

*The Relationship between the Mass Media and Political Elites in Poland in the Perspective of German experience*

For a media system to exist in any country, a relationship between the political and mass media elites is significant. The major scientific goal of the proposed research project is to determine the level of self-awareness among the political, mass media and journalist elites in Poland with regard to the character and form of their mutual relations and their effects on the activities of these elites in the public sphere. Three questions that are significant to establish the relations between the elites need to be answered:

- Q1/ How do the representatives of the Polish political, media and journalist elites consider the role and importance of their mutual relations for a democratic social order?
- Q2/ How do the representatives of these elites evaluate the character and form of their mutual relations in everyday practice?
- Q3/ What differences, and even antagonisms, do the representatives of these elites see in their mutual relations?

The research will concern on examination of views and opinions presented by the mass media elites in the selected opinion-forming weeklies ("Polityka", "Newsweek", "Wprost", "Do Rzeczy"), as well as in documents and speeches available on the websites of political parties. They reflect the views and standpoints of the representatives of the studied elites regarding their mutual relations. The next step will involve preparing questions which will be used in in-depth interviews and an online survey. The next stage is comparison of the results of research on the relationship between media and political elites in Poland and Germany in order to determine similarities and differences in both countries.

The main reason for undertaking the research is a fact, that they lack research projects that would examine the mutual relations between the political elites and the journalist and media elites. In other countries, e.g. in the Federal Republic of Germany, the researchers have been studying the relationship between the political and the mass media elites for many years. The studies revealed that the mutual relations between both elites were dependent on different motives that resulted from either the logic of political activity or journalistic standards and requirements. The authors of the project want to research, how they are perceived relationships between political and the mass media elites in Poland and to compare these results with the results of the German research.