

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the richest sectors of the modern global economy. Due to its existence people are able to treat the growing number of diseases, it is also one of the main sponsors of the development of modern science in the world. However, at the same time, its actions are cause of serious social and moral controversy. Many researchers point out drug industry's excessive impact on the medical and scientific environment, political authorities or even the whole societies. Independently from the empirical analysis of the activity of the pharmaceutical industry, research on the notion of biopolitics are developed. The aim of the project is to combine both of these perspectives in such a way as to get the answer to the question, which of the existing concept of biopolitics gives the best tools to describe and understand the pharmaceutical industry - and then applying this concept to analyze and evaluate drug industry's actions.

Why biopolitics is to be the best category for examining the drug sector? The pharmaceutical industry affects both the sphere of policy (e.g. through lobbying) and the sphere of biological life (e.g. by forming opinion about what is widely recognized as a disease); patenting biological materials or drugs, it establishes boundaries between what can be considered as a common good (nature, knowledge), and what can be treated as private property. It is impossible to describe the pharmaceutical industry without reflection on the relationship between politics and life, or power and knowledge - and these concepts play a central role in a variety of biopolitical theories.

In recent years, numerous works devoted to the troubling ethical aspects of the drug industry's activity have been published. In the most important manuals on the ethics of research, the whole chapters devoted to the relation of private and public sector and their consequences for the development of science and medicine can be found. All these works mentioned above have something in common - they provide a thorough description of facts, problems and examples of abuses in the pharmaceutical sector, but they stop at this level of analysis which may make the reader unsatisfied. Novelty of this project lies in the fact that empirical description of the drug industry's controversial practices will be enriched of an in-depth analysis of such concepts as biopolitics, medicalization or commercialization of knowledge. The project brings an innovative contribution both to the field of bioethics as well as in the theory of political thought, because it aims to integrate both of these perspectives.