

**INSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVE
AS A FORM OF PUBLIC SERVICE CO-PRODUCTION
DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

I.

The local initiative stipulated in the title is a legal institution governed by Chapter 2a of the Act on Public Benefit and Voluntary Service, where residents of a local self-government, directly or through other public benefit entities, may submit a request for a public task and – once the request has been granted – participate in the task implementation.

The primary scientific objective of our project is to verify the research hypothesis that the local initiative has become an important instrument for the transformation of the local public service system towards co-production. Thus defined main purpose comprises two further specific objectives: one – to analyze in a comprehensive way how a legal entity of the local initiative has been functioning under the Polish legal system since 2010 and the other – to perform a qualitative analysis of providing public services within the local initiative.

The results of the project will help improve the form of public service co-production, thereby encouraging public participation in the public sphere and increasing the importance of public tasks implementation in this form. The aim of the project is to diagnose the risks because of which the local initiative is not fully used as an instrument to promote citizens' social involvement and to provide local public services in the form of co-production.

II.

Although the local initiative has been functioning in the Polish legal system since 2010, the results of comprehensive research on the functioning of this instrument have not been presented in the literature so far, neither have the results of the evaluation of the functioning of existing regulations. Legal science deals with the local initiative only incidentally, and the publications issued have been of a contributory nature at most, whereas the publications and materials prepared by NGOs are of an orderly or popular science nature.

III.

Research in the project will rely on a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the law (both national and local) concerning the legal institution of the local initiative and the practice of its use. The analysis will enable the evaluation and the diagnosis of the weaknesses and opportunities for the development of the institution that has been in operation for years – something that has not been done so far.