

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Although the number of countries holding elections has been on the rise in the last decades, the fairness of elections leaves often a lot to be desired. The phenomenon of electoral manipulations has been developed, going beyond the simple fraud. The main goal of the research is the analysis of the impact of these manipulations on the political regimes of states (first of all so called hybrid regimes – situating between democracy and authoritarianism), together with the outline of the forecast on their possible changes. Researchers will concentrate on the issue of keeping a fair competition between political parties intact and equal chances to seize power. The choice of this topic is first of all a result of the observed dynamic development of a variety of the electoral malpractices – concerning the law, preferences of voters and voting itself, which favor single political powers and start affecting different elements of a political system, e.g. enhance the domination of one political party. In the long-term perspective it can lead to the undemocratic changes. Political scientists recognized this in last years and developed first of all the theoretical studies. However, they did not carry out the thorough research on the concrete cases, taking into consideration their comparison and they did not start the broad reflection on the impact of the manipulations on the system changes. The research project will serve this goal. The main research subject will be Turkey at the time of the single party ruling of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2002-2015 as one of the best examples to indicate the electoral malpractice and its impact on the changes of the political regime. The researchers – political scientists working on the Turkish politics for many years and observing for a long time elections in Turkey will also consider the similar cases of states (mainly from the Eastern Europe and Latin America) for the more complete verification of the hypotheses led by these assuming that the electoral malpractices lead to existing of the so called borderline regimes, balancing between the hybrid and authoritarian regimes but due to the rising number of the electoral manipulations gradually approaching the latter type of the regime.

The two-year research will be carried out with the use of the rich Polish and English literature (to a lesser extent the Turkish publications) and available databases/reports concerning elections, electoral integrity (fairness) and democracy. Apart from it the interviews will be conducted with: Turkish politicians, representatives of the organizations monitoring elections, experts in electoral law, elections and democratization in Turkey. The initial results will be presented in the special internet website, containing also the most important information about the project. The final results will be published in the monograph in English by one of the prestigious publishing houses in which books come out in this language. The research results at a particular stage will be consulted with experts from Poland and abroad.