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The main research goal of the doctoral dissertation is to identify the determinants and assess the changes in the competitiveness of the manufacturing of the Visegrad Group (V4) economies in 2007-2021 in the context of the fourth industrial revolution. In order to achieve the main goal of the dissertation, a detailed review of previous research on the competitiveness of the manufacturing was made. In the context of shaping an appropriate environment to industrial competitiveness, of which the manufacturing is an important part, the author's attention was paid to industrial policy. The work attempts to characterize the concept of a new, multidimensional, systemic industrial policy as its instruments can constitute an important determinant of the competitiveness of the industry. The industrial policy in the V4 countries was also assessed in the context of creating framework conditions for implementing the assumptions of the fourth industrial revolution. An important added value of the work is also the index of competitiveness of the manufacturing industry, which takes into account the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. It may constitute an interesting instrument for examining the competitiveness of the manufacturing in other economies.

The doctoral thesis is of a theoretical and empirical nature and consists of an introduction, five chapters, an ending and conclusions.

The first chapter is theoretical. It contains a critical review of literature concerning competitiveness of the manufacturing and an attempt to define it.

The second chapter identifies the differences between the fourth industrial revolution and Industry 4.0. The conditions and assumptions of the fourth industrial revolution and the resulting new determinants of the competitiveness of manufacturing processing were also determined.

The third chapter is theoretical and empirical in nature. It assessed industrial policy in the V4 countries in the context of creating framework conditions for implementing the assumptions of the fourth industrial revolution.

The fourth chapter contains the results of a study covering the conditions and determinants of the competitiveness of industrial production in the V4 economies and the importance of the manufacturing in V4 countries and other European Union member states.

In the fifth chapter, a synthetic index of competitiveness of manufacturing was developed, using the principal components analysis method, taking into account new determinants of competitiveness resulting from the fourth industrial revolution. The results of a comparative analysis of changes in competitiveness measured using CIP and the synthetic competitiveness index in the V4 countries and other EU countries were also presented.

The dissertation is concluded with a conclusion containing a summary of the results of the empirical analysis and a presentation of recommendations for the V4 economies.