

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)**

One of the important tasks of local government is to provide the citizens with an appropriate quality of life, including in particular access to everyday services – both public and commercial. This accessibility may be considered in the context of territorial cohesion, a concept aiming at optimizing the distribution and availability of functions crucial for the common good. Therefore if we want to raise the level of territorial cohesion we need to create favourable political conditions for services development in various scales.

A characteristic, natural feature of services is concentration in particular places, which satisfies various clients' needs and ensures economic effectiveness of service providers. A special form of such concentration is a local service centre – a multi-function public space with access to basic services, fostering social integration and supporting territorial (local) identity.

The presented research project aims at building a theoretical *Model LCU*, including recommendations for shaping the system of everyday services in urbanised areas (big cities and their suburbs) in the context of recent civilizational development. The project will be realised by an interdisciplinary team of experts in various disciplines (urban planning, sociology, economy) and its central methodological approach is conducting several comprehensive case studies in Poland, Denmark and Czech Republic. The research results will be consulted with local government officials, which will direct the model in line with the current planning practice and the needs of local policy.

In the long run, the project could help to improve the quality of life in urban areas in Poland (both in urban cores and in suburban areas) by increasing the availability of services, by enriching their offer, by providing more attractive public spaces and strengthening the local communities.