

Summary

The debate on clusters, their importance for the regional and national economy and supporting them within the framework of public programs is still valid. The rapidly changing economic conditions related to the crises of the first and second decades of the 21st century force a change in the approach to building relations in the economy and to conducting economic policy. The European Union, including Poland, is redefining its own industrial policies in order to maintain its competitive positions. Clusters can be an effective tool for implementing these policies. In such a situation, high demands are placed on them in terms of providing resources allowing them to achieve international competitiveness and excellence in management. The weight of cluster policy, which was mainly focused on supporting emerging clusters, has shifted towards supporting the potential of existing clusters. Based on the presence of strategic competences and resources in local and regional clusters, it is necessary to provide clusters with assistance consisting in enabling the skilful use of these resources in order to develop new activities, attract foreign investments and generate innovation.

The subject of the dissertation refers to the uneven and slow development of Polish clusters in relation to European clusters. The main aim of the doctoral dissertation is to develop a model supporting the development of Polish clusters (MoRK model).

The doctoral dissertation consists of five chapters. The first presents the basics of cluster theory. It reviews the definition of the cluster, the cluster initiative and the typology of clusters. The second chapter deals with the issues of cluster development support systems that may affect their current functioning. The opinions of Polish and Danish clusters on ESCA certification were compared, which allowed to identify its weaknesses. The third chapter presents the issues related to the creation and development of clusters and the cluster life cycle. Particular attention was paid to the features characterizing individual models and stages of the cluster life. This led to the selection of guidelines essential for the development of clusters. In the author's chapters – the fourth and fifth, the methodology of creating a model supporting the development of clusters was described in detail, and its verification was carried out using the following methods: Delphi, case study, scenario and induction. The development of the model is the main achievement of the doctoral dissertation. During these works, additionally, i.a. the classic definition of Porter clusters was supplemented with regard to the management and formalization of cluster structures, and recommendations for actions that could accelerate the development of Polish clusters were described.