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The meaning of the civil society in the formation of the region's development

Key words: structure of the region, civil society, determinants of the region's development

S u m m a r y: The article deals with the matter of determinant of the region's development, particularly of the civil society and its meaning in the region. The ideas of the region and its development are presented and the value of factors connected with human capital and institutional circumstances of development prevail over the material ones. The aim of the article is to show the region by means of the innovative model of economic and social structure, using the equilateral triangle whose sides are marked: the market economy, the civil society and the democratic state. The location of mentioned elements of the structure in the equilateral triangle presents their equivalent position towards each other as well as the conciliation of different rationalities attributed to the market (allocation rationality), to the state (distributional rationality) and to the society (rationality of solidarity). These elements are not separated from each other because of ontological differences but due to functional ones. That is why we can observe the phenomenon of 'perychoresis' (interpenetration), which is a mutual penetration of three subjects of the socially-economic structure.

The following hypothesis has been formulated: the quality of the civil society, as an element of the region's structure next to the market and the state, has an essential influence on the development of the region through its economic and social activity.

1. Introduction

The economy is going through essential changes in the social-economic structure of regions. This results from the fact that the space becomes one of the basic elements of analyses of the economic development. Regions growing as the new entities both

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in national and international sections begin to subject to mechanisms and phenomenon characteristic for the present economy (1, p. 18).

Processes taking place in regions depend on entities of the region's structure, their aims, functions they have and above all on the relations between them. These entities are: the market, the state and the society. Such triple European model is distant from the classical one which has always seized the society and the politics as the dichotomous opposition: the unit versus the society, the unit versus the government. These entities infiltrate mutually, but do not lose their own identity and they do not change either. Thanks to such infiltration it is possible to obtain the effect of synergy. Obviously, the key role is played by rules regulating the infiltration of the market, the state and the society.

Regions are a special area of the formation of communities and relations between people in processes of the creation of common good, including the economic activity. Social activity is a crucial part of the region, based on the local community resources and is qualified as a social capital. Thus it is necessary to build socially responsible territory through the creation of wide and permanent networks of cooperation between the public, the market and the civil section.

2. The region and its development

The notion 'region' possesses many definitions. With the name of the region one qualifies both huge surfaces as well as small ones. Such depiction causes that both in practice and literature we meet various definitions of region and its classifications. The word 'region' derives from the Latin *region*—direction, line, province, and circle.

The key meaning in a research concerning regions is to define the notion of the economic region, which is the area separated on the basis of economic criteria, functionally connected with all national economy and possessing the definite economic profile (3, p. 278). August Lösch is considered to be the first to introduce this notion, indicating the differences between the economic and administrative region. The economic region, according to him, has an objective character, because it is created as a result of social and economic processes that take place there. All processes happening are related and interact; whereas the administrative region is subjective creation and processes that occur in this region do not have to be connected (2, p. 11).

Present regional studies appeal to new ideas of the region, according to which each region is an individual and unique phenomenon (4, p. 32). Smart specialization of regions based on the knowledge, the technological development and innovations distinguishes the regions that develop the most quickly, the ones characterized by the most effective utilization of accessible internal and external resources due to high innovation, close cooperation of regional institutions, their wide participation in the creation and the realization of development strategies, the fully developed network of

external contacts, easy access to the information and most modern techniques of their transformation and using the best world experiences (5, p. 52).

An attempt at defining the region allows to state this notion is constantly evolving, embracing the wider and wider spheres of the human activity and the social environment. Consequently regional analyses go over the traditional objective aspect (treating region as a surrounding), taking into account the treats of regional community and relations between them (the subjective depiction) (6, p. 53). The region realizes important assignments of public administration, often even prior than the ones of the state, it is the base of democracy, making it possible for inhabitants to influence on articulation and settlement of local, regional, nationwide or even international matters, at the same time leaving the possibility to participate in deciding about public matters (7, p. 41).

Undertaking the problems of the region one ought to introduce determinants influencing his development. A review of the main present ideas of the regional development shows that the number of factors affecting development of regions is extending. Moreover, it is noticeable that the value of factors connected with human capital and institutional circumstances of development prevail over the material ones. Such factors have a unique meaning for the concepts of the regional development: M. Porter, A. Scott and M. Storper who underline the meaning of social and cultural (beyond economic) phenomena as factors of the region's development. This immaterial supply of macro surrounding was noticed also by James Coleman, Robert Putnam and Francis Fukuyama seeking dependences between the degree of economic development of regions, and what is qualified as the capital or social 'potential', as the network of social bonds which bring possibilities of cooperation on different grounds of the activity (8). In 1980s J. Coleman stated that social relations come into being when entities try to use their own individual resources and can be treated as the capital of a given community. Thanks to this capital we can better solve social problems and regulate rules of the local community's activity, as well as efficiently develop the economic enterprise (9).

Another form of social supply is introduced by R. Putnam who determines networks of civil engagement. Neighbours' associations, unprofessional choruses or cooperatives could be such examples. They are characterized by voluntary engagement in common good, liberation of the social activity, inclination to cooperate and building the mutual trust. Networks of the civil engagement make social communication easier and develop tendency to settlement. Similarly the idea of social capital is presented by F. Fukuyama calling it 'moral net' of the society—shared and practiced by mostly such values as: honesty, loyalty and solidarity (9).

The social capital has an essential meaning in the development of region. It contributes to the decrease of uncertainty in the social and economic life. It replaces individual outlays necessary to diminish the uncertainty in the activity and economic cooperation. The social capital enlarges economic activity which is often limited by the lack of financial capital, modifies directions and improves the investment efficiency.

The most important function of the social capital is the co-ordination of individual and group activities in economy. Andrzej Matysiak, on the other hand, brings functions of the social capital to ‘the invisible hand of the market’, directing human activities. Obviously a leading motive of people’s action is their own advantage, however, the social capital prevents from negative results of this motive, i.e. conflicts and, consequently, the social instability. It happens so because the social capital points frames of own advantage, qualifying attributes of individual and global activities, providing advantages for everyone (10, p. 63).

3. The market, the state and the society as subjects of the region’s structure

Every region has a definite structure which consists of elements and relations between them. One of the subjects of this region’s structure is the market, being the most important category in economy learning. It is the field on which producers and consumers can express their own will of economic activity, pointing the quantity, the quality, operating cost and, finally, the price. It appears that the market is like a firm tie between participants of the market, which become realistic through prices, making an influence on economic decisions of all economic subjects and also causing the definite reaction of consumers and producers (11, p. 37).

The most important function of the market, apart from the possibilities to form the prices of goods, is the settlement of balance between the rate of output and consumption. The market establishes the surface to exchange information about other participants of the market and about appearing products (12, p. 54). The market plays very important role in functioning of social and economic life, due to the fact that this is the only stimuli of the development and without it we cannot satisfy the needs of society (13, p. 38).

The present theory of economy, explaining market processes, is rooted in the tradition of the classical economy and is based on the foundation of rational elections made by economic entities. It states that the man, being the subject of many socio-economical systems, works in them as the farming man (Latin *homo economicus*). Therefore, the basic idea of activity of *homo economicus*, as well as a foundation of his decisions and activities is the will to make rational choices (14, p. 33).

The immemorial question concerning the role of state in the economy is to qualify a range of the State’s interventionism which should efficiently protect markets before deformations and prevent them from the lack of balance of the economy, especially crises. The changes taking place in relations between state and the market influence not only the rules of the game, within which the state and the outside market function. They begin the game open on new social initiatives, on more active role of citizens, but also, on the new, based on values social imperatives (15, p. 14).

Consequently, we notice that except from the market and the state, the society—citizens along with their potential—is an entity of the region's structure. In the area of soft sciences and humanistic there appears qualification of the civil society engaged into social matters. Its essence is that the society obtains definite rights thanks to which it can organize and coordinate its own activities through the appointment of definite organizations, free from state supervision. They can significantly put an impact on the direction or change of state's social policy. The range of the civil society is not determinable, depends on the degree of liberties and range of rights admitted by governments of each state to its citizens (16, p. 16). John Keane defines the civil society as concentrations of institutions, whose members participate first of all in a complex of non-state activities—economic and cultural production, households life and voluntary associations—and who in this way preserve and transform their own identity by exercising all sorts of pressures or controls upon state institutions (17, p. 5).

Summing up, we should state that the structure of region has three entities: the market, the state and the civil society. One of the first economists who introduced the triple structure model of social system in the form of the equilateral triangle, and not the straight opposition of units and the government was Kenneth Boulding. He distinguished three great happening and affecting each other subsystems: market, government and society (Figure 1; 18, p. 60).

Tops of the equilateral triangle presented in Figure 1 determine functional measurements of markets, government and society, and they are adequately: exchange, compulsion and love. The presenting of model of economic and social structure by means of the equilateral triangle which sides mark: the market economy, the civil society and the democratic state, assumes that this structure has a coordinate position in relation to remaining elements and has to help in conciliation of different rationalities credited—to the market (allocation rationality), to the state (distributional rationality) and to the society (rationality of solidarity) (18, p. 59). Mentioned elements of the economic and social system are not separated from each other for ontologic differences, but functional. That is why, the phenomenon of 'perychoresis' occurs, which is the mutual interpenetration of working entities in social life. The thing is that, all three elements of social and economic reality are to cooperate as the necessary, integral, multidimensional conditions of man's development. Results of this activity and cooperation of people depend not only on interaction of involved units, but also of the institutions, so far skipped in economic analyses, preferring mainly praxeological analysis of costs and advantages. The market and the state deliver private and public goods whereas the society produces relational goods which considerably differ from private and public (Table 1).

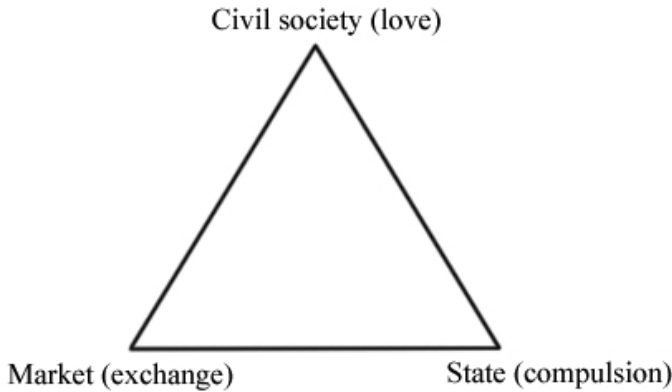


Figure 1. Model of social-economic structure with the use of equilateral triangle

Source: Author’s own study on the basis of (18, p. 60).

Table 1

The characterization of economic goods

Specification	Private goods	Relational goods	Public goods
Rivarily in the consumption	Yes	No (antirivarily)	No (no rivarily)
Exclusion from the consumption	Yes	Yes/ No	No
The consumption in isolation	Yes	No	Yes
Responsibility of production from consumption	Yes	No	Yes

Source: Author’s own study on the basis of (18, p. 69).

Relational goods are produced personally and their production cannot be commissioned to anybody. Examples of such goods are: friendship, social acceptance, solidarity, emotional support, sense of belonging, thus, goods which are named *communio*. Relational goods are anti-rivalry in the consumption, because their nature is to share with others. Exclusion from the consumption is possible, but depends on relation with partners (this is the only feature which they share with private goods—Table 1). The participation in their consumption produces actually positive externality towards partners. Such goods like these cannot be consumed in isolation, and their production cannot be separated in time and space from consumption. Relational goods are not replaceable; they possess the value, but they do not have the market price. They realize all conditions to be the common good. The common good is not a simple sum of particular goods of every entity in the dimension of social organism.

Belonging to all and to every individual, the good is and stays common, because it is indivisible and can be attained, increased and protected only together, also owing to the future (19, p. 164).

4. The civil society in the region

Regions are a special area of communities' formation and relations between people in processes of the creation of common good, also in the form of economic activity. Social activity is crucial in the acting of the region, based on resources of local community which is qualified as a social capital.¹ It is gathered by means of inter-human relations, not sporadic ones, but the relations in the network of continuous connections which are used to the realization of common aims and make it easier to achieve success. Therefore, there is a necessity to build the socially responsible territory, through the creation of wide and permanent networks of cooperation between public, market and civil sectors.

To make the civil society play the essential role, it must possess internal powers, own complex structure in the network of mutual—and not controlled by the state and his aggregate—connections between people and social groups (20, p. 5). The sector of civil activities in Poland is just being built. Organizations learn the leadership of promotion and lobbying actions, learn the cooperation with the public section and the business (21, p. 19).

The measurement of the civil society is not easy. A basic reason of this difficulty is the plurality of definitions, which expresses certain elusiveness of the notion being examined. It is difficult to measure confidence or truthfulness. We can, however, examine these factors indirectly, by means of elements expressing their existence (22, p. 76).

Since the 2000 year, every two years the team under the management of professor Janusz Czapiński makes the social diagnosis in Poland taking into consideration different areas, such as: living conditions of households, individual quality of life, condition of civil society, use of informative and communication technology, social exclusion. The last report appeared in June, 2013. The simplest measure of the condition of the civil society is the membership in voluntary groups or a number of such groups, electoral attendance and reading of periodicals. These factors are to show the attitude of citizens distinguishing the occurrence of high or low civil society. The high rate means that a great number of citizens will be associated in any groups for different common and individual aims, will take active participation in public life

¹ In literature there are many definitions of social capital, which are created due to the needs of specific research or theoretical considerations. In encyclopedia of sociology, social capital is described as inter-human relations that can be used by an individual or a group as means of realizing common aims. Pierre Bourdieu, James Coleman, Robert Putnam and Francis Fukuyama are considered to be creators of theoretical basis and the development of the concept of social capital.

through the participation in elections. In addition, the World Bank diagnoses the level of social capital by means of the membership measurement in local associations and networks. Additionally taken into consideration is the trust to government institutions and to the unknown, etc.

According to the research conducted on the Polish society, it appears that 15% of citizens were a member of organizations, associations, parties, committees, councils, religious groups, unions: 11.6% belonged to one association, 2.2% to two, 1% to two or more, yet, 85.2% did not belong to any organization. According to the report, only 32.2% of Poles who belonged to a certain organization played there definite functions. It seems that only 4.8% of respondents fulfilled some functions by choice, however, remaining over 95% was devoid of experience and skills to be chosen and to participate in running an organization. These rates show the low degree of the civil society development in Poland, little experience and social competences, which citizens can gather taking part in various activities in organizations, participation in social initiatives, in public meetings or voluntary work.

Large meaning in defining experience and civil skills has the social status which is measured by a level of education. Results from the report show that educated citizens are better organized, can express their own business and better use possibilities created by democracy on the local level.

The criterion showing the quality of civil society is the level of interest and the manner of using public goods. 50% of respondents declared that using common goods concerns them little or nothing. Poles are not interested in the fact that somebody does not pay for public transport or avoids paying taxes. The indifference towards these forms of violation of common goods considerably grew smaller since 2007, but is still on high level. The permission to receive unjustly the unemployment benefit is expressed by 42% of respondents who do not care about it. Similarly, the fact of unjust pension or wheedling indemnities from the insurance companies.

The participation of society in elections is the most common civil experience, and in particular taking part in municipal elections being a form of engagement into the matters of own local and regional. From the presented report, it appears that in 2010 68.3% of Poles took part in municipal elections (so showed the respondents answers), despite the real electoral attendance, given by PKW, was only 47.3%. The participation in elections is connected with a social status measured by level of education, and thus 73.3% of people taking part in elections had the higher education with the degree of at least a doctor, 80.5% the higher education with the degree of MSc, 69.8% of respondents possessed the secondary education of general education, 67.4% of principle professional, 25.6% are citizens after the elementary school and 44.6% did not possess the education (basic not finished).

In many studies it is stressed that a requisite element in building and consolidating of the civil society is the trust. The trust based on social ties, social values, norms in a word—on the social capital (23, p. 36). Only 19% of Poles express an opinion that most people can be trusted and it is the percentage three times smaller than in

Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Only 13% of Poles believe in good intentions of other people. The level of trust rises only after reaching or exceeding the threshold of secondary education (greater interest in public matters, more developed network of social contacts, lifestyle, organizational skills connected with the acquaintance of procedures and regulations). Taking into consideration the level of citizens' trust towards financial institutions 46% of examined have the moderate confidence to the Polish National Bank, 28% of respondents do not trust commercial banks, 34% of the questioned do not trust life insurance companies, and on the other hand, 35% have no opinion. Surprisingly, the results also show the limited confidence to Open Retirement Funds—19% of the respondents and 38% of the examined about the entire mistrust. 40% of Polish citizens have no confidence to the Institution of Social Services.

The low development of civil society in Poland results from the situation in which it was to work and create itself in the 1970s against the state. Therefore, it was deprived of the first, motor part, indispensable to form democracy and open society. It happened so not because of negligence, but necessity. The civil society created to fight regime is not able to build and make just from itself.

The well working state must have the consciousness that its most important resource is the society and culture connected with it as well as the cooperation between citizens, because the approach of citizens to common goods is an important element influencing the economic development of the country. Surely, all activities consolidating the development of initiatives of the civil society must begin from the stimulation of local communities' activity. The activation of local communities is extremely essential, because all activities intensifying the development of social initiatives in the region must begin from this. They rely, first of all, on the conviction of citizens that they determine the main power of their own local community's development.

5. Conclusions

If an aim of the region's development is the economic and social development then a big challenge for the realization of this aim is the creation of proper accounts between entities of the region's structure (market, state, civil society). It is possible provided these relations are characterized by interpenetration (not separation), which is qualified as social 'perychoresis' (interpenetration). It assumes that although entities infiltrate, they do not lose their own identity nor change. We can state that they are functionally changeable, whereas the society is superior. The civil society influences greatly formation of the region and its development, what is noticeable in the form of:

- initiations of social companies and including them into the network of cooperation on the thing of local community's development;
- the creation of local economies based on the engagement of all community and the usage of resources;

- the stimulation of balanced local development on the basis of local resources, potential of place and people, i.e. local competitive superiorities, such as e.g. natural values, tourist and cultural heritage;
- the stimulation of enterprising attitudes, mobilization and development of competences connected with functioning on the competitive labour market.

The meaning of regional factors of development in the form of the civil society is underlined by the European Committee through programmes based on the potential of local activity, and also OECD which states that local organizations and people stimulate themselves to production and intensification of local communities, thanks to the maximum exploitation of resources. This is the region where the development based on the engagement of local organizations and people is possible and also assures the realization of local needs. The participation of local partners is indispensable also to the initiation of strategies projected from the central level, because it adapts them to the regional situation, and contributes additional ideas and proposals of the activity. The regional development becomes a common aim which unites all organizations and inhabitants. Besides it is possible to be reached only thanks to the engagement of as large group of regional partners as possible (24, p. 23).

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Znaczenie społeczeństwa obywatelskiego w kształtowaniu rozwoju regionu

Streszczenie: W artykule podjęto tematykę determinant rozwoju regionu, a w szczególności społeczeństwa obywatelskiego i jego znaczenia w regionie. Zaprezentowano nowe koncepcje regionu i jego rozwoju, które przesuwają punkt ciężkości z materialnych czynników na czynniki związane z kapitałem ludzkim oraz z instytucjonalnymi warunkami rozwoju. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie regionu za pomocą nowatorskiego modelu struktury gospodarczo-społecznej przy wykorzystaniu trójkąta równobocznego, którego boki wyznaczają: gospodarka rynkowa, społeczeństwo obywatelskie i państwo demokratyczne. Umieszczenie wymienionych elementów struktury w trójkącie równobocznym świadczy o ich równorzędnej pozycji względem siebie oraz o godzeniu odmiennych racjonalności przypisywanych rynkowi (racjonalność alokacyjna), państwu (racjonalność dystrybucyjna) i społeczeństwu (racjonalność solidarności). Elementy te nie są bowiem od siebie oddzielone ze względu na różnice ontologiczne, lecz funkcjonalne. Zachodzi więc tak zwane zjawisko perychorezy, czyli wzajemnego przenikania się trzech podmiotów struktury gospodarczo-społecznej.

Sformułowano następującą hipotezę: jakość (skuteczność) społeczeństwa obywatelskiego będącego elementem struktury regionu obok rynku i państwa ma istotny wpływ na rozwój regionu przez jego aktywność gospodarczą i społeczną.

Słowa kluczowe: struktura regionu, społeczeństwo obywatelskie, determinanty rozwoju regionu
