

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC MONOGRAPH: EU AND SLOVAK CLUSTER POLICIES INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT (PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES, ISSUES)

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KORDOŠ, Marcel: EU AND SLOVAK CLUSTER POLICIES INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT (PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES, ISSUES), Centre of Sociological Research, Szczecin, 2019. 209 p. ISBN: 978-83-952923-3-0. DOI: 10.14254/978-83-952923-3-0/2019

Clusters are an important element in regional economy that contributes to the development of regions and their competitiveness. From a regional policy perspective, they have become a driving force for social and economic strategies of regional development. Author of monograph Kordoš, M. (2019) "EU and Slovak Cluster Policies Interactions within the Regional Development Enhancement (Perspectives, Challenges, Issues)" based on EU cluster and regional policies is trying to find out how these policies are implemented in regional development in Slovak Republic and whether they contribute to increasing the competitiveness and social and economic development of Slovak regions.

According to the author, the cluster is an element of regional economy, it is the result of development and resources in region resulting from the close proximity of the site and intensive cooperation. Author draws attention to the fact that companies that are clustered can, on one hand, compete but on the other hand they can cooperate. Then, the success of the cluster depends mainly on its links with the region, resources, investment activities, which are stimulated through various projects and legislation. Cooperation and competition are potential tools for increasing the value of a region, as a combination of knowledge, skills, knowledge and know-how of several separate entities is used, thus achieving the desired synergy effect. One of the aims of the monograph was to find out whether clusters could be implemented in regional development strategy as tools that could help to overcome regional differences and ensure the social and

economic development of entire national economy.

The monograph is elaborated in the extent of 209 pages and divided into 3 main chapters. The chapters are processed in a logical sequence and are characterized by content coherence. The textual parts of the monograph are supplemented with 12 pictures and 11 tables, which illustrate the text of the monograph and support the author's analyzes and statements. The high level of the monograph is underlined by the quality and current literary sources being used by the author. His work was based on up to 222 foreign and domestic articles, publications, reports from the European Commission, the European Central Bank and other institutions. The work is published in English language.

The structure of the publication is logical. The first theoretical chapter analyzes and defines the terms clustering and cluster. It deals with its typology in the context of regional policy. Within this chapter, the author introduces and defines regional policy, its tools and implementation mechanism. He highlights that political approaches, typology, clustering, as well as symptoms, must be analyzed and defined in terms of cluster characteristics. Within the second chapter, there is a discussion on how EU cluster policy is implemented in EU regional programs by assessing their synergies and parallels. Author also discusses the roles that this policy plays in ensuring sustainable economic growth in European Communities and in increasing the EU competitiveness in international economic environment. The third chapter presents the issue of Slovak cluster policy and its implementation in Slovak cluster environment. According to the author, the key

issue is the way in which clusters contribute to increasing Slovakia's regional competitiveness. In conclusion, we can find a proposal to support the emerging of Slovak clusters with an emphasis on mutual synergies and clustering within regional competitiveness enhancement.

According to the author, when implementing and enforcing the cluster policy, it is important to realize that policy interventions can play an important role in supporting clusters, but should be limited to clusters with high and innovative potential. It is necessary to build on the symbiosis of cluster and regional policies of the EU and Slovakia, which lead to cluster activity processes within the Slovak regions, where clusters can act as one of the main regional instruments for increasing the competitiveness of regions. It is necessary to take into account the fact that competitiveness and innovation are also influenced by other

factors contained in the competitiveness pillars. At the end of the work, the author assumes that Slovak economy is built on the basis of production factors and is not enough driven by innovation yet.

The scientific monograph is a welcoming current scientific publication covering the latest trends in the field of clusters and cluster policy.

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