

SUMMARY

In scientific research, as well as in the practical activities of local government units, it is emphasized that revitalization is a particularly complex process used to revive and improve the quality of life in a degraded area that has lost its previous functions. Revitalization can be defined as a non-mandatory task carried out in an area affected by crisis, undertaken by local government units to meet the collective needs of citizens. Its essence is to reverse negative processes in a degraded area. Revitalization should lead to positive socio-economic changes, improve the quality of life, and promote the achievement of sustainable development goals. The literature on the subject treats revitalization as a public management practice, a strategic management tool, or an element of development policy. Due to its complex nature, revitalization is fraught with numerous parallel risks. To reduce or eliminate risk, local government units should initiate and implement risk management activities that are integrated into revitalization management.

The considerations contained in the theoretical and practical parts contributed to the achievement of the main research objective of this dissertation: ***Development of a revitalization management model with particular emphasis on risk, based on the example of selected local government units.*** The theoretical and empirical analysis carried out in this dissertation also made it possible to verify the main hypothesis: ***The effectiveness of revitalization management in local government units is a process that requires the implementation of comprehensive institutional solutions.***

This dissertation consists of an introduction, five chapters, including three theoretical and two empirical ones, a conclusion, a bibliography, and relevant lists.

The above objectives were achieved thanks to the use of appropriate research methods and techniques.

The theoretical part consists of a literature review. The considerations contained in the first chapter focus on the theoretical aspects of management in the concept of public management. For this reason, the essence of public management in the field of management sciences was defined by identifying the subject and object of public management. In this context, the evolutionary development of the idea of public management and its contemporary concepts and trends are presented. Against the background of these considerations, the concept of local government is characterized, with particular emphasis on the specific nature of local government management. From the point of view of achieving the objective of the work, it was crucial to identify and define selected problems of managing mining local government units

and to define their uniqueness, determined by the specificity of a single industry resulting from mining activities.

The second chapter discusses the issue of revitalization in the context of the origins of institutional solutions and the idea of public management, based on a survey and analysis of the literature on the subject. This part of the work defines the essence, role, stages, and areas of the revitalization process in local government management. The content of the second chapter emphasizes the importance of the revitalization process as a public management tool used in local governments as an element of strategic management, as well as an element of development, especially at the local level. In this context, the discussion also covered issues of sustainable development in the context of the revitalization of degraded areas.

The third chapter is devoted to considerations on risk in the revitalization process. This part of the work begins with an introduction to the issue of risk, explaining its essence and concept in relation to local government units. In addition, it systematizes risk and diagnoses the essence of its management in the specific functioning of local government units, as well as its impact on the provision of public services. In this context, it identifies standards for risk management and defines its individual stages. Subsequently, the aspect of risk in the public sector was analyzed through the prism of institutional solutions, i.e., management control. The theoretical considerations were concluded by introducing the issue of risk in the revitalization process.

The empirical part consists of the last two chapters of this work. They are based on the analysis of the literature on the subject carried out in the first three chapters. This part of the work uses both primary (source) data – questionnaire survey, telephone interview – and secondary data from online resources: municipalities (Public Information Bulletin), Ministry of Finance, Central Statistical Office, STRATEG, and Local Development Monitor.

Chapter four begins with a discussion of the methodology of this study, including the research objectives and hypotheses, the sample, and the stages of the research model adopted in this dissertation. In addition, the research sample is characterized. Furthermore, the chapter conducts a multi-criteria assessment of local governments from the perspective of selected aspects of the use of MCDM methods, allowing for the creation of linear rankings. On this basis, the following issues are discussed: the issue of crisis, divided into areas of revitalization—the TOPSIS method, financial and development potential (after conducting a benchmarking analysis of indicators) – Hellwig method, as well as sustainable development goals (TOPSIS and VIKOR methods). The methods used made it possible to identify solutions that are both closest and furthest from the benchmark (ideal solution) in the discussed areas.

The fifth chapter contains an assessment of the content of revitalization programs, monitoring reports, and evaluation reports. Revitalization programs were also analyzed in terms of risk management in the revitalization process. In addition, a statistical analysis was carried out based on data obtained in a questionnaire survey, using selected statistical methods: Student's t-test, Mann-Whitney U test, correlations: Pearson's r, Spearman's rho; chi-square, Shapiro-Wilk, the statistical relationship between the aspect of revitalization and risk management was assessed. Chapter five concludes with the development of an original model for managing the revitalization process, based on previously conducted research (quantitative and qualitative), with particular emphasis on the element of risk.

The last part of the study (conclusion) contains final conclusions and a summary. The conclusion verifies the objectives adopted for implementation and the hypotheses formulated. This part of the study also covers the aspect of added value (theoretical and empirical) and research limitations.

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that revitalization is a particularly complex process. The revitalization process carried out by local government units continues to pose a serious challenge for them. The explorations carried out highlight the dissonance between the theoretical assumptions regarding revitalization activities widely described in the literature on the subject (both domestic and foreign) and in Polish legislation (Guidelines for 2014-2020 and the 2015 Revitalization Act) and their practical implementation.

As revealed by the research, the analyzed local government units manage risk in the revitalization process to a limited extent. A small percentage of the analyzed local government units undertake to discuss the aspect of risk management in the revitalization process, most often limiting it to the identification and indication of remedial measures. The results obtained also confirm the observations presented in the literature on the subject concerning shortcomings occurring at the monitoring and evaluation stages of the revitalization process.

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