Abstract

Regional development processes are influenced by complex factors and conditions that arise at a specific time and place, shaping the local socio-economic system. One of the barriers to regional development is the shadow economy. Up till now, no comprehensive study has been conducted on the strength and direction of the relationship between the shadow economy and economic growth in the provinces of Poland, nor has the identification of factors influencing its occurrence in individual regions been undertaken.

Doctoral thesis is focused on identifying the level of shadow economy in Polish provinces and determining its significance for the economic development of these regions. In the dissertation, the regions are referred to as provinces, which in Poland are classified as units of administrative and statistical division. The study is both theoretical and empirical in nature. Based on the analysis carried out, this study may be considered a significant contribution to the development of the literature on the subject. The factors indicating the level of the shadow economy in the provinces have been identified, and its extent has been estimated. The strength and direction of the relationship between the shadow economy and economic growth have been verified. An algorithm for estimating the shadow economy has been developed, serving as the basis for further analysis and research on this phenomenon.

Undertaken in this thesis is characterized by structural complexity, and furthermore, this dissertation serves as a foundation for future in depth discussion and research on the effectiveness of regulatory and fiscal mechanisms in addressing the phenomenon of the shadow economy.

Keywords: shadow economy, regions, undeclared economy, regional development, economic growth