

Development of various relation among economic entities is observed in modern economy. The following types of relations are most commonly distinguished: competition, coexistence, cooperation and cooptition. Interestingly, these relationships are not mutually exclusive, and enterprises can simultaneously enter more than one of these relationships. It seems that the most interesting and the most complex type of relation is cooptition, which means simultaneous competition and collaboration of entities. Entities can cooperate in the scope of some value chain links and simultaneously compete in the scope of other value chain links. This relation can involve more than one entity.

The idea of cooptition of entities is usually connected with cooperation among enterprises independent in respect of capital and legal structure. It should be acknowledged however that both cooperation and competition can be found also in relations connecting entities being components of holdings. The holdings in which individual entities are connected by complex economic, personal and capital relations are the subject of research in this project. Holdings are very important entities of economic reality, they contribute significantly to the added valued generated by the economy, they employ over 30% of employees, and their number grows each year. Although holdings are quite commonly analysed, the analyses however concern mainly their strategies and complex structures or some issues of their functioning, e.g. the freedom of decision, description of investors, results of research. There is no comprehensive research dedicated to relations among the companies of a holding, in particular the relation of competition occurring as an unintended effect of functioning of these complex entities.

**The objective of this research project** is to identify the issues of cooptition in holdings, i.e. the phenomenon of simultaneous cooperation and competition among companies being components of one holding. It should be highlighted that one of the components of cooptition, i.e. cooperation, is part of the bases underlying holdings. The second component, i.e. competition, occurs in the course of a holding's functioning and implementation of various projects by its component companies. The range of competition among companies may depend on the way of managing a holding, its organisation, ownership structure and its environment. Identification of intensity of cooperation and competition is important mainly from the perspective of their significance for the holding performance. A properly balanced levels of competition and cooperation may positively affect the performance of a holding by motivating it to innovation, improvement of operational activities, looking for new sources of income and profits.

The range of works of the project covers an analysis of the impact of cooptition on the holding performance, and also determinants of this phenomenon in holdings. Such approach to the research subject will broaden the knowledge on the functioning of these structures. Additionally, qualitative and quantitative research will allow for empirical verification of hypotheses and in-depth recognition of these issues. **The project will fill the research gap** concerning the range and nature of simultaneous cooperation and competition of entities constituting holdings, due to a comprehensive way of addressing these relations. We assume that the **planned research will make it possible to develop our knowledge about holdings.**