

## **Description for the general public**

The research project, entitled "**The economics of urban commons**" combines the scientific knowledge of urban economics, public economics and experimental economics. The inspiration for focusing on urban commons theme was the great work of Elinor Ostrom - Nobel Prize winner in economics, who developed the principles of self-organizing institutions which are able to effectively govern the environmental common goods such as fisheries, or pastures. We recognized that a similar challenge exist in case of **urban commons**. This subject in Polish research on urban economics is so far undiscovered, and probably this is a mistake because of the growing awareness and willingness of citizens to participate in governing their cities.

The objectives of the project is to: firstly create a "conceptual map" and classification of urban commons, because this concept has now become "buzzword" and is used sometimes too often; secondly, we want to introduce a new concept into economic sciences, initially called **collective benefits**, because we assume that this type of benefit is not well-recognized yet, while it largely can determine the effectiveness and sustainability of urban commons governance; thirdly, we are interested in motivations and strategies taken by users of urban commons. We want to see how much the concept of "tragedy of the commons" described vividly by Garret Hardin suited to urban case. We are wondering if because of the possibility of achieving collective benefits citizens would rather cooperate than free-riding?

The case studies conducted by Ostrom shows that a good way of reaching appropriate solutions for the governing the common goods is "trial and error" method. We believe that in the case of the urban commons this is also a good method. Urban commons are open-access and very often multi-functional. In this case, the "experimentation" in terms of different ways of use is often possible because the decisions are reversible and thus return to the original state in case of "failure" of the proposed solution is possible. Therefore research concept is based on a method that we call "**urban laboratory**" (*Urban Lab*). In other words, we want to experiment on the city and its users. For this purpose, we will use the tool of experimental economics, offering the original proposal for **UCG - Urban Commons Game**. The proposal is a modification of the well-known game in experimental economics PGG - Public Good Game. We assume that we will participate in the exiting empirical research, which allow us to develop the principles of urban common goods governance.