

## **Thematic Issue: Innovations in Peripheral Regions**

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The problem of growth changing models of underdeveloped regions has taken on a different meaning in recent decades. It is no longer just about restructuring, most often associated with the diversification of the economic structure, replacing old jobs with new ones. Peripheral regions - especially those that previously have not been the focus of politicians (due to the weakness of the electoral potential and/or the recognition of their problems as less burdensome than of other regions), are undertaking broadly defined innovations. Innovations which are associated with competitiveness, and heavily dependent on the absorption of European funds (smart specializations). The key question remains whether peripheral regions are able to move to higher forms of development while their endogenous potential for supporting and developing innovations is rather limited? As a result, the next question arises – will the external policy of innovation support for these regions be just one of many others opportunities or will it actually change their developmental trajectory?

There is an attempt made in the prepared a thematic issue of “Miscellanea Geographica – Regional Studies on Development” to answer these questions by addressing the problems of changing the development path of less developed regions. Both on the basis of the theoretical considerations and of the empirical studies conducted in Poland.