

Editors' Note

The Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IRWiR PAN) is an unique academic institution in Poland, because of its interdisciplinary character and the subject of research. This Institute deals with complex factors and conditions which determine the development of rural areas and agricultural sector in Poland and in broader, mostly European, context. The academic staff of the Institute represents the main academic disciplines and conducts research on rural development, including its economic, social, demographic and cultural aspects. Significant part of the results of its studies on rural development is published in the series of scientific monographs and in the journal (quarterly) *Wież i Rolnictwo* (Village and Agriculture) issued by IRWiR PAN.

Some monographs and articles published by the Institute are in English, which is important for dissemination and promotion of the results of our research programmes and activities of IRWiR PAN. This time we are presenting the issue of the quarterly *Wież i Rolnictwo* including 10 articles presenting the outcomes of studies and analytic narratives on rural development in interdisciplinary and comparative perspective.

The first four articles are dealing with economic factors, issues and conditions related to rural development. A paper written by K. Zawalińska, A. Ciechomska and B. Jendrzewski presents methodological issues and proposals for modelling Common Agricultural Policy in the period 2014–2020. The Authors conclude – among others – that due to growing concern about CAP's not only economic but also environmental, social and other impacts, there is a need to combine different approaches and link different models to grasp those new aspects.

The following two articles are devoted to spatial analysis of rural development. M. Stanny, A. Rosner and E. Kozdroń analyse spatial distribution of the level and dynamics of socio-economic development of rural areas in Poland. The paper prepared by M. Kłodziński and P. Zarębski presents the outcome of their research on the development of small and medium-size enterprises in rural areas, with special focus on determinants of spatial differentiation of that type of economic activity. The authors of those papers stress that the processes of spatial differentiation of socio-economic development are determined both by tangible and intangible resources (land, human capital, investment assets and technologies, etc.) available in a given municipality. Their significance for the development process and the dynamics of economic systems is changing, especially where there are less significant

traditional factors of production such as a land in relation to knowledge, technology, social capital and institutional capital.

The paper written by V. Krupin is devoted to restructuring of the rural economy in Ukraine, with special focus on the changes in the structure and output of Ukrainian agriculture. Ukraine is becoming one of the major players in the European agriculture, especially in grain and rape production. This country needs more attention of both politicians as well as researchers interested in agricultural and rural development.

The following six papers – written by sociologists and an ethnographer – analyse phenomena and processes taking place in rural areas which are often neglected in policy debates on rural development. The article written by M. Halamska presents, in an analytical and comprehensive way, changes in the social structure of rural population in Poland during post-communist transformation. The Author of the paper describes important phenomena which occur in rural areas, such as disagrarianization, proletarianization, deruralization and gentrification. These developments in the Polish countryside are confronted with similar phenomena which are visible also in other European countries.

The paper prepared by K. Szafraniec and P. Szyborski focuses on a very important problem of educational and employment situation of young people in rural areas. Access to jobs for young people is becoming a major problem for this group of population and for the development of rural areas. The article is based on results of a comparative, international study conducted in 9 post-communist countries in the years 2012–2015.

The next article written by R. Śpiewak could be placed in a relatively new area of research, which is called “sociology of food”. Śpiewak analyses growing popularity of food-cooperatives, alternative food networks and other social initiatives aimed at improving food quality and better food consumption.

S. Michalska presents the results of her study on an important but neglected area of research focused on domestic violence against women in rural communities. The data sources include a relatively rich collection of memoirs written by rural women in past decades in Poland.

The papers by I. Bukraba-Rylska and M. Wieruszewska are dedicated to the evolution of rural culture, theoretical aspects of research on cultural changes in the countryside, and importance of rural landscape as a cultural value.

We hope that you will find the papers in this issue of *Więś i Rolnictwo* interesting and useful. We are looking forward to your comments and contribution to next issues of our Journal.

Jerzy Wilkin and Dominika Milczarek-Andrzejewska – Editors