

## SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

### THE TASKS OF MUNICIPAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND MULTIANNUAL PLANS ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CHEŁMIŃSKI DISTRICT IN YEARS 2010-2014

Doctoral dissertation in the field of social sciences in the discipline of political sciences.

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The author of the dissertation presents an analysis of the tasks of municipal self-government<sup>1</sup> in the perspective of constitutional and statutory regulations and their implementation in seven municipalities of chełmiński district (*powiat chełmiński*)<sup>2</sup> in Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship<sup>3</sup>. The tasks of the surveyed self-government units are presented based on the development strategy and long-term plans of each municipality adopted for the term of office, covering the years 2010-2014.

Objectives of the dissertation:

1. presentation of the municipality as the main entity performing public tasks related to meeting the needs of residents and other entities, typology of municipal self-government tasks, their character and content, and explanation of the process of functioning of local authorities and institutions in social practice;
2. analysis and recognition of the content of specified and systematized tasks of the analyzed municipalities in the light of development strategy and multiannual plans;

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<sup>1</sup> The basic unit of administrative division in Poland is *gmina* - equivalent to municipality in other countries.

<sup>2</sup> *Powiat* is a second-level unit (equivalent to district or a county) and *województwo* is a third-level unit (equivalent to region or a province) of local government and administrative division in Poland.

<sup>3</sup> The research covered all municipalities of the said district: one urban municipality - *Gmina of Chełmno Town* and six rural municipalities - *Gmina Chełmno*, *Gmina Unisław*, *Gmina Lisewo*, *Gmina Kijewo Królewskie*, *Gmina Papowo Biskupie* and *Gmina Stolno*.

3. indication of the importance of implementation of the adopted tasks for local communities;
4. presentation of principles, methods and instruments for the implementation of tasks indicated in development strategies and multiannual plans;
5. presentation of the practical activity of municipal councils, executive bodies, auxiliary apparatus, communal organizational units, and assessment of the degree of implementation of ideological and political assumptions and normative regulations referring to the performance of public tasks in the analyzed municipalities.

The main hypothesis of the considerations contained in the dissertation is the following statement: *entrusting the local self-government with an independent implementation of an extensive catalog of public tasks as its own tasks, along with the possibility of commissioning other public tasks, was an act defining its social and political essence and position in the public authority system.*

The dissertation consists of *The Introduction*, five chapters and *The Ending*.

The first chapter *Local self-government as an integral part of the system of public authority in the Third Polish Republic* was devoted to the explanation of the concept and the essence, and function that local self-government fulfills in a democratic society in historical and institutional-comparative perspective.

Second chapter *Municipality - the basic unit of local self-government* contains considerations explaining and justifying the role of the municipality as the basic unit of local self-government. This chapter presents the internal organization of the municipality and the tasks for which the unit was established. A significant part of this chapter contains an analysis of the theoretical and normative aspects of implementation of public tasks, formulation of development strategies and development programs at this level of local self-government.

In the next, third chapter *The material basis of the municipality's activities* were discussed issues related to public finances and their importance for the functioning of local self-government units. Part of the chapter deals with property and property rights of the analyzed municipalities, which constitute the property of local self-government units and the procedure of creating and implementing the budget as an indispensable instrument for the implementation of tasks of local self-government units at all levels.

In the fourth chapter *The typological characteristics of the analyzed municipalities* are presented in detail: socio-economic structure of the municipalities of the chełmiński district, an outline of their history, natural environment, tourism values and internal conditions affecting the level of implementation of public tasks.

The fifth chapter *Development strategies and multi-annual plans of the analyzed municipalities. Implementation and effects* is dedicated to development strategies and other programming documents that were in force in 2010-2014 in the municipalities of the chełmiński district. The strengths and weaknesses of the municipalities were discussed in detail, visions representing key areas of concentration of local self-government policy, missions and strategic and operational objectives defining the directions of individual municipalities' activities were presented. A number of important information on the implementation of tasks, achieved effects and objectives adopted in the development strategies of individual municipalities are shown in the final part of the dissertation in tabular form, in comparable for all municipalities areas such as: infrastructure and economy, tourism, health and social security, social activity and agriculture. The chapter ends with an analysis of the financial condition of the municipalities in the assumed time period.

*The Ending* is an attempt to summarize the considerations presented in the dissertation and to answer the questions appearing in the background of theoretical and methodological analysis, reviewing the legal acts regulating the organization, defining the scope of tasks and the principles of functioning of the municipal self-government in Poland. The evaluation of the level of task implementation in the analyzed municipalities was also important. The importance of the research problem and the significance of the research results obtained from the point of view of their cognitive and pragmatic values were also underlined.

The reference to the research questions and hypotheses allowed one to express the conviction that self-government at the local level is an indispensable and socially accepted institution responsible for articulating and then constant, uninterrupted implementation of the needs of municipal communities and securing their important interests.