

The impact of state professional schools of higher education for local development in the Lublin region

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Summary of the doctoral dissertation

This doctoral dissertation deals with the issue of the state professional schools of higher education on the socio-economic development in local and regional structures. In Poland, the established model of higher education, the most important of which was education and research, has grown in the framework of changes having taken place since the 1990s resulting from the system transformation process, integration with the European Union, as well as the challenges of a knowledge-based economy. The newly created sector the state professional schools of higher education at the end of the 1990s was designed to increase the chances of developing smaller cities and rural areas. Therefore, the role of the university's cooperation with the local economic and social environment in fulfilling not only the educational function but also in creating other development functions has increased. Currently in Poland, the state professional schools of higher education are an important element of the higher education system. In the regional structure, they function in 15 voivodships, fulfilling service tasks towards local communities. Their impact, whilst generally recognizable, has not been thoroughly explained from the point of view of scientific understanding. Hence the main goal of the work was formulated as "recognizing the essence and scope of the impact (planes) of the state professional schools of higher education on the local socio-economic environment and creating a model of their functioning and developing directions with regards to fulfilling the mission for the economy and society". For the purpose of achieving the main objective, specific objectives of reasoning and application nature were also defined.

Research on the functioning of the state professional schools of higher education and their impact on local development in the region was carried out using the example of state higher vocational schools in the Lubelskie Voivodeship. In particular, the activity of the Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska was analyzed and assessed, which is the subject of research due to the dynamic development of the model subject of research.

The scope of scientific considerations and experimental research carried out in the work resulted from the set goals and the hypotheses set. In search of the nature and levels of influence of the state professional schools of higher education on the local development of the region studied, selected theoretical and analytical-cognitive concepts (including P. Romer's theory of growth, sustainable local and regional development, human and social capital, social responsibility concept).

Regarding research methods, a descriptive method was used with the use of literature and statistical sources, legal norms, reports and rankings; method of economic and financial analysis; survey method; the technical efficiency method based on the DEA model; document testing method and SWOT analysis

The dissertation consists of 5 chapters. The first chapter presents the position of higher education in the progression of socio-economic development in the local and regional aspects. Issues related to the concept of local development, the essence of the region and some selected theoretical concepts of this development were also discussed. Additionally, the usefulness in explaining the essence of the problem of the concept of knowledge-based economy, human and social capital, the education region and the idea of social responsibility was indicated. The second chapter is characterized by the state of development of higher education in Poland and the principles of its functioning, with the main emphasis on the state professional schools of higher education. The third chapter, partly of an experimental nature, outlines the areas of influence of the state professional schools of higher education on the socio-economic environment of the region, as well as the results of surveys on the links between the studied universities and the environment. The fourth chapter, fully experimental, presents, in various aspects, the studied group of the state professional schools of higher education from the Lubelskie Voivodeship, and presents the analysis of the effectiveness of state higher vocational schools using the Data Envelopment Analysis method and the quality of education based on the ranking method. In the fifth and final chapter, the importance of the Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska in the system of the Bialski subregion was assessed. For this purpose, the analysis of human resources, students as well as the fate of graduates was carried out. Based on the results of completed surveys and university documents, there were identified gaps and unused opportunities for the university's impact on local development in the Lublin region. The research result is the formulation of a proposal for a functioning model, directions and scope of the impact state professional schools of higher education on the local environment (in the socio-cultural and economic sphere), in the context of the functioning of the Bialska School.

The considerations on the impact of the state professional schools of higher education on the development of the local environment and the results of the conducted research and empirical analyses taken up in the work positively verified the formulated research hypotheses. They have proven the significant role of the state professional schools of higher education in building human and social capital by fulfilling an educational function and shaping the relationship of cooperation in various spheres of the business and institutional environment. During the research, the following interaction planes were identified:

- in the socio-cultural sphere, there are initiatives concerning the organization of various forms of education for the needs of the local community of different ages (University of the Third Age, Children's University, courses and trainings, etc.), organization of cultural events by the university itself, as well as sharing the available infrastructure resources at this type of undertaking, organization of charity campaigns, social campaigns (promotion of science, health), scientific events (conferences, open lectures, methodological workshops), organization of sports events, publishing activities, as well as cooperation with local and regional authorities in the field of environmental research and design its development,

- in the economic sphere, these are initiatives regarding organization of practical education for the needs of the local and regional employment market, improving the quality of work resources, cooperation with business in the field of research and development (cluster structures), supporting local entrepreneurs with expert knowledge, increasing internal demand in the rental markets housing, transport services, foodstuffs, educational services, cultural goods (students), creation of employment (administrative, scientific and didactic employees), activities for increasing competitiveness and attractiveness of the region and the local environment through co-creating the city's brand, implemented investments - shaping a new quality of space (research centres, laboratories, teaching buildings, sports halls, playgrounds, swimming pools, parking lots).

In the proposed model of the functioning of Polish state professional schools of higher education their future is related to the efficiency of operations in management, market and social aspects. An example of such activity is the Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska. The university is an example of an institution responsible to undertake the assignment for the local community, business and institutional environment, whilst rationally and effectively using public funds. This is confirmed by the results of education assessed by the fate of graduates, completed investments and strategic plans of the university, which are part of regional and local development plans of local government units.

Research shows that while the state professional schools of higher education have significant potential in terms of affecting local development, it is not always fully used. Freeing this potential would require greater involvement and the participation of local entrepreneurs, local government units and business environment institutions, as well as organizational and management changes in the functioning of the state professional schools of higher education. The managerial-bicameral model with greater social responsibility would seem to be the best solution in the current legal, institutional and socio-economic conditions in regards to increasing the possibility of interaction of the state professional schools of higher education to increase competitiveness and the development of the region and local territorial units.

JEL classification codes: C14, I23, I25, O15.

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