

Modern society is composed of various social spheres that are functionally differentiated. The government understood as the center of a political system is not able to effectively govern the whole society in a centralized manner – in particular, it often lacks a specialized knowledge that would enable to efficiently regulate autonomous and specific domains. Therefore, new paradigms of governance emphasize that on one hand – the autonomy of the social spheres should be respected, but on the other – the government should coordinate and mediate different social logics that may be contrary to the public interest.

The aim of the project is to conduct an empirical study of the legal policy against professional self-governments in the period between 1997-2015 and to explain its shape on the basis of the results, as well as to create a model of law-making that would resolve aforementioned problems. The choice of self-governments as a subject of research was based on the fact that they constitute the highest form of institutionalization of social spheres that possess specialized knowledge and are granted constitutionally protected autonomy in order to effectively operate. At the same time the government should undertake a coherent policy against the professional self-governments due to the fact that they are responsible for exercising public authority. Those strategies can vary from centralized, ‘manual’ control to giving them a *de facto* freedom in creating solutions. The project will focus on the key regulations of self-governments concerning access to a profession, disciplinary proceedings and proper practice of the profession, as those are main elements of disagreement in discussions between the government and self-governments.

The project puts forward a hypothesis that so far the governments did not have a coherent self-government policy. This was due to reasons that were both structural and related to the strategies undertaken by social partners and the government. What was most important was in particular: lack of special channel that would be adjusted to the needs of highly organized self-governments for which the mechanism of consultations was not sufficient; ‘sectoral’ process of law-making at the government stage of the legislative process which hindered a coherent legal policy; high level of organization, self-consciousness and awareness of self-governments that made them pursue strategies directed at favorable regulations.

The project aims at using quantitative and qualitative data in order to analyze legislative process – created acts, assumptions for the draft acts and opinions of self-governments. Then a theoretical model will be suggested, that will enable to conceptualize creating regulations with respect for the social spheres’ autonomy, requirements of social coordination and public interest.

In public and scientific discourse it is usually assumed that in order to effectively govern, the government needs to break the monopoly of the groups of interest that are defending their privileges. This assumption is most commonly expressed by highlighting the need to reinforce the position of the Council of Ministers in the legislative process. On the other hand, some researchers believe that that can cause an ‘alienation’ of the ruling class and that can lead to creating solutions that would ignore the autonomy of those systems. The project aims at empirical evaluation of the strategies undertaken by Polish governments to the autonomic social spheres, and then to suggest the model going beyond a usually assumed zero-sum game (that reinforcing the government must imply destroying autonomy of social spheres and vice-versa).