

Research project objective: proposed research project aims to analyze development aid policy, which is formulated and conducted by sub-state actors within the European Union. The main objective of project is to analyze and reveal political, structural and economic motives behind launching development aid programmes by sub-state actors. What is innovatory in proposed project, is the concertation on alternative models of conducting development aid policy – as referential objects structural parts of states rather than states *per se* will be analyzed. Significant aspect of proposed research project is identification of beneficiaries of development aid programmes launched by sub-state actors. Sub-state actors were chosen from Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Germany (Hamburg, Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg), Spain (Catalonia) and United Kingdom (Scotland and Wales) and due to (1) high degree of autonomy, (2) their activity on international scene, (3) launched development aid programmes conducted by them, (3) establishment of specific local administrative institutions or agencies responsible for development policy. Three levels will be analyzed to explore motives behind conducting development aid policy by sub-states: (1) the European level, (2) State level, (3) Local level. Referring to the European level, influence of the European Union, especially European Commission on sub-states in the context of supporting their activity in development aid policy will be discussed. Referring to State level, legal and financial independency between the central governments and sub-state governments will be analyzed with the purpose of examine to what extent the governments in Brussels (Flemish government), Namur, Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart, Barcelona, Cardiff and Edinburgh can play an international role as autonomous players. Referring to Local level, dependency between launching local development aid programmes and political and economic interests of local private sector involved in developmental activity abroad will be discussed. The main assumption of proposed research project is that development aid policy is an uncontested field of policy, which is rooted in a normative conviction, that it is a moral obligation to help those who are facing worse conditions. It makes easier for new actors to get involved in development aid activity on the international scene.

Description of basic research: research in proposed project are predicted to deepen knowledge in the context of following issues: (1) Theoretical considerations on development aid policy, while emphasizing the alternative models of development aid policy as conducted by sub-states, (2) research on sub-states' international activity basing on the concept of para-diplomacy, (3) interconnection between the EU and sub-states actors in Europe. Research, which will be based on both quantitative and qualitative methods will be conducted in two phases. During the first phase, aiming deepening theoretical knowledge on evolution of development aid policy strategies, library researches in selected institutions and archives will be conducted. Chosen institutions are depository centers of documents related to development aid policy. During the second phase, research will be conducted in the administrative institutions, which are responsible at the local level for programming development aid policy. This phase will consist of both analysis of relevant documents, reports, data as well as of conducting a series of in-depth interviews with representatives of local administrative institutions responsible for development aid policy. As preliminary library researches suggest, there is a correlation between sub-state actors' tendencies towards gaining more autonomous position from the central governments and their further engagement in development aid policy.

Research project's topic justification: the choice of development aid policy gains more significance in the context of examining relations of the Axis Sub-States – States – European Union. (1) since the establishment of the European Communities, development aid policy has played an important role in the overall process of defining EU identity outside. In recent years, the EU has strengthened its ambitions in the field of development aid policy, when it has become global leader of official development assistance (including its members' budgets). It raises ambitions towards making attempts to improve effectiveness in development aid policy. Therefore, the EU is strongly interested in processes of development assistance, which are conducted by its member states. (2) Sub-states were chosen from those member states, whose contribution to development aid is relatively high (excluding decreasing trends visible in Spain) and thus are influential entities within the EU. The innovatory character of proposed research project derives from taking a different perspective on development aid policy, while generally researches are conducted from the perspective of state or international organizations/institutions when analyzing development aid policy. Another innovatory aspect of proposed research is an attempt to go beyond normative framework of development aid policy analysis. Thus, proposed project can contribute to relative limited in scale researches on sub-state actors through the lenses of their international activity. It is a contribution to specification of theoretical considerations on the role of sub-state actors in international relations due to using multilevel analysis of sub-states' motives.