

### **Abstract**

Title of thesis: Strategies of regional development from perspective of multicriteria decision model.

The main purpose of thesis is to formulate alternative strategies of regional development in view of territorial cohesion. The following research objectives have been stated:

1. Analyzing regional strategy formulation from perspective of strategic management and showing interdependencies between decision theory and regional strategic planning.
2. Identifying subregions based on zero unitarization method.
3. Selection of key criteria with use of AHP method.
4. Selection of strategic alternative in relation to previously determined subregions
5. Comparison of empirical research outcomes to official strategy and scientific literature

The following hypothesis has been verified: regional strategic planning with use of multicriteria decision making model guarantees holistic approach in the field of management of regional development process.

Doctoral thesis consists of: introduction, five chapters, summary and references. First and second chapter presents theoretical and comparative approach based on literature review.

First chapter includes theoretical background of research involving concepts of strategies (planning approach, evolutionary, comparative strategy and resource based view); models of public sector management (new public management, multi - level governance). The last part of the chapter is devoted to analysis of Polish regional policy.

Second chapter considers theories of regional development such as theory of economic base, the basic product theory, growth pole theory, development paths, the core and peripheries model. It also includes the analyze of development factors and basic terms such as growth, economic development and region. At the end of chapter the territorial cohesion is presented as the underlying principle for territorial oriented strategic planning.

The third chapter is divided into two parts. In the first one, subject of empirical research is presented (official strategy of Malopolska Voivodship). The second part presents methodological basis of research. Formulation of regional strategy is presented from perspective of decision making process. Three methods, which are applied in empirical part

of dissertation are characterized: Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), canonical analysis and zero unitarization method.

AHP method is widely use to solve decision problems in management sciences including strategic planning. AHP is based on building hierarchical model with goal on the top, criteria, subcriteria and alternatives. The AHP method relies on relative judgments. The outcome of judgments are presented as numerical values, which are priorities in decision making model.

In the fourth chapter hierarchical decision model of regional strategy in Malopolska is presented. The priorities for criteria and subcriteria are established. With the use of zero unitarization method Malopolska region is divided into five subregions.

In the last chapter three alternative strategies of regional development are drafted: polarization strategy, compensatory strategy and polycentric strategy. Afterwards strategies are evaluated in relation to weights of subcriteria for each subregions.

In the summary it has been stated that conducted researches confirmed acceptance for strategies based on endogenous development, which are based on territorial approach. Key development factors which have been decision criteria in hierarchical model have been indicated there.

Research approach was typical for management sciences: reductive and analytical. Moreover applying multicriteria decision model to strategy formulation allows to underline importance of intangible criteria in planning of regional development.

