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ZMIANY W HANDLU ZAGRANICZNYM NIEMIEC PO PRZYSTĄPIENIU DO STREFY EURO

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this dissertation is to investigate the reasons for changes in German foreign trade in 1999-2014 both from a historical perspective and a perspective of international economic relations. The historical perspective was used to compare the conditions for the development of German foreign trade prevailing in 1958-1998 with the conditions that followed with the creation of the euro area. Such a broad historical analysis, covering the periods of functioning of different models of the international monetary system, and at the same time taking into account the conditions for creating a monetary union, allows to deepen the analysis of the growth factors of Germany's trade surplus. In addition to the reasons that led to changes in German foreign trade in 1999-2014, the subject of research was also the importance of foreign trade in the development of the German economy, measured using indicators such as openness of the economy, share in the global trade, and the dynamic of export and import growth. In the doctoral dissertation, the research methods used to verify the thesis were an analysis of the subject literature, an analysis of official documents, a statistical and descriptive analysis, a historical and comparative analysis and an analysis of industry organizations' reports.

The structure of the dissertation reflects and organizes research problems in a chronological and processual way. The work consists of four chapters. Chapter I presents the main consequences of international economic and monetary integration for the development of foreign trade of countries participating in this process. An important problem is the issue of the consequences of current account imbalances for the stability of the economies of the monetary union countries.

The analyzes and considerations presented in chapter II of the study were aimed at showing the main macroeconomic conditions for the development of Germany's foreign trade before the creation of the monetary union. It was analyzed how the German trade exchange developed at various stages of the European economic integration and in various currency systems functioning in the years 1958-1998. These considerations served as a basis for

determining whether before 1999 there had been trends in German trade, which changed with the creation of the euro area. It also allowed to find an answer to the question to what extent fluctuations in foreign exchange rates constituted a barrier to the development of German foreign trade in the years 1958-1998.

From the point of view of verifying the main thesis, the most important considerations are presented in chapters III and IV, where the issue of changes in conditions for the development of German foreign trade during the period of its membership in the euro area in 1999-2014 was compared to the condition prevailing in the years 1958-1998. An equally important goal was to examine whether in 1999-2014 there were significant differences in the development of German foreign trade in relation to the euro area countries, compared to its development with the largest developed countries in the world and selected developing countries. By that means, it was possible to analyze how the role of the monetary union states as trade partners of Germany evolved in the indicated period. It also led to the conclusions whether in the years 1999-2014 there were significant changes in the supply chain of German companies affecting the price competitiveness of exports. The analysis of the research problem in chapters III and IV was structured in a similar way, while the differences occur in a time frame. In chapter III the changes in German foreign trade in the period of stable functioning of the euro area in the years 1999-2007 are examined, whereas, in chapter IV, the impact of the global financial crisis and the crisis of the euro area in 2008-2014 on the development of trade exchange in Germany was researched.

The conclusions from the dissertation constitute a voice in the economic debate on the causes of changes in Germany's foreign trade after joining the euro area. The findings of the dissertation provide important recommendations for both countries belonging to the euro area and countries only aspiring to join it. The analysis of the reasons for improving the German trade results in the years 1999-2014 can be used to assess whether the rules of the monetary union ensure its stability and do not favor countries with a specific structure of the economy. In the dissertation, an in-depth analysis of the causes of the crisis of the monetary union in 2010-2014 and its consequences for foreign trade were conducted. Considerations on changes in Germany's economic policy supporting trade performance in 1999-2014 may be an important source of knowledge on how to prepare the economy for

joining a monetary union, and how to effectively increase the price competitiveness of exports.