

Karolina Wrona

The impact of European funds on developing knowledge-based economy.

The research is to show how - and to what extent - the European funds, both structural and transnational, allow economies in European countries to shift from industrial to knowledge-based economies, in the light of the Lisbon Strategy.

I have chosen to compare one of the “old” member states’ region (i.e. West Midlands) with one of the regions of a state relatively new to European funding, which is Silesia in Poland. Whereas there has been a lot of debate on the Lisbon Strategy and the idea of knowledge-based economy, the field of researching into the European funds is yet unsatisfactory. The “raw data” on European funds’ efficiency are easily accessible, yet commentaries and detailed analysis of the EU funds impact and sustainability are quite rare.

My research will help various EU and national bodies understand the EU policy and programmes and the long term values that can be derived, it will lead to the development of more robust strategies of support particularly to New Member States.

Conferences:

April 2009: “European debates: 5 years of Poland in the EU” held at the Catholic University in Lublin, Poland (organizing committee / speaker)

December 2008: “Management-Improvement-Changes” held at Humanitas University in Sosnowiec, Poland (speaker)

Publications:

In Polish

- *Czym kadra bogata, czyli Program Operacyjny Kapitał Ludzki*, SPECTRUM 02/09, wyd. Elamed, Katowice 2009.
(*Improvement of personnel, alias Human Capital Operational Programme*, SPECTRUM 02/09, published by Elamed, Katowice 2009).
- *Fundusze są dla ludzi, czyli najważniejsze informacje o Funduszach Europejskich na lata 2007-2013*, SPECTRUM 01/09, wyd. Elamed, Katowice 2009.
(*Funds are accessible, alias the most important information about European Funds for the years 2007-2013*, SPECTRUM 02/09, published by Elamed, Katowice 2009).

- *Środki Unijne dla przedsiębiorstw branży włókienniczej*, [w:] Rozwiązania innowacyjne dla małych i średnich zakładów przemysłu odzieżowego, Konferencja Stowarzyszenia Włókienników Polskich, Wrocław 2008.
(*European Funding for the enterprises in the textile sector*, Innovations for small and medium enterprises of the clothing industry, The Conference of the Polish Textile Association, Wrocław 2008).

In English:

- *European Social Fund as an improvement tool for human resources management*, International conference: "Management – Improvement – Changes", Humanitas University, Sosnowiec 2008.

Co-author, with dr E. Targosz (University of Bielsko-Biala, Poland):

- *European funding and SMEs performance improvement*, International conference: "Management – Improvement – Changes", Humanitas University, Sosnowiec 2008..
- *Ecolabelling for textiles as an important instrument of benchmarking in EU's eco-industry*, International conference AUTEX – Word Textile, Citta-strudi, Biella, Italy 2007.

Teaching:

2008/2009 and 2009/2010, Humanitas University in Sosnowiec, Poland:

- Structural Funds and the system of European project financing
- Preparing a European-funded project (workshops)

Other work/internships:

From June 2009, onwards: EU Connects, Birmingham – Erasmus Programme Student Placement followed by Graduate Researcher post.

June-September 2008: Polish Ministry of Regional Development, Department of European Social Fund Management – junior analyst

NGOs:

October 2007 – September 2009: The Polish Forum of Young Diplomats – Secretary General of Representation in Lublin & Grant Coordinator

Education:

Masters in Economics '08 , The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, College of Interfaculty Individual Studies in the Humanities