

The goal of the research presented here is to diagnose the system of anti-corruption protection measures in local government units in Poland. This is not about universal safeguards, connected with the legal regulations binding upon all citizens and all entities in the public space, but about specific measures implemented as initiatives on the part of conscious institutions. The analysis will cover three areas that form an effective anti-corruption protection system. Firstly, instruments implemented in offices in the form of formal catalogues of rules or official safeguards, e.g. in the form of analysis of lobbying and corruption risks, or categorization of individual job positions with regard to the risk of corruption. Secondly, the level of employees of commune offices, specialized units or municipal companies – their knowledge, attitudes, awareness, degree of acceptance for unethical behavior in the vertical and in the horizontal plane. Thirdly, the attitudes, consciousness, knowledge and beliefs of the mayors and heads of communes, as the individuals who set the path of behavior and create attitudes of lower-level officials.

The essence of the planned research consists in contributing an important opinion in the discussion on anti-corruption safeguards. Analyzing and diagnosing new mechanisms broadens horizons in the fight against corruption and gives other researchers the opportunity to look at corruption from “yet other” points of view. The project presented here offers a multidimensional view of corruption protection, which gives it additional value and makes its approach innovative. Implementation of the research project presented here will be significant on three fundamental levels. Firstly, it will fill a significant gap in Polish studies on corruption, in which, despite 30 years of functioning of local government, no comprehensive research has been carried out concerning corruption in this area. Secondly, the research will fit within the global trend to implement projects investigating one of the most popular public policy problems nowadays, namely the sources of pathologies occurring at the interface between administration, business and development process management. Thirdly, the proposed research tool is innovative in that it combines quantitative and qualitative research, using different tools which will ensure, on the one hand, the comprehensive nature of the study, and on the other hand, provide a verification mechanism.

The main research question in the project is as follows: How does the system of anti-corruption protection work in local government entities in Poland? The specific questions will include a qualitative analysis of the corruption events detected (operationalized, successively, through their size, consequences, scope, etc.) and the definition areas of anti-corruption protection (documents, attitudes of officials, attitudes of the mayors/heads of communes).

The research will be conducted in communes in Poland. Random sampling will be used, taking into account the layers that define the nature of the respective communes, determining their different specificities. Taking into account their number, i.e. 2,500, the research will cover approx. 12% of the population. The following will be carried out in each of the entities: (1) an analysis of the documentary safeguards; (2) interview with the head of the unit or a person they designated; and (2) anonymous survey among officials, using an online survey questionnaire. The survey is to cover at least 10% of the employees of the given office (questionnaire return ratio).