

Andrzej Pawlik, drhab. prof. UJK
Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego Kielcach
Kielce, Poland
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2319-6707>

Paweł Dziekański, PhD
Department of Economics and Finance
Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4065-0043>

Magdalena Wrońska
Department of Economics and Finance
Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce
Kielce, Poland
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8368-154X>

Urszula Karpińska
Cooperative Bank in Kielce, Poland
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4032-8823>

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LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A FACTOR OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNES IN THE ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE VOIVODESHIP DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC 19

Entrepreneurship is becoming the basis for the socio-economic development of the region in the conditions of transformation of the environment. It is one of the most important endogenous resources. Entrepreneurship contributes to the emergence of new economic entities, directly influencing the improvement of the level and quality of life of an individual as well as an increase in the welfare of the society. The structural features of the regions and the endogenous factors occurring in them mean that the regions differ in terms of the scale of entrepreneurial activity. The

factors enhancing the region's entrepreneurship and contributing to spatial disproportions include: demography of the region, the situation on the regional labor market, the viability of the region's economic structure, the quality of human capital, the prestige of entrepreneurs in the region, housing resources, infrastructure equipment, natural resources, transport accessibility, concentration of plants various industries and services, access to investment capital, the ability to absorb innovation, and access to knowledge and technological development. These factors lead to polarization and divergence of both regions and local areas.

Entrepreneurship is an interdisciplinary concept that is important for social and economic development. The distinguishing features of entrepreneurship include: the ability to use ideas and opportunities, dynamism, activity, tendency to take risks, the ability to adapt to changing conditions, perceiving opportunities and taking advantage of innovation. Entrepreneurship is an attitude and a way of living and running a business. In a market economy, stimulating and creating entrepreneurship is a necessary phenomenon. Entrepreneurship is characterized by many aspects and complexity. It is considered in terms of a process, a set of features, innovation and as a factor of regional development. Appropriately high level of local entrepreneurship is the basic factor of the region's development (the Act on the Principles of Development Policy). R. Brol (2006) emphasizes that entrepreneurship should be treated as an endogenous factor of regional development in the sphere of the regional economy. T. Markowski (2008) states that entrepreneurship is an attribute of social capital and in this context should be treated as a development factor. The development of entrepreneurship plays an important role in the development of the local economy, as it increases the production of goods and employment, increases the income of the population and the

commune's budget, and improves the satisfaction of local needs, creates new companies and jobs, goods and services, and contributes to the development of infrastructure, improving the quality of the natural environment, knowledge, qualifications and new skills of the local community.

The aim of the article is to analyze the entrepreneurship of communes in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship using a synthetic measure. The analyzes were carried out in the system of 102 communes of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. The data from the Local Data Bank of the Central Statistical Office for the years 2017–2020 was used as the source material. In the process of creating a synthetic feature, the following stages were distinguished: 1) selection of variables describing the studied objects, 2) assessment of the preferences of the variables in relation to the phenomenon under consideration (their division into stimulants and destimulants), 3) division of the studied area into 4 quartile groups (Dziekański, Pawlik, Wrońska, Karpińska, 2020; Dziekański, Prus, 2020; Kukuła, 2000; Behzadian, Khanmohammadi Otaghsara, Yazdani, Ignatius, 2012; Pawlik, Dziekański, 2020; Malina, 2020).

Enterprises play an important role in the economy, they influence the competitiveness of the economy, stimulate its growth, and stimulate regional development. In 2017–2020, entities entered in the REGON register per 1,000 population in Poland were in the range of 112-122, and in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship 90-98. The smallest number of these entities in 2020 was in Waśniów 45, and the most in Kielce 152.

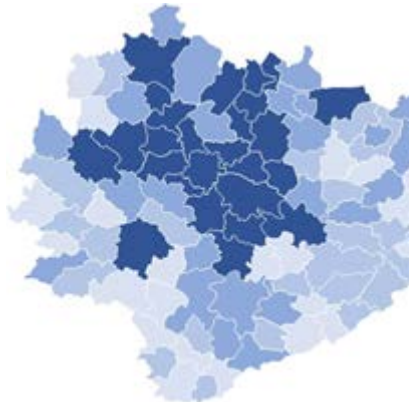
**Entities entered in the REGON register
per 1,000 population**

2020

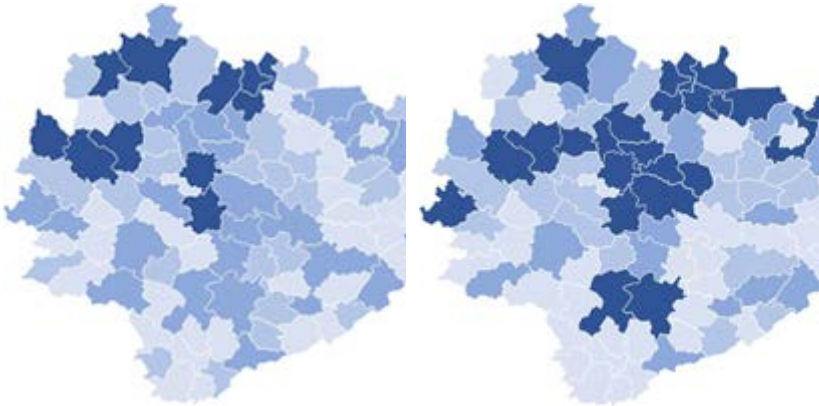
2017



**Newly registered units in the REGON
register per 1000 population**



**Units removed from the REGON register
per 1,000 inhabitants**



Natural persons running a business per 1000 population

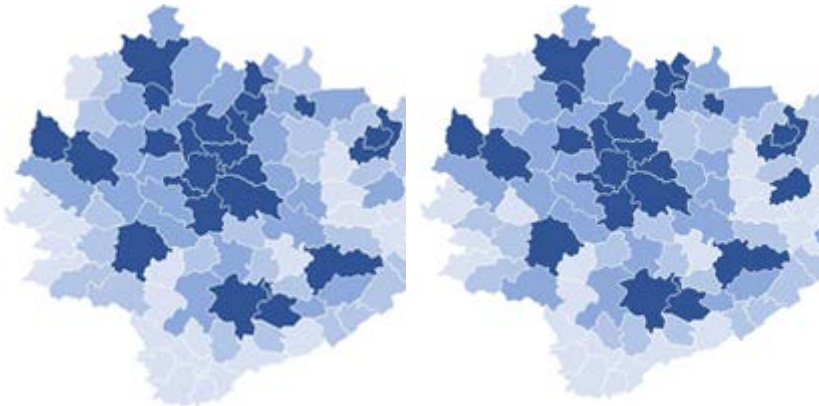


Figure 1 Spatial differentiation of the variables describing the entrepreneurship of communes in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship in 2017–2020

Source: Own study based on data from the Central Statistical Office of Poland (BDL)

The number of newly registered entities in the REGON register per 1,000 population was from 9.40 to 8.58 in Poland, and in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship from 7.75 to 6.9. The number of units removed from the REGON register per 1000 inhabitants was at the level of 8 to 4 in Poland, and in the Świętokrzyskie

Voivodeship at the level of 7 to 4. The number of natural persons running a business per 1000 population was at the level of 78 to 97 in Poland, and in the voivodship Świętokrzyskie at the level from 68 to 75.

Municipalities play an essential role in the economic and social system of the country. They are centers of economic and cultural activity. They carry out activities that are a combination of interrelated factors that create a multidimensional space.

The level of entrepreneurial activity varies regionally. The structural features of the regions and endogenous factors occurring in their area mean that the regions differ in terms of the scale of entrepreneurial activity. They also include: economic conditions, conditions for the development of entrepreneurial attitudes of the region's inhabitants, legal and institutional conditions as well as conditions for the functioning and development of business environment institutions

The communes of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship are spatially polarized in terms of entrepreneurship. As shown by the analysis, their entrepreneurship is determined by: the number of entities registered in the REGON register or the number of people running a business. In addition, entrepreneurship is influenced by: the nature of the economy (e.g. agriculture, industry, tourism) and the location in relation to a strong individual (especially urban). Rural and urban-rural communes, often characterized by a weak labor market, undeveloped SME sphere or traditional agricultural function, found themselves in a weaker situation. Communes located within the range of the influence of urban centers, especially the capital of the voivodeship – Kielce, and the cities of Ostrowiec Św., Sandomierz, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Starachowice, which created favorable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship, found themselves in a better situation. The group of communes with favorable conditions for

the development of entrepreneurship also included those communes with large enterprises, important for the entire region, employing local people. The poles of entrepreneurship were: the power plant in Połaniec and the cementing plant in Sitkówka-Nowiny. The municipalities with the least favorable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship are agricultural municipalities located peripherally to Kielce and other cities in the region.

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