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The development of innovation and entrepreneurship in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania

Key words: innovation, product and process innovation, industrial parks, technology parks, business incubators

1. Introduction

Innovativeness as a factor of local and regional development requiring institutional stimulation and one can say it is even an act of creation. As can be concluded from Polish *Innovation Economic Efficiency Strategy*¹, a series of serious challenges emerged during the development of Poland. The possibilities of contributing to the economic growth based on relatively low cost of work (in comparison to the majority of European Union member countries). Poland occupies a disadvantageous position in the latest innovation rating of EU member countries². Poland was considered as so-called moderate innovator, and the value of the synthetic indicator of innovation being 0,296 (European Union average being 0,539) managed to surpass only 4 member countries of the Union.

Within the nominated associations, different kinds of organizations and institutions, there appear some centres and business incubators aimed at the develop-

ment of innovation and entrepreneurship. They are supported financially, organizationally, logistically and personally by the entities of local government, putting into effect – as their own task – pro-development local and regional policy. At the same time, the possibilities guaranteed by the funds from European Union are widely taken advantage of. Undoubtedly, it has a positive impact on the local employment market and within it there will be many job positions and the decrease of employment rate. Thus, an interest subject to research is the phenomenon of supporting the development of innovation in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania, especially in the greater metropolitan area.

The aim of this research is to review the existing forms of innovation and the evaluation of their contribution to the economic growth. The method adopted was the analysis of collected data and my own considerations as well as the conclusions I noticed while working with my students.

Faced with the competitiveness of developing countries, basing development on the growth of innovation, which should be bigger than nowadays, ensures a chances to take the competitive advantage by the enterprises – not only in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania but also in whole Poland. That growth of

¹ *Strategia Innowacyjności i Efektywności Gospodarki* (project issued on 17–05–2012), Ministerstwo Gospodarki [Ministry of Economy] 2012.

² *Innovation Union Scoreboard 2011*, PRO INNO Europe 2012.

innovation allows the optimal use of the resources of knowledge, work, capital and materials. Similarly to Poland, the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania has a disadvantageous position as far innovation ratings go. One can conclude from the statistics published in 2009 and based on the synthetic indicator of innovation that the voivodeship is subsumed under the category of the least innovative – like the majority of voivodeships in Poland. Slightly better evaluations were reached by only 5 regions: Mazovia, Pomerania, Lesser Poland, Silesia and Lower Silesia³.

2. The concept of innovation

Innovations reflect – thanks to their numbers – the level of innovation of a given economy. Each developed country attempts to increase its level of innovation of its economy because it directly influences the competitiveness of the whole country. The concept of innovation is derived from Latin, where *innovare* means “creating something”. Mostly, in the definition of innovation, it is underlined that innovation is a process involving the transformation of existing possibilities into new ideas and their practical implementation. The concept of innovation may refer to launching a new product or the implementation of new and considerably improved method of production.

Product innovation is launching a product or a service which are new or considerably improved with respect to their qualities or applications (improvements pertaining to technical specifications, components, materials, embedded software, the easiness of operation or other functional properties). Process innovation is the implementation of new or considerably improved method of production or supply (the improvement pertaining to technology, devices and/or software). Marketing innovation is the implementation of new marketing method pertaining to considerable changes in the project/structure of the product or in packaging, distribution, promotion or price strategy. Organization innovation is the implementation of the new organizational method within the policies adopted by a company, in the organization of the workplace or in the relations with one's environment.

In science, one often uses the definition according to which innovation is a process involving the trans-

formation of the so-far possibilities into new ones and the application of new knowledge in the process of production⁴. The process of innovation – according to E. Okoń-Horodyńska consists of the following parts⁵:

- the invention as the new technical solution not patented yet,
- the innovation, that is the implementation of the invention into production process,
- project, introducing the new model of a product as a result of innovation,
- diffusion of promotion and the selling of the product.

In theories and in the professional literature of economy, definitions – in terms of both supply and demand – of the innovation activities are operative. The supply definition according to J.A. Schumpeter⁶ regards a certain chain of events as an innovation process, which involves

- innovation involving the emergence of an idea,
- the innovation being the incarnation of an idea
- limitation or diffusion involving the innovation being made common

In that autonomous process, except for the invention itself, the presence of an entrepreneur who can take advantage an innovation in the production process, considering the demand of the public sector for innovative solutions, is necessary.

From the point of view of demand, according to P. Drucker⁷, the innovation process is a chain of events taken in market processes where the implementation of an innovation allows the entrepreneur to obtain the advantage in competitiveness.

However, the broadest definition of innovation can be found in the specifications by

Joseph Schumpeter⁸, and that is:

- the introduction of the new products or the improvement of the already existing ones,
- the improvement of the implementation of the new production process,

⁴ D. Begg, S. Fisher, R. Dornbush, *Makroekonomia*, Warszawa 1997, p. 34.

⁵ E. Okoń-Horodyńska, A. Zachorowska-Mazurkiewicz (ed.) *Innowacje w rozwoju gospodarki i przedsiębiorstw: siły motoryczne i bariery*, Instytut Wiedzy i Innowacji, Warszawa 2007.

⁶ J. Schumpeter, *Teoria rozwoju gospodarczego*, PWN, Warszawa 1960, p. 104.

⁷ P.F. Drucker, *Innowacje i przedsiębiorczość. Praktyka i zasady*, PWE, Warszawa 1992, p. 42–45.

⁸ J. Schumpeter, op. cit., p. 104.

³ European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2009, PRO INNO Europe 2010.

- working out a new manner of distributing products,
- opening a new market,
- making use of new materials, raw materials for production,

According to Ewa Okoń-Horodyńska, one can distinguish three sources of innovation and these are

- research and development (R and D);
- purchasing new know-how in the forms of patents, licenses and technological services etc.,
- obtaining the so-called material technology, that is innovative devices and machines with the upgraded technical parameters

Innovations imply hard, purposeful and focused efforts requiring knowledge, conscientiousness, perseverance and involvement: they require the innovators to take advantage of their greatest skills and they are the results evoked in the economy and society because they entail the changes in human behavior of both entrepreneurs and consumers⁹. They are able to make our life both easier and more difficult through the constant complication in the environment. *Sensu stricto* definition of innovation skips the innovations pertaining to the social and organizational changes, focusing on technical and technological innovations. One speaks of technological innovation if new or modernized product is launched or when a new product or an altered process is used during production¹⁰.

Technological innovations emerge due to the innovative activities embracing many activities pertaining to research, technical, organizational, financial and commercial realms. The innovations oriented at the process will relate to the development of new methods, instruments and approaches as well as the improvement of the already existing methods; whereas the innovations oriented at the target will focus on the formation of new aims and attitudes in order to identify new and promising qualifications and the design of new areas of employment on the employment market. On the other hand, the innovations oriented at the context pertain to political and institutional structures. They will relate to the development of system on the employment market¹¹.

3. The organization of innovative activities in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania

In the area of the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania, there are 188,4 thousand economic entities registered¹², and among them 94,7% are entities employing up to 9 000 people, 4,3% of them employ from 10 to 49 people, and 0,9% from 50 to 349 people. 233 entities employ at least 250 employees, which number of employers is tantamount to 0,1% of all registered. That structure does not diverge far from the statistics valid for the whole country. The number of entities registered under REGON (National Business Registry Number) from the overall 10 000 people in 2010, reached in that region 8999 and was 125 lower than the national average (1024) [only Warmia and Mazury had a lower result from all the neighboring voivodeships].

The voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania occupies the middle position in terms of socio-economic development – that is it has 4,7% share in contributing to Polish National Gross Product. It plays a crucial role in the economy of the country related to food processing as well as in chemical, electro-machine, wood, stationery and electronic industry. In the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania, such international companies as Nestle, Unilever, Lafarge, Lucent Technologies, Bonduelle, Azko Nobel, Framondi, Lobbe, Rieber & Son, ThyssenKrupp, British Sugar i Nordzucker made their investments¹³.

Near Toruń, in the district of Łysomice, there is an established area of Special Economic Sphere of Pomerania. In this area – referred to as “Crystal Park”, the world-famous company Sharp got located. Sharp will produce modern liquid crystal modules LCD. Along with it, such famous companies as Sharp’s co-operators ORION Electric, Sumitomo Chemical, Tenscho Electric Industries, Tokai Pressing i Okaya&CO., Sohbi Kohgei i Hanwa, Kimoto, Nyklogistics, U-Tec invest in that voivodeship.

PKN Orlen created in Włocławek para-phthalic acid plant. The plant is a part of the petro chemical complex producing raw materials for plastic. Complex PX/PTA of Orlen, the part of which is the plant opened on Thursday, is the second biggest and most modern of such

⁹ E. Okoń-Horodyńska, op. cit., p. 2–8.

¹⁰ Ibidem.

¹¹ Ibidem.

¹² Data by GUS [The Polish Central Statistical Office] at the end of 2011.

¹³ <http://www.money.pl/gospodarka/regiony-polski/kujawsko-pomorskie/gospodarka/> 20 07 2011.

objects in Europe. The capacity of the plant PX amounts to 400 000 tons of p-xylene annually and the plant PTA 600 000 tons of terephthalic acid annually, which equals about 20% of the whole European production¹⁴.

Industrial and service businesses of Kuyavia and Pomerania spent about 1,1 mld zlotys in 2010 on the innovative enterprises and over 95% are the spendings on industries. Compared to the remaining companies in Poland, the spendings of service companies in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania look unfavourable since they are only 0,5% of such spendings in Poland as a whole.

Much more favourable looks the indicator of the spendings the industrial enterprises are burdened with. The mentioned indicator was at about 4,5% in 2010. Compared to the spendings in the whole country, relatively low investments are directed in the voivodeship on the research and development activity (1,8% of this type of spendings in Poland) and the purchase of know-how from external sources (1,7%). At times, the spendings on tangible assets – especially on machines and imported technical devices – amounted to more than 5% of national spendings.

introduced new products or considerably improved the processes. One can thus witness a positive correlation between the tendency to innovations and the number of employees. In the biggest companies, with the employment capacity surpassing 249 people, the innovation activities are undertaken in 65% cases. That amounts to the result being 5 percentage points higher than the national average.

Among the enterprises claiming to have implemented the innovations, the most frequently implemented were product innovations (35%). Process innovation were considerably more seldom implemented – 26% , marketing innovation – 23% i organizational – 21%¹⁵. Among 32% of innovative enterprises cooperating with R+D entities were mostly public high school – 13% as well as non-public ones – 5% and industrial research institutes and research-and-development entities, which amount to 5%. Only 3% of enterprises started collaborating with centres of excellence, scientific foundations, regional centres of innovations, science parks and regional development agencies,

The enterprises in Kuyavia and Pomerania, in the recent years, are receiving still bigger share of the in-

Table 1. The spendings on innovation activities in the industrial and service enterprises in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania in 2010.

| Lp. | The type of innovation | industry | % share of the whole country spendings | services | % share of the whole country spendings |
|-----|--|----------|--|----------|--|
| | | Mln zł * | | Mln zł * | |
| 1 | Research and development (B+R) | 59,3 | 1,8 | 1,7 | 0,1 |
| 2 | Purchase of external know-how | 15,7 | 1,7 | 0,1 | 0,0 |
| 3 | Purchase of software | 10,8 | 2,2 | 5,1 | 0,3 |
| 4 | Investment in tangible assets | 967,3 | 5,4 | 43,5 | 0,7 |
| | included: | | | | |
| | – on residential buildings | 306,1 | 5,7 | 13,1 | 0,9 |
| | – on machines and devices | 661,3 | 5,3 | 30,3 | 0,7 |
| 5 | Trainings related to the implementation of product or process innovation | 3,0 | 2,9 | 0,4 | 0,5 |
| 6 | Spendings on the marketing pertaining to innovation | 4,9 | 1,1 | 1,7 | 0,4 |
| 7 | Altogether | 1 075,3 | 4,5 | 54,4 | 0,5 |

Source: based on the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office

* The spendings in the region as a percentage share of all Polish spendings in a given group of investment spendings

Among industrial enterprises with the employment capacity surpassing 9 people, 18% of entities were running investment activities and 13% of these enterprises implemented new or tangibly improved products and

comes obtained by selling new products and considerably improved ones and that is due to the very good sell-

¹⁴ <http://www.deon.pl/wiadomosci/biznes-gospodarka/art,1590,wloclawek-nowy-zaklad-chemiczny-pkn-orlen.html>, 20 07 2011.

¹⁵ The report of the research *Analiza powiązań współpracy pomiędzy przedsiębiorcami, jednostkami B+R i instytucjami otoczenia biznes*, in 2009 commissioned by the office of the Marshall of Kuyavia and Pomerania thanks to a team of Staff of Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarki w Bydgoszczy.

ing results obtained by the biggest companies. Smaller companies look much less impressive in terms of the afore-mentioned factor.

Table 2. The share of new products or considerably improved products sold in industrial companies relative to the selling of all products (share in %).

| Enterprises ordered in terms of employment capacity | area | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2010 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 10 – 49 | Poland | b.d. | 4,71 | b.d. | 4,43 | 2,79 |
| | Kuy-P | b.d. | 1,47 | b.d. | 6,27 | 1,20 |
| 50 – 249 | Poland | 11,29 | 10,60 | 9,37 | 9,37 | 8,71 |
| | Kuy-P | 7,03 | 6,49 | 5,87 | 9,76 | 5,09 |
| 250 and more | Poland | 25,31 | 20,54 | 16,43 | 17,85 | 17,25 |
| | Kuy-P | 7,36 | 8,70 | 7,01 | 20,45 | 23,91 |
| Altogether | Poland | 22,08 | 17,00 | 14,72 | 14,71 | 13,91 |
| | Kuy-P | 7,24 | 7,37 | 6,59 | 15,24 | 15,93 |

Source: based on the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office.

The industrial companies in Kuyavia and Pomerania which employed over 9 people, obtained 15% of net income of the whole sales thanks to the selling of innovative products, which is 3% more than an average company in Poland. The share of net incomes due to the selling of exported products relative to all the income due to sales amounted to 10% in that voivodeship, which is twice as much as an average enterprise in Poland. Thus, the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania achieved the best indicator among all the regions.

In that particular case; however, that outstanding result was achieved by the enterprises which employed over 249 people (the indicator then reached 17%, which is 264% of the average indicator for the whole country)

Much less favourable picture can be witnessed in service companies because only 9% of them introduced the innovations in 2010 and that was an indicator being about 3% lower than the indicator operative for Poland. New or considerably improved products were introduced by 6% of enterprises and the modernization applied to 7% of them.

The amount of investments for science in 2010 directed particularly at research and development in the voivodeship amounted to 204 mln zlotys and was one of the lowest in Poland – being even lower than the one in the period 1999–2006.

Table 3. The share of investments for research and development in Kuyavia and Pomerania relative to all the investments for research and development in Poland.

| Year | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| % | 2,1 | 3,0 | 1,6 | 1,7 | 3,8 | 2,0 |

Source: based on the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office.

Relative to the overall investments in the voivodeship in 2010 (2% of the spendings in Poland), the share of the investments for particular disciplines look as follows: for natural science (2%) – engineering and technical science (1,6%), medical and health science (0,7%), agricultural science – 0%, social science (4,6%) and artes liberals – 0%. Such low investments for research and development have negative influence on the innovative development of economy in Kuyavia and Pomerania.

The investments for research and development amounting to 42 mln zlotys in 2010 in enterprise sector were about 5 times as low as the overall investment for research and development. The structure of those spendings in terms of belonging to a given branch is presented in the table 4.

Table 4. The investments in enterprise sector for research and development in Kuyavia and Pomerania in terms of the type of activity (PKD 2007) in 2010.

| Lp. | Type of PKD [Polish Classification of Activity] | Investments in mln zł | The % share of spendings relative to Poland |
|-----|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | The production of chemical goods and chemicals | 6,4 | 6,8% |
| 2 | Production of ready-made metal goods excluding machines and devices | 3,0 | 5,3% |
| 3 | Agricultural fields, animal husbandry i growing domestic animals, hunting excluding service business | 0,7 | 2,5% |
| 4 | Production of electric devices | 4,5 | 2,4% |
| 5 | Production of computers, electronic and optical devices | 4,8 | 2,1% |
| 6 | The production of remaining goods | 0,9 | 1,3% |

Source: based on the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office

Among those branches of economy, the high spendings on research and development in the chemical branch as well as in the branch of metal ready-made

products stand out. The enterprises representing those branches in the voivodeship belong to the most modern and dynamically developing in Kuyavia and Pomerania.

The investment for research and development in terms of *per capita* spendings in the voivodeship in 2010 amounted to 99 zlotys for a person employed in R&D department and the indicator is one of the lowest in Poland. Along with the low investments on research and development go patent applications. In 2010, only 124 of such applications took place, which amounted to 3,9% of the overall number of such applications in Poland. The number of actual patents in the region amounted to 35, which was only 2,5 % of the overall number of patents in Poland.

The achievement of the region look much more impressive as far as the number of registrations of utility models is concerned, which amounted to 45 in 2010, which was equal to 5,1% of the overall number of them in Poland. As far as granting protection rights to utility models goes, there were 29 of such cases, which amounted to 6% of the overall number in Poland. In the recent few years, one can witness in Kuyavia and Pomerania, the growth of the numbers of enterprises in which there was Research and Development activity (in 2010 r. there were 64 such cases).

Within the period 2005–2011, in the voivodeship, there was an increase of the numbers of enterprises in which there was Research and Development activity. Quantitative data is presented in the table 5.

Table 5. Entities with research and development activities.

| Lp. | Emphasis on: | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | The number of enterprises | 31 | 31 | 36 | 35 | 43 | 64 |
| 2 | % share relative to Poland | 4,4% | 4,6% | 4,8% | 4,7% | 5,1% | 5,2% |
| 3 | Altogether | 37 | 38 | 43 | 43 | 54 | 76 |
| 4 | % share relative to Poland | 3,4% | 3,5% | 3,8% | 3,7% | 4,2% | 4,3% |

Source: based on the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office.

In the voivodeship, apart from the enterprises, 12 other entities run R&D activity and these include mainly schools and scientific entities subsidized mainly from budget resources.

4. The centres of innovation and enterprises

In the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania, there are fewer centres of innovation and enterprises than in the majority of regions in Poland¹⁶; however, the offer of those institutions can be regarded as wide and varied. The biggest entity of R&D character is Instytut Inżynierii Materiałów Polimerowych i Barwników having the residence in Toruń, with Oddziałem Przetwórstwa Tworzyw Polimerowych and non-local departments: Farb i Tworzyw w Gliwicach, oddziale Elastomerów i Technologii Gumy w Piastowie, oddziale Barwników i Produktów Organicznych w Zgierzu. Other entities of research and development as well as scientific character vital to the development of enterprises and innovation include:

- Przemysłowy Instytut Automatyki i Pomiarów w Warszawie, Ośrodek Badawczo-Rozwojowy Urządzeń Sterowania Napędów in Toruń,
- Instytut Hodowli i Aklimatyzacji Roślin – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy w Błoni, the department in Bydgoszcz
- Instytut Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy w Falentach, Kujawsko-Pomorski Ośrodek Badawczy w Bydgoszczy.

Among the major business entities in the region, there are:

- industrial and science parks: Bydgoski Park Przemysłowy, Toruński Park Technologiczny, Grudziądzki Park Przemysłowy, Vistula Park Świecie, Vistula Park II, Park Przemysłowy w Solcu Kujawskim,
- high schools: Uniwersytet Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, Uniwersytet Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy im. Jana i Jędrzeja Śniadeckich w Bydgoszczy,
- other centres: Centrum Transferu Technologii w Toruniu, Jednostki Naczelnej Organizacji Technicznej w Bydgoszczy, Toruniu, Inowrocławiu, Grudziądzu, Włocławku), Regionalne Centrum Innowacyjności at Uniwersytecie Technologiczno-Przyrodniczym w Bydgoszczy, Pomorska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna (sub-departments in Barcin, Bydgoszcz, Grudziądz, Kowalewie Pomorskim, Łysomice, Rypin, Świecie, To-

¹⁶ K. Matusiak (ed.) *Ośrodki innowacji i przedsiębiorczości w Polsce*. Raport 2010. Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczości 2010.

ruń). Business incubators (in Bydgoszcz, Solec Kujawski, Świecie, Toruń and Włocławek), Toruńska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego, i Bydgoski Klaster Przemysłowy (branches: chemical, tool, processing polymers)

The description of the major innovation centres is to be found below:

a) Industrial and science park in Bydgoszcz

The Industrial and Science Park in Bydgoszcz is one of the biggest Industrial and Science Parks. On December 21 2004, by the power of governing entity the Park located over 280 ha of post-industrial area, The Industrial Park Ltd with the residence in Bydgoszcz was founded. The shareholders of the joint venture are¹⁷: Industrial Park is situated in the central Poland and embraces investment terrains of the surface equal to 280 ha, which have excellent communication for visitors' convenience. Furthermore, the terrain is subsumed under the Local Plan of Spatial Allocation and Industrial Sphere

The main purpose of Industrial and Science Park in Bydgoszcz is giving the impetus to local enterprises, acquiring new external investors and creating new job positions. The park cooperates with consulting companies and high schools, particularly with Uniwersytet Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy in Bydgoszcz with respect to the development of new technologies being highly innovative. In the area of BPPT there are tax reliefs valid due to the specified in the permission investments or the specified rate of employment. In 2010, within the area of the Park there were over 40 economic entities employing about 500 staff altogether.

b) Torun Technological Incubator and The Centre of Modern Interdisciplinary Technologies

Torun Technological Incubator is realized as a project which is subsumed under Indykatywny Wykazie Projektów Kluczowych Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego Województwa Kujawsko-Pomorskiego for 2007–2013 (being a key project in the region in the given period). The offer of the incubator will aim at advertising the companies run in that area and will be directed to enterprises run in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania, high schools, scientific entities, non-government organizations and other entities supporting

the innovation development of the region. The most fundamental task of the incubator is assisting the process of the creation and supporting the newly-founded small companies belonging to ICT branch.

c) Incubator of Innovation and Enterprises in Włocławek

The mission of The Incubator of Innovation and Enterprises in Włocławek was to create the congenial conditions conducive to the emergence and the development of enterprises of innovative character. It was assumed that in the Incubator, young entrepreneurs will be able to count on infrastructural, marketing, advisory, training endorsement and will be able to gain the assistance in getting economic contacts in the first period of their entrepreneurial existence. The institution of the incubator should also guaranteed a series of free-of-charge legal services for entrepreneurs. According to the project, the companies that have just started their business in production and service branch and which also implement innovation have the biggest chance to be supported by the incubator. The greatest motivation for entrepreneurs will be rent; namely, in the first year of business activity, the young entrepreneur will pay only a part of the usual rent and the successive years are supposed to be also financially attractive.

The problem which proved to be vital after two years of the activity of The Incubator in Włocławek is the partial usage of its possibilities¹⁸ (70 % on the day 30 09 2012 r.), which—having considered the large unemployment rate in Włocławek and area nearby, poses a question in the first place whether the availability of the factor of innovativeness does not impede the development of enterprises. It seems that at the end of the second year of incubator's activity, there should be a queue of companies which would like and would be able to take advantage of the means facilitating the process of starting the business or continuing the innovation activity.

d) Business incubator in Grudziadz

The project „Business incubator in Grudziadz” was a chance for the development of micro- and small businesses. The incubator is to give support for the development of enterprises and innovation directed mostly at the sector of small and medium businesses. The essence

¹⁷ <http://www.bppt.pl/>

¹⁸ Data obtained in person from the employee of the Incubator.

of the project is to stimulate the development of innovative enterprises by giving access to the infrastructure along with the packet of professional advisory services for the companies starting their own business as well as by allocating to them some office space and the space for running production activity for the companies the development of which is under way. The investment amounting to 3 790 975,62 zł was subsidized from European budget and that financial assistance amounted to 1 491 797,00 zł. The assistance included the design of the reconstruction and obtaining the required consents and permissions to perform site works, new installation connections including water-sewage connections, connections to central heating and electricity and planning the layout of an area in terms of roads, parking spaces, pavements, green areas and townscape architecture. The realization of the project is to be conducted by the end of 2012.

e) Academic Incubator of Business in Inowrocław

On December 7th 2006, The Information Desk (PI AIP) of the Academic Incubator of Business in Bydgoszcz was set up in Inowrocław. That desk provides its services at The University of Economy in Bydgoszcz] from April, 21th 2005. The aim of PI AIP was mainly the assistance with the realization of entrepreneurial dreams and running companies by giving support pertaining to running business¹⁹. Noticing that is of a lot of interest to the students of local community, the university authorities arrived at a decision to set up the independent Academic Incubator of Business at the The Department of Management of WSG, which was officially founded as a non-departmental unit²⁰.

f) The Incubator of Business in Solec Kujawski

The Regional Centre of Enterprises Ltd, residing in a building of an aesthetic geometrical shape measuring with the total surface of 5000 m² set up the Incubator of Business as a place for the development and experience-

gaining for the companies to function independently on the market. It occupies 4200 m² of production area 800 m² of office area with a conference room of the surface 150 m². There are 26 production rooms to rent in the Incubator, 22 office rooms and 9 warehouse rooms²¹. Currently, 22 companies are operative within the Incubator and all the rooms are rented.

g) The Foundation of Academic Incubators of Business in Bydgoszcz

From August of the current year, all the companies run within the Academic Incubator of Business in Bydgoszcz belong to the same community, which is serviced by one personnel²². For the people running their own business within AIP, it basically means greater possibilities. That is because Start-up Houses, that is co-working space and conferences rooms set up by the biggest universities in Bydgoszcz, are at their disposal: Collegium Medicum, University of Technology and Life Science], [University of Economy in Bydgoszcz. Currently, in AIP in Bydgoszcz, there are 80 companies with the proviso that that number is so liquid that a few companies are on the way of "getting out" of Incubator's umbrella – on their way to being self-dependent. Furthermore, new companies are getting subsumed under the Incubator's assistance. Monthly, there are over 20 applications from the people interested to run their own company.

Conclusions

The implementation of innovation products and services as well as the processes in the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania is – as can be seen – a visible trend in the economic, scientific and social development, which enables us to look at the future with confidence. In these respects, the most favourable positions are occupied by big metropolitan areas being the concentration of industries as well as being the centres of commercial and service activities. Polish economy – including the voivodeship of Kuyavia and Pomerania – has, unfortunately, low dynamics in implementing the innovation and although the voivodeship is relatively slightly bet-

¹⁹ http://www.inowroclaw.pl/strona-421-Wazne_urzedy_i_instytucje+Akademicki_Inkubator_Przedsiębiorczosci_w_Inowroclawiu.html, 30 09 2012.

²⁰ Zarządzenie Kanclerza WSG w Bydgoszczy. [The order of WSG in Bydgoszcz's chancellor] nr 3/2008/2009 on 12 listopada 2008r. z Regulaminem funkcjonowania AIP., jako Załącznikiem do zarządzenia [with the regulations of validity of AIP as an appendix to the order].

²¹ http://rcp.soleckujawski.pl/_portal/1160745969452f93f1c3e54/, 03 10 2012.

²² <http://www.mmbydgoszcz.pl/423624/2012/8/30/fuzja-bydgoskich-akademickich-inkubatorow-przedsiębiorczosci?category=news>, 30 09 2012.

ter off than the average achievements in the country, it should not be a satisfactory result – especially if we consider that only Bydgoszcz and Włocławek finished the realization of modern innovation centres, in such big cities as Grudziądz, Toruń, Inowrocław the process is still under way.

The example of implementing the project of the Incubator of Innovation and Enterprise in Włocławek after 2 years of its being active encourages us to pose a question about the effectiveness of the actions undertaken by the local governmental authorities, which actions were meant not only to contribute to the growth of innovation but also to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit in small business and decrease the unemployment rate. The unused capacities of the Incubator of Business may raise the doubts whether potential entrepreneurs understand the essence innovation and whether they are afraid to take a risk of setting up a business on their own account or whether they need the technical and technological support.

The problem of the development of innovation and enterprise in Włocławek is not isolate and despite of the better situation in the bigger city areas, it needs further research and then undertaking some actions which would arouse interest in potential entrepreneurs and those hesitating to become ones.

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