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The aim of the study was to check whether cultural institutions play an important role in revitalization processes. Changes have taken place in the Polish economy, which have led to structural transformations. Thinking about culture and its potential for economic development was reinterpreted. Interest in the use of cultural heritage has also increased. The work is a theoretical and empirical study. The theoretical part was based on extensive literature studies. The empirical part of the dissertation was prepared based on a wide range of source materials concerning individual cities and the whole country. The research undertaken made it possible to achieve the goal of the doctoral thesis, which consisted in identifying the role and possibilities of using cultural institutions in the revitalization process of cities with degraded downtown, post-industrial, post-military, and post-port areas. The first chapter presents the impact of the systemic transformation on the development of cities. The scale of degradation was assessed, and different types of degraded areas were characterized. The second chapter is devoted to the theoretical aspects of revitalization processes of degraded urban areas. The author also checked how revitalization is described in the literature. The third chapter discusses the role of culture and cultural heritage in the revitalization process. The author focuses on shaping the revitalization program based on the potential of cultural institutions and raises issues related to the financing of revitalization processes. In the fourth chapter, the author discusses the Western European experience of revitalizing degraded urban areas through culture and the possibilities of using them in Poland. The fifth chapter contains an analysis and evaluation of projects using culture and cultural institutions in the revitalization processes of degraded areas in selected Polish cities. The conclusion from the doctoral thesis is to emphasize the importance of the impact of culture on the socio-economic development of places and facilities in a crisis. However, it should be emphasized that culture and cultural institutions only support the development of a given city, but they are not the only basis for its development. The scale of influence of culture on its development depends on the size of the city. Revitalization activities have evolved from activities related to the renovation of technical infrastructure to social rehabilitation. A positive feature of the Polish model of revitalization has also been the development of institutional instrumentation and a relatively coherent system of procedures for financing renewal programs.