

Summary

The international cooperation of local governments units on the example of Warmian-Masurian region.

The consolidation of the EU as a major actor in economic, financial, environmental, trade, migration and other horizontal contexts, such as climate change and extreme poverty, has strengthened the emergence of this new non-state actor in the international arena. The activity of local government units in the international arena is a reflection of a wider phenomenon of the last decades, manifesting itself in an increase in the intensity, the scope, and the number of participants in the international relations whose complexity is accompanied by decentralization.

International engagement by local governments is a useful foreign policy tool and adds a significant dimension to international contacts. In the past decades, local governments and their associations have increased and enhanced their involvement in development cooperation, with a view to contributing to capacity development of local governments, to facilitate and strengthen decentralization and local development processes, and to contribute to poverty reduction and the attainment of international development goals.

In the thesis the author made an attempt to present, the approximation of the legal grounds for undertaking the international cooperation by local government units, which are subject to normalization of the domestic, public international and the EU law sources as well as the presentation international activity (as the result of the empirical studies) of the local governmental units of Warmian Masurian Voivodeship. The paper assesses as well the strengths of and opportunities for local government development cooperation, describes the various models of intervention and looks at the need to continue creating innovative approaches and focusing on concrete tangible results and impact.