

INTRODUCTION

Two approaches: a normative and an empirical approach co-exist in economic sciences. In the studies carried out by the Collegium of Socio-Economics, the latter tends to dominate, which is reflected in the texts presented in this issue. In turn, in the empirical approach, both a horizontal and a vertical approach can be encountered. The first one takes into account the accumulation of knowledge based on the observation of contemporary experiences as well as the analysis of how others deal with similar challenges. The second one takes into consideration the accumulation of knowledge over time, reaching for the in-breadth and in-depth exploration of past experiences. The texts contained in this volume represent both approaches. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of regaining independence, employees of the Department of Economic and Social History prepared a review of Polish experience in the field of economic policy from the 100-year perspective. The part presenting the historical analyses is supplemented with several studies on contemporary problems. Agnieszka Alińska and Izabela Czepirska conducted research into the microfinance sector, Izabela Książkiewicz examined the problem of the education of adults, and Violetta Korporowicz focused on health behaviours. Rafał Towalski undertook the task of the assessment of the potential of Polish trade unions, and Wanda Dugiel presented the place of Poland in international trade. The variety of topics and approaches reflects the wide range of interests of the Collegium staff.

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