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### **Globalization as the process of current social-economic relations creation**

**Abstract:** Globalization is an extremely significant process in the view of current social-economic reality creation. The fact that such common and almost axiomatic phenomenon is defined by numerous authors in a very different manner may be an intriguing issue. One of them emphasize the role of economy, others – of social human functioning in information technology era. For many, the globalization is caused by an increase in the role of international entities in the context of national marginalization or smaller groups exclusion. This article is an attempt of determination of the areas of an occurrence of globalization as the process, as well as its defining with respect to existing definitions and phenomena accompanying the globalization.

#### **1. Introduction**

The processes observed in the modern world are characterized by various kind of changes, often of a rapid and concurrently multidirectional character, which results in a considerably increase in the level of uncertainty in all areas of social-economic life. Spatial development is characterized by constantly increasing complexity being a result of an increase in social and economic life openness degree with deepening specialization, widening multisubjectivity, as well as differentiation in functional-spatial arrangements. Social-economic life openness leads to an increase in population mobility, goods transfer and an accelerating dynamics of information civilization, which results in new standards of behaviors overcoming so far value-systems. Increasing scientific and professional specialization develop society creative abilities, enabling an utilization of more advanced technology. Specialization directly affects improved quality and competitiveness, forcing far-reaching reforms in the range of education, production organization and public services. Since not all spatial units adapt to these dynamic changes in a similar manner, this causes an escalation of disproportions in their development level. This differentiation is deepened as a result of polarization phenomenon caused by various degree of space elements susceptibility on an absorption of modern achievements of human activity. In a consequence, the phenomenon of a differentiation in the level of social-economic development is observed in the modern space. Concurrent empowerment of the society of particular spatial elements (regions, communities, districts) causes that they are more interested in development processes creation [Korenik (ed.) 2010, pp. 21-22]. The aim of this article is presentation of globalization as the process characterizing the economy of the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century in the worldwide aspect. The

research methods used in the article were qualitative methods which allowed to widen the state of knowledge concerning the examined phenomenon. The descriptive method involved the review of Polish and foreign literature in this field, as well as source documents in the range of systemization of the knowledge and definitions related to globalization.

## **2. Definition and characteristics of globalization process**

Globalization is one of the most often used words in the economic literature and economic commentary journalism. There is however a general believe, that it is the phenomenon difficult to measure, without distinct borders, and thus it is not easy to define it un equivocally [Rymarczyk (ed.) 2010, p. 439]. This term is often used alternatively with respect to processes or phenomena of economic, social, political, technical, information or sociological character.

Emphasizing an absence of commonly accepted definition of globalization, the authors from the Lisbon Group distinguished its seven areas [*Granice...* 1996, p. 48]: globalization of finances and capital assets, globalization of markets and strategies, globalization of technologies and knowledge, globalization of life styles and consumption models (globalization of the culture), globalization of governing and legal regulations, globalization as political world unification, globalization of perceiving and awareness.

It is preliminarily accepted that globalization constitutes higher degree of economic activity, more complex and advanced as regards development stage of internationalization, which proceeds concurrently on three levels: enterprises, sectors and worldwide economy [Rymarczyk (ed.) 2010, p. 440].

According to numerous scientists and researchers, globalization is the most fundamental process of the changes occurring currently in the world [Zorska 1998, p. 7]. Z. Bauman defines the globalization as an unavoidable fate of the world, irreversible process which concerns each of us [Bauman 2000, p. 5]. Globalization is identified with creation of the global world, global economy, global backyard or global village, i.e. with the effects of national economies reorganization processes.

There is however the question – fully justified in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – whether this phenomenon analysis may be limited only to the field of economic activity. E. Oziewicz notices that sociological aspect of globalization is often more important than its economic dimension [Oziewicz 2001, p. 12]. The protests and resistance towards globalization, and especially towards including in it not only economic activity but also societies, many of which are in no way prepared for it, may be the evidence observed all over the world since the end of the 1990ties. The statement that globalization should be nowadays treated as socio-economic phenomenon, not taking into account these two elements separately, is justified having in mind the above remarks [Rymarczyk (ed.) 2010, p. 440].

Globalization “means also the growth in various kinds of relations between various entities of international life and mutual, usually asymmetric, interactions in all spheres of society life, starting from markets and capital internationalization, to mass culture, migrations, finances and peace assurance” [Gwiazda 1998, p. 9]. Some authors claim that the source of changes in an international society is so called fourth dimension of social space which is void of place, boundaries and distances.

Widely accepted and cited is general definition of globalization process formulated by A. McGraw, who considers that globalization depends on the multiplicity of relations and mutuality of interactions of countries and societies forming currently the worldwide system [Zorska 2001, p. 15]. The interactions observed among them cause that the events, decisions and activities undertaken in a given part of the world bring a range of consequences for single people, enterprises or their groups in remote parts of the globe.

Many other interpretations of this complex and multidimensional process are functioning normally. A. Giddens determined it metaphorically as «the biggest tectonic movement of our era, which staggered the basis of worldwide society and will change the trajectory of its development in the future» [Giddens 1997, p. 5].

The ubiquity of this definition causes that everyone using it may give another content to it. What is significant, globalization is concurrently a theoretical term used in numerous disciplines of the science, ideological slogan, as well as dynamic social phenomenon, which considerably hampers its unequivocal definition.

D. Held paid an attention on multidimensionality and multi-faceted character of globalization, and he writes that «globalization means spreading and intensification of social, economic and political relations between particular regions and continents. It is multidimensional phenomenon, including many various processes with different time scale” [Kowalska 2005, p. 81].

Globalization is also often referred as an accelerating integration of national economies (via international trade and direct foreign investments). Markets and production become thus more and more interdependent. Globalization means thus the process of more close, real integration of national economies reflected in dynamic growth of trade turnovers, international capital and service flows, being an effect of an increasing tendency of the whole world treating as an output market by an increasing number of enterprises [Budnikowski 2003, p. 18]. Such perception of this term causes a range of both positive and negative economic, social, political etc. effects. Globalization affects the worldwide economy, as well as national economies influencing economic systems functioning in given countries.

Globalization processes create new conditions of national and worldwide safety, which cannot be dismissed. Some except-military dangers occur, and they are created by specific

infrastructure of globalization processes, inter alia Internet, capital turnover, «permeable» boundaries, development disproportions and others. Possible to identification phenomena, generating the threats for national and international safety in progressing globalization conditions, include inter alia easy access to the technology of weapon of mass destruction production, development of transnational criminal groups (terrorists, drug cartels, and other criminal groups), threat of worldwide finances cyberspace breakdown, increase in poverty regions area, changes in the natural environment [Kaczmarek 2004, pp. 129-130].

A significant tool of international environment controlling in globalization conditions is more often the strength in the area of economy and technology. Concurrently, the significance of except-military power sources is a subject of an increase, and its carriers are entities other than the countries. Due to huge financial flows through main financial centers and stock markets, the structures of economic force are created in an electronic space (cyberspace) which may be relatively easily damaged or destroyed [Kaczmarek 2004, p. 130].

### **3. Conclusion**

The globalization process has not followed any determined economic order so far. The course of this phenomenon is of an impulsive character, both in global scale and in specified country. It is difficult to observe nowadays any precise direction or state it should aim to. These are dynamic changes, involving evident contradictions collision, causing severe social conflicts, deforming international economic and political relations. Rich countries reach increasing profits, and poor countries are pushed down to the peripheries [Kaczmarek 2004, p. 143]. Globalization should reduce, not deepen, disparities and poverty. It cannot be thus the spontaneous process, but should be created in a responsible manner. In other words, the mechanisms of globalization should be recognized well, and they should be used in an aware manner [Oziewicz, Michałowski (eds.) 2013, p. 310].

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