Traditionally, export activity has been analysed for countries. Regional dimension of exporting activity was rather neglected or not noticed. However, export is strongly diversified regionally. **The main objective of the proposed project is to identify determinants of exporting activity at regional level.** Comprehensive inquiry of this kind has not been conducted so far. It is "a step further" in comparison to existing research. By taking this topic we relate to message of the **New Economic Geography and subsidiarity principle**. Each of the region has its specific export profile, that can be a base for so called **smart specialisation**, which is a way to stimulate regional growth, improve competitiveness and settle competitiveness profile of region in the world economy. Export analysis for regions, as so far, are most advanced for USA and Canada and among European countries – for Spain. It justifies the invitation of the research partner from Spain – to the project. Spain is a reference country for Poland also due to relative similar size of the economy, GDP per capita level as well as similar number of NUTS-2 regions (16 in Poland, 19 in Spain).

The source of export is not a homogenous economic space, but rather particular localisations. Characteristic features of these localisations determine the pattern of foreign trade relations. Features of economic environment, especially at regional level, determine intensity and structure of foreign trade relations of individual business entities, that "constitute" regions' export.

Within the proposed project econometric models will be estimated. The first one will be devoted to - already mentioned - identification of determinants of exports for regions. The second one will be focused on intra-industry trade (IIT). In this kind of trade, the same products are subject of imports and exports between/among countries. This is an opposite situation to inter-industry trade. IIT mostly happens among similar countries, in terms of level of development and customers' preferences. For instance between France and Germany IIT is relatively high as both countries exchange cars, and other similar products. On the other hand between Germany and Russia we do not observe high intensity of IIT as Germany is exporting cars, pharmaceuticals etc. and Russia is exporting predominantly natural resources. Our model will not only assess the role of IIT for regions, but also see its determinants. Intra industry trade analysis for regions - as so far - are not frequent. The third model will be focused on gravity concept. Gravity was incorporated from physics into so called socio-physics and then into international economics. Nowadays it is the most important and the most frequently used theorem in modelling of intensity of foreign trade links among countries. Econometric modelling will also be done for consequences of regional economies' openness for economic growth.

One of the most important projects' results will be identification of factors that determine exporting activity at regional level. It shall improve effectiveness of export promotion not only due to identified determinates but also because of the reference to competitive advantages in which regions already have solid position in exports. As econometric models will be prepared (related to intra industry-trade and gravity) – it will allow to present arguments in discussion on regional aspects of foreign trade – that so far was restricted to countries.

Exchange of experience and confrontation of research between partners from Poland and Spain will be an important additional result of the proposed research.