

## **Analysis of factors influencing believes, attitudes and support level for solutions reducing negative effects of Anthropogenic Climate Change**

(General public resume of the project)

A believe that the currently observed, fast climate changes are caused mainly by human activity is widely spread among scientists dealing with climate. Global Warming has its roots in the industrial revolution, which enabled people to reach high, never before attainable, level of living. Unfortunately, the negative side effects of the development of civilisation become a growing threat for the rest of life on Earth, and in a long run for people themselves. Causes and possible consequences of Global Warming are already well recognised by the experts working in this field. There are also developed solutions which could effectively counteract this problem.

The paradox of this situation is that despite the massive importance of the problem and detailed expert analyses of both: the causes and the possible outcomes, negative tendencies are getting even stronger. The intuitive assumption that presenting righteous information concerning the problem is an effective way of convincing society that actions in this field are indispensable, turned out to be faulty. The situation is complicated even further by the political and industrial lobbies which try to manipulate people's believes concerning environmental problems.

Experts dealing with the issue of Global Warming agree that the threats resulting from this phenomenon are serious and they require immediate preventive actions (such as: reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, adapting cities and agriculture to weather anomalies occurring more often etc.) However, there is an important and often mentioned in the literature barrier which hinders or even disables introduction of such actions - low social support.

The project will allow to check what is the impact of various factors indicated in the scholar literature of the subject on the support for actions counteracting Climate Change. The study is based on social psychology, experimental economy and ecological psychology. Such interdisciplinary approach enables to look at the problem from a different angle and carries great possibility of discovering new, important knowledge. Comparing in one project the significance of e.g. understanding of the causes of the phenomenon, assessment of its consequences, feeling responsible, susceptibility for the mechanism of denial of cumbersome information etc., would allow to evaluate relations between the factors and assess their impact on support for actions reducing negative effects of Global Warming.

Moreover, the strong point of the research is conducting it in two countries – in Poland and in Germany. They are similar when it comes to geography, culture and structure of population, but they differ significantly with their climate and energy policies.

The intention of the applicant is to better understand the factors shaping attitudes towards Anthropogenic Climate Change and thus to contribute in creation of more effective ways of reaching people with knowledge concerning this problem and solutions recommended by the experts.