

INTRODUCTION

Revolutionary changes in economy, progressive globalization of the world of innovation, greater openness of societies, migration processes, large social mobility and unlimited relations by means of technological tools, developed for only a few years, focus on soft management tools such as quality and culture open new innovation opportunities – they constitute a valuable chance that is possible to use broadly because the opportunities create resources of new knowledge being a perfect innovative potential. The degree to which knowledge is processed into innovations depends on the creativity and people's entrepreneurship, organization and societies. At the same time entrepreneurial development with a high level of innovation, investment, but also effects is of particular importance. The views of J. Schumpeter, formulated in the first half of the twentieth century, and then P. Drucker's views from the 1980s undoubtedly had the greatest impact on the contemporary understanding of innovation processes and their importance to the enterprise. J. Schumpeter saw the essence of innovation in the changes of "significant scope", disrupting the existing equilibrium and creating a new "combination of production factors." With these innovations entrepreneurs achieve above-average returns, making economy more dynamic. Product innovations, new processes and new forms of organization and management are especially important. Thanks to them, entrepreneurs may not only overcome barriers more easily to enter the market, but it is also easier for them to rival the existing competition.

The creation of an innovation is an essential driver of the competitiveness and economic growth in all economies. The innovation processes in the macro scale are shaped by the market mechanism, however in the case of structures, which are unfavourable to the market and the market mechanism fails, it is essential to implement the state's innovative policy. This policy should be consistent and coherent with the EU policy assumptions; it must consist of a set of deliberated decisions that would cause financial outlays. These decisions concern the development of domestic and regional innovation systems (innovation processes stimulation, domestic and regional policy coherence, development of innovative companies) as well as the creation of companies that form and implement "soft" innovations and companies that invest money in new and risky spheres. Along with entrepreneurship, innovation creates favourable conditions for development, determines the growth of countries, regions and organizations. This leads to treating them jointly as a global, regional phenomenon and, with equal attention, as a problem of individual organizations and people.

The subject of innovation, entrepreneurship and creative process presented in this monograph is a proposal which brings closer, illuminates and explains the essence, mechanisms, multiple effects of processes of innovation and entrepreneurship. Most of the papers discuss this issue and others refer to the main topic to a large extent. The following main thematic areas have been adopted: innovation management in the organization, economy and UE; innovativeness, entrepreneurship as a theoretical problem and the research area; creating a company innovation capacity; innovation barriers, opportunities and threats, resistance to innovations and other. The published papers represent an innovative step not only for the novelty of the presented approach, but also for the ways of handling the topic.

We wish you a pleasant and constructive reading.

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