

ABSTRACT

The doctoral dissertation “Cooperation of non-governmental organizations with territorial self-government units in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship after 2004” was written under the direction of prof. dr hab. Jacek Knopek.

The main scientific goal of the doctoral thesis is to identify the problems and variables that relate to the cooperation of local self-government units with non-governmental organizations in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship after entering into the life of the Public Benefit and Volunteer Work Act of 2003, to analyze those problems and present any possible solutions towards the progression in the interaction between both categories of entities.

Within the democratic political and legal order, non-governmental organizations are an inseparable attribute of a civil society. The existing normative and practical relations in the area of implementation of public policies between the non-governmental sector and local self government units, due to both actors are of interest to political science.

After the resuscitation of the territorial self-government, occurred a reflection on the subjectivity of local communities, their self-governing role in the implementation of tasks and public policies alongside, or rather along with the self-government units. After the avalanche-style period of bloom of new NGOs in the nineties, along with the maturing of civil society and the third sector in Poland, there has been a development of the symmetry of the partnership of both these entities in the implementation of public tasks. In addition to the current increase in public interest in procedural democracy and forms of participatory democracy, there are growing expectations regarding the effectiveness of activities and the professionalization of the third sector, and cooperation between the non-governmental and self-government sectors is gaining symmetry. The situation is similar in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship - the state of intersectoral cooperation and its quality is the responsibility of both parties. Therefore, both territorial self-government units and non-governmental organizations were included in the research field of this dissertation. A part of this process is the standardization of cooperation.

The implementation of the adopted objectives of the work was carried out in the course of considerations taken up in seven chapters, the first four being theoretical considerations, and three others constitute an empirical part.

Chapter one defines non-governmental organizations in the Polish socio-political reality. It has been demonstrated that the ancient models of philanthropy, which are the attribute of community life, became a model for pro-social activities of the later centuries and the modern third sector. This chapter discusses the genesis of the creation and development of non-governmental organizations in Poland and in the world as well as the flourishing of the non-governmental sector in Poland after 1989. It presents the role of an organization in the concept of a modern state. For the purposes of the study, the notion of a non-governmental organization has been defined and identified semantically, and its place in the socio-political reality has been specified, presenting selected features, functions and tasks. Chapter one also presents the basic organizational forms of non-governmental institutions and the selected principles of their functioning.

Chapter two of the dissertation presents the West Pomeranian Voivodeship as a typical region shaping the foundations of intersectoral cooperation. For this purpose, legal regulations on the functioning of territorial self-government units have been described, including a three-level division of power and the principle of decentralization. Against this background, the self-government of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship and its territorial structure, as well as selected issues of socio-economic development have been portrayed. Within the region, the scale of functioning of non-governmental organizations, their areas of activities has been presented, which have later been described against the background of Poland and Europe. The public tasks have been explored in the voivodeship, presenting both their own and commissioned tasks of territorial self-government units in the field of public services, as well as self-government units fulfilling social services. The principles of financing tasks assigned and entrusted, as well as the place of OP, as providers of social services have been presented.

The third chapter has entirely been devoted to institutional and normative considerations regarding the partnership of non-governmental organizations with territorial self-government units. In addition to the local and central legal procedures, at the forefront with Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work (APBVW), fundamental for the inter-sectoral cooperation, the cooperation with the European Union has also found its place here. The author considered it important to refer to the Polish state's policy towards the third sector in Poland against the

background of the conditions of intersectoral cooperation, which was outlined as an element of civic participation and civil society. The definition of civil society itself has been systematized within the framework of political thought.

Chapter three indicates that not only legal acts are determinants of the partnership - between the practice and the letter of law there are no less important for the culture of cooperation, its other legal conditions like standards, models of cooperation, strategies, sources of local law.

The last of the descriptive chapters - the fourth one - analyzes statutory and non-statutory forms of cooperation, with the division into both financial and non-financial forms contained in the APBVW. A breakthrough in legislation regulating the sphere of cooperation between public, self-government and non-governmental sectors took place after the adoption of the act described in 2003, as this act created a framework for the relations between public institutions and non-governmental organizations. Therefore, the statutory forms of cooperation have been discussed in detail. Because this catalog is of exemplary nature, non-statutory forms of cooperation have also been approximated as commonly practiced. The division of both types into financial and non-financial forms has been presented. The author justified the qualification of Local Action Groups as a form of intersectoral cooperation, which is not a phenomenon characteristic of other researchers.

Chapter five is a description of the methodology used in the research. In addition to the schematic logic of the research procedure, the research problems and hypotheses, as well as the entire methodology of researching the cooperation along with the course of the study and description of the main research tool - questionnaire - and technique adequate to the number of subjects - CAWI have been presented.

Chapter six deals with the results of own research from web research - the analysis of websites of self-governments of communes and powiat self-governments, and the Marshal's office from the West Pomeranian voivodeship in terms of intersectoral cooperation. By means of the results of the survey, a subjective picture of cooperation between both entities has been created. The course of implementation of local public policies in the partnership is an illustration of the effects of the above research tool. The infrastructure of this cooperation in the West Pomeranian region has been verified, and - the conditions for creating local activity in the discussed area have been identified.

Chapter seven is a continuation of the characteristics of the social partnership dimension of West Pomeranian non-governmental organizations and territorial self-government units in the light of the analysis of research results. The diagnosed cooperation has covered its standardization in the area of local public policies and cooperation models. Selected forms of cooperation have been discussed here as good practices in Western Pomerania and preceded by SWOT analysis - according to three areas of cooperation of public policies - recommendations for further cooperation.

Public policies are increasingly becoming a forum for cooperation between territorial self-government and non-governmental organizations, both in terms of their creation, implementation and cooperation infrastructure in this context. This is the result of decentralization processes leading to self-organization of local communities, development of self-governance as well as greater social and economic cohesion. It serves the development of civil society and creation of social capital, contributes to increasing participation in solving problems at the local level. What is therefore worth considering is the situation of cooperation between the self-government sector and non-governmental organizations in creating public policies at the regional level - in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship.

The "Conclusion" of this dissertation contains a summary of the theoretical and empirical research carried out, and also presents synthetic answers to the research questions posed in the thesis. An integral part of the dissertation are also the necessary lists of literature, drawings and tables used.

Key words: territorial self-government, non-governmental organizations, cooperation, West Pomeranian Voivodeship.