Europe is currently facing dynamic land use changes. The level of urbanisation in Europe is expected to increase to 87% by 2050. Land transformation is eventually leading to creation of more urban areas with continuous loss of biodiversity. Concentrated urban ecosystem such as cities comprise of a matrix of grey (buildings, infrastructure) and green spaces (parks, cemeteries, gardens etc). Wildlife, to some extent is a constant living component of such ecosystems. Shrinking of natural habitats is forcing some species to colonise transformed, new habitats such as urban areas, creating more circumstances for human-wildlife conflict (HWC). In Poland we can observe dynamic land use changes and at the same time increased HWC. By 2030, Poland is expected to host the third highest increase of built-up area in EU only after Italy and Germany. This creates an opportunity to study the changing dynamics of HWC with regards to sharing of landscape and interactions between human and wildlife.

Thus, the first step towards managing conflicts and promoting co-existence is by understanding people's perception and degree of tolerance for wildlife. Sociological studies on how people perceive risks is usually of interest mainly to policy makers dealing with safety issues. Such research is valuable in investigating the complex nature of human–wildlife interactions. The assessment of the perception of urban residents about sharing the same living space with wildlife and their management, besides the inexistence of any study in Poland concerning this subject, underline the novelty of this research.

I intend to fill in the existing knowledge gap by analysing the perception of wildlife among urban residents. The study aims to:
(1) understand people's attitudes towards residing with wildlife and resolving conflict situations
(2) identify and process potential conflict zoning maps (or, hot spot areas) to resolve HWC

To achieve the first research aim, I will first conduct questionnaire survey in chosen cities in Poland that will consider several factors - the socio-demographic characteristics, the identification of conflict with wildlife and as well as people's opinion about how to resolve conflict situations in the city. Secondly, I will generate hot spot maps with highest probability of HWC identification. This method identifies locations with either unusually high (hot spots) or low (cold spots) frequency of studied conflicts.

The findings of this project will provide a valuable insight and understanding of people's attitudes that can help to design nature conservation interventions. In addition to academia, the results deriving from this research project should be of interest to potential stakeholders that deal with conflict management programs and can help to apply conservation measures at appropriate scales.