

The aim of the project is to study new forms of workers' collective action and conditions of their occurring in Poland after the access to the EU (2004-2014). Transformation of 1989 and its aftermath, especially mass privatization, has deeply influenced workers' self-organization. Trade unions became marginalized and some of their function were taken by different social actors. This situation leads to unprecedented change in the very nature of the labor movement: neocorporatism becomes superseded by social unionism model, in which trade unions are only one of broad alliance towards fair job and social justice. The main hypothesis of the project is: in response to unfavorable opportunity structures, labor protest will take social union formula. It has consequences for mobilizing structures, repertoires and interpretative frames of the protest.

The project is based on protest event analysis methodology in its main part: using the study of press sources (two nationwide daily newspapers, two trade union weeklies and archives of Polish Press Agency) we will construct a historical database of labor protests. Its statistical analysis will allow constructing sociological image of workers' collective action in four crucial dimensions: organizational forms, forms of action, interpretative frames and opportunity structures. Protest event analysis will be supplemented by network analysis of data gathered and semi-structured interviews with representatives of labor organizations active in social union protests.

The project rejects traditional distinction between sociology of industrial relations and sociology of social movements. It responds therefore to an urgent need to "reinvigorate" sociology of work and industrial relations. Realization of the project will allow creation of entirely new knowledge on collective action in Poland, which is very rarely studied using qualitative methods. The main theoretical problem the project strives to tackle, is a relation between unfavorable opportunity structures and forms of protest.