

A number of environmental issues such as poor air quality or loss of greenery have recently become highly controversial in urban public debate in Poland and lead to local conflicts and grassroots actions e.g. in the form of urban movements. They might be e.g. protests, petitions, 'green' local electoral committees and informational campaigns on social media. Those actions frequently focus on achieving desirable administrative responses to the expressed problems, e.g. new regulations, enforcement of already existing laws or information and education. In result of such environmental pressure, around 70 public organizations are already functioning in the Polish cities (including 'eco-patrols' of the municipal police and various departments and units dedicated air quality and greenery management) which are aimed in addressing environmental problems in accordance with social pressure.

Whether the organization will work as expected, depends on multiple factors. One of them is functioning of *street level bureaucracy* defined as workers of newly established organization. As they are 'the mediators' between decision-makers, implemented policies and their final beneficiaries – the citizens, they are 'on the front line' of urban environmental policy. An existing literature in this aspect shown that their attitudes towards environmental issues, understanding of implemented policy and relations with their beneficiaries can determine whether the organization will effectively deal with environmental problems.

Thus, the project aims to track 1) how the public administration reacts to environmental social pressure and 2) how the *street level bureaucracy* finds itself in new responsibilities resulted from such pressure? In order to answer those questions, the research will focus on three organizations selected out of indentified 70. Main research tools will be the interviews about the organizations' origins and duties supplemented by observation of their everyday work. In result, the functioning of such environmental organization will be described with regard to various points of view: decision-makers who established it, the staff and final beneficiaries.

Thus, the project should help in understanding how such organizations are functioning, what are their main challenges, and how they position themselves in urban environmental policy. This 'insider' perspective is rarely used in the context of urban environmental governance, thus it will hopefully interest both citizens who interact with such organizations and decision-makers of other cities who consider an establishment of such organizations. The results of the project will be published in scientific journal and presented during international and national scientific conferences. They will be also published in a more accessible form to inform citizens involved in urban environmental actions. This will hopefully contribute to more effective dialogue on environmental issues between urban administration and the citizens.