

Streszczenie rozprawy doktorskiej w języku angielskim

UNIVERSITIES AND THE LEVEL OF INNOVATIVENESS IN THE REGION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF PODLASKIE VOIVODESHIP)

Keywords: innovativeness, universities, regional innovation networks, Triple Helix

The aim of the doctoral dissertation is to assess the impact of universities in selected areas of activity on the growth of the region's innovation level. The specific goals are:

1. Locating the category of regional innovation and the concept of innovation networks in the context of innovation theory.
2. An analysis of the innovative potential of Podlaskie Voivodeship.
3. Characteristics of the determinants of higher education sector activity in Poland.
4. Identification of factors in the functioning of higher education institutions impacting the innovativeness of the region.
5. Assessment of the research and development activity of Podlaskie universities, including the sources of financing and the field of research projects.
6. Identification of sources of cooperation on the line university-business in Podlaskie Voivodeship.
7. Assessment of cooperation initiatives between universities and businesses in the region.
8. Assessment of the importance and efficiency of the regional innovation system in terms of university effects.

The presented objectives were implemented in relation to the three largest public academic universities in Podlaskie Voivodeship, viz: University of Białystok, Białystok University of Technology, Medical University of Białystok. The analysed period covered 2014-2020. The doctoral dissertation is hypothetical and deductive in nature.

The leading hypothesis adopted in the dissertation states that scientific units (universities) are a factor in increasing the level of innovation in the region. Given the fact that universities have a dual nature of activity (educational and training; scientific and research), the issue of regional impact was focused on the scientific and research area. In order to verify the main hypothesis, two detailed hypotheses were created.

The first chapter focuses on theoretical issues related to innovation and regional innovation.

The second chapter analyses the level of innovativeness of the Podlaskie Voivodeship, including: R&D activity, innovative activity of enterprises, industrial property protection, sales of innovations and medium-high and high technology products. Finally, it concludes with an analysis of a synthetic innovation indicator.

Chapter three analyses the determinants of university activity. It also identifies the place of HEIs in the innovation factors of the region and the importance of synergies on the example of the evolving concepts of the *Triple Helix* and knowledge production.

In the fourth chapter, bibliometric analyses, rankings, funding and R&D projects of universities were performed. In this chapter, the first specific hypothesis, that the R&D activity of universities is one of the key factors shaping the innovation environment of the province, was positively verified.

Chapter five identified the sources of university-business cooperation. In this chapter, the second specific hypothesis, stating that the cooperation of universities and businesses influences the level of innovation of the voivodeship, was positively verified. However, on the basis of the data presented, the level of impacts is low, which highlighted the unreliability and inefficiency of the concept of the regional innovation system.

The work ends with a conclusion presenting the main implementation of the specific objectives and hypotheses.