

The search for factors that determine the functioning of the company is one of the important aspects of knowledge about the company. Dynamics of intensive technological or institutional changes in the current business environment, may lead to the collapse of the foundations of a company. On the other hand, it can also be a source of discovering new market opportunities.

The perception of the airport as the company is an innovative approach because, until recently the airports were seen as part of infrastructure of the country, and their main task was to ensure the smooth and safe operation of airlines and passenger flow. This situation changed with the liberalization of the air transport market and the increasing integration and globalization of economies.

There has been a certain polarization in the development of airports in Poland. Some airports generate profits and expanding its activities (Cracow, Gdańsk, Katowice, Wrocław) while others record declines in the size of transport and are threatened by the return of EU grants due to the failure to achieve projected in the business plan the number of passengers (Bydgoszcz, Łódź, Lublin). There were new businesses entrance to the branch (Modlin, Radom), but also there are airports at risk of falling (Zielona Góra, Szczecin).

There is no comprehensive knowledge that would explain why some airports are able to survive the most difficult phases of the life cycle and enter the path of development and intensive growth, while others are threatened with collapse, that is why there are incentives to undertake research in this direction.

Fragmentary treatment of various aspects of the airport do not reply to the question about conditions and key factors of its development, therefore there is a need for a comprehensive analysis of the determinants of airport development, taking into account the different levels of research, as well as external factors, including institutional. Here it is important to take into account the specificities of the airport and the market in which the entity operates.

The main objective of the project is to identify factors affecting the operation of an airport and to determine the direction of their impact on the development of the airport as company of specific nature.

The approach taken in the project is based on a variety of contemporary theories of the company. In connection with the existing examples of inefficient investment in the development of airports in other countries (eg. in Spain), interesting from the point of view of the research seems to be able to conduct comparisons of the factors determining the possibility of functioning and development of the airport depending on location and other circumstances (eg. socio-demographic, cultural, etc.) existing on a given geographical area.

This project is an original theoretical considerations made in order to acquire new knowledge in the field of science and economics of the airport. The results of the research will contribute to the qualitative and quantitative knowledge of business development problems of a specific nature.

Literature on the market airports in Poland is greatly reduced. The rationale for this is the immaturity of the air transport market and, until recently, little of its participation in national and international transport of passengers and freight, and thus marginalize the importance of air transport. In the last decade, due to changes in the market, the number of scientific papers relating to air transport has increased. Nevertheless, one can notice the lack of comprehensive analyzes of the functioning and development of the airport and the work of theoretical research on the possibility of modeling the development of the airport as a result of changes in the factors affecting its operation.

Detailed analysis of the determinants affecting the activities and success of the airport as a company with a special character is a challenge from the point of view of the theory of enterprise and research related to the so-called. demography of enterprises.

The results and the results of research work included in the project fill a gap in the literature and enrich the theoretical knowledge on the functioning of enterprises and the economics of the airport.