

Summary

Intervention using structural funds, other than pre-accession assistance, available and implemented in the EU budgets for 2004-2006, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in the last period of EU funding programmes for 2014-2020, influenced a change in the operation of organizations, including local governments in Poland. It also positively impacted the economic, investment and social aspects. There is always a single project at the core of the financial assistance system, which consists of the application process, the implementation stage, and the accounting. It is only in recent years that constant improvement of public services has become an important part of the public task implementation process. This dissertation analyzes and verifies whether the improvement of public services, expressed by institutional efficiency in the implementation and management of projects at the level of communes, can positively impact the development of entrepreneurship.

The dissertation defines two main objectives of research. The first objective was to diagnose the level of institutional development of basic local government entities - communes - through the prism of institutional efficiency to implement and maintain the effects of operations co-financed through, i.a., the Regional Operational Programme of the Łódzkie Voivodeship for 2014-2020. The second objective was to verify the impact of the implemented operations on the improvement of conditions for the development of local entrepreneurship.

The dissertation was divided into five sections. The first section defines basic concepts and describes in detail the concept of entrepreneurial management of an organization. It presents the areas, characteristics, and features of an entrepreneurial organization. This section contains an analysis of economic entity management through the prism of entrepreneurial attitudes and behavior of the management staff. It determines types of enterprises based on their organizational structure and management style. Additionally, it presents the particularly important development factor for entrepreneurship - innovation and, in a broader scope, innovative activity. The section also describes the importance of entrepreneurship to the national economic development.

The second section determines the importance of communal projects for entrepreneurship development. The first part references the issue of supporting entrepreneurship by local government entities and mutual functional penetration of activities undertaken by local governments and entrepreneurs, which can respectively stimulate local socio-economic development and drive the development of enterprises. This section also describes the most important instruments for stimulating entrepreneurship, including those used by local government entities, such as public projects that are a tool for local entrepreneurship development.

The third section of the dissertation focuses on the role of EU funding in local entrepreneurship development in Poland. Apart from the key factors and processes affecting the economy, it also summarizes the impact of EU funds on the development of the Polish economy. The section characterizes the types of public assistance available to the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises and the most important EU assistance instruments used under the National and Regional (Voivodeship) Operational Programmes with particular emphasis on the Łódzkie Voivodeship. This Voivodeship was average among Polish Voivodeships, both in terms of the number of allocated funds and the pace of implementation (speed of contracting the funds), for two EU funding programmes — 2007-2013 and 2014-2020. The scope of the planned intervention included both assistance for local government entities, public institutions, universities, and non-governmental organizations, but also a significant amount for the enterprise sector. Therefore, the Łódzkie Voivodeship was recognized as a good example, and it was determined to be a suitable basis for research to verify the hypotheses of the dissertation.

The fourth section studies the role of projects implemented by local governments in the development of entrepreneurship. The research objective was to assess the impact of projects implemented by communes on entrepreneurship development. The research was conducted between June and November 2020 using the Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique on a sample of 69 communes of the Łódzkie Voivodeship.

The last, fifth section of the dissertation assesses the impact of projects implemented by communes on improving the conditions for supporting entrepreneurship development. A dependence analysis using the chi-squared test of

independence was used to diagnose communes' institutional development level in the context of the effects of operations co-financed from external sources and entrepreneurship development. The section also describes the results of the linear ordering method from the area of multidimensional data analysis, which was used to assess the potential of communes in the scope of applying to projects financed from various national (National Programmes) and regional (Regional Operational Programme of the Łódzkie Voivodeship for 2014-2020) programmes, in the context of supporting entrepreneurship.

The dissertation ends with a Summary, which describes the achievement of the dissertation's objectives, verification of the hypotheses and a list of practical recommendations for local government entities.