes: R11, O18, L26.

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