

### **Divided government in Polish local municipalities**

There are two organs of authorities elected by inhabitants in Polish municipalities – mayors and councilors. Since 2002 mayors are elected directly, however according to election code from 2011 all councilors (except these from cities with county status) are elected in majoritarian system with single-member constituencies. In this connection we can observe in Polish local political area three possibilities of relations between mayor and majority in the council connected with political affiliations.

In the first variant, after elections there is no group with majority so council is fragmented. The second possibility is situation when majority of mandates in the council belongs to the party connected with mayor. The third variant is divided government – situation when majority in council belongs to the party oppositional to mayor. Analyses in this project will be focused on the third option.

Taking into consideration specificity of local councils it is important to remember that divided government can be created in two ways – as a effect of elections or as a effect if after-election coalition created in the council. Analyses which were led in the country level in the home of divided government – USA, show that this kind of authority is conflictual. However, there is gap in research showing functioning, effects and causes of divided government especially in a local scene. The aim of project is complex analysis of systems with divided government. For that reason the research will identify reasons, scale of phenomenon and effects this kind of formation.

In order to find answers for research problems I will conduct some analyses. In attempt to identifying causes I will analyse mechanism from electoral law which enable or block formation of divided government. I will find solutions in Polish law (and proposed projects of acts) and then these solutions I will compare with situation in different countries. But I will choose countries with directly elected mayors. Considerations about the causes will include also influence of electoral system on formation of divided government.

Based on available theories I will define also why voters support different political groups in elections to different authorities. In order to define range of divided government I will analyse statistical results from local elections in 2010 and 2014. This analysis will facilitate also identifying characteristics of local municipalities in which divided government is more often. For example, I will check size of commune and frequency of divided government.

In order to define how in these conditions authorities work I will analyse efficiency of decision-making processes. In this part of my research I chose cities with county status. The comparative group will be municipalities with county status where president has majority in the council. In this case I will analyse also to the agreements of divided government created as a result of coalitions in council. After I identify all cities with divided government I will prepare comparative approach. I will check when cities with county status where divided government is observed adopt the budget resolution (before or after 31.12), does approval for president will be enacted in the first voting and does referendum dismissing president will be organized. These indicators will be compared with analogical results from the group of cities with county status where president has majority in city council in cycle 2014-2015-2016-2017-2018. Thanks to results I will single out five cities with county status in which I will conduct qualitative analyses. I assume that in the five cities will be individual in-depth interviews with presidents of cities and representatives of opposition parties or local committee for instance with the head of city council. These analyses will show how in divided government authorities area function. As a result of the implementation this project will be completed the research gap concerning the divided government in the Polish municipal level.