

We all need to learn through all our lives. We all need lifelong learning. Learning is necessary for our personal development, it allows us to adapt to changes and achieve success on various levels. Exactly the same applies to communities, institutions and organisations – they also should constantly develop their knowledge and competences. Whereas individual learning helps us to increase our life satisfaction, it helps organisations to keep their clients satisfied and employees engaged.

This is the reason why scientists from Poland and Czech Republic will focus on the processes of building knowledge in urban municipalities. Within the research project “**Organizational Learning in Urban Innovation Projects**” financed by the Poland’s National Science Centre (NCN) in co-operation with Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) they will study the changes in local administration which occur through social interactions within particular innovation exercises. So-called organizational learning is indispensable for successful introducing novel solutions to urban space.

The project will analyse selected demonstration and pilot projects related to land-use, environment and urban mobility. It will describe their influence on social and organizational learning. Moreover, the study will also evaluate the effects of the learning practices for decision-making processes.

In order to fulfil those goals, the project will start with literature review and definition of the most important terms, followed by field research in selected locations in Poland and Czechia. Data collected in those studies will be then analysed and the conclusions will be presented. Finally a model of organisational change through innovation projects will be formulated.

This project belongs to social sciences and its results will contribute to urban governance and to territorial public policy. Due to the complexity of the subject, a mixed-method approach will be adopted, taking advantage of various disciplines (sociology, psychology, urban planning, urban geography, economics, information and communication technologies, humanities). In order to better understand the social learning processes, participatory research will be conducted, including various people involved in urban innovation projects. Comparison of findings from Wrocław (Poland) and Prague (Czech Republic) alternatively complemented by Zielona Góra (Poland) and Plzeň (Czech Republic) – innovation leaders in their regions, will allow getting a wide picture of recent changes in decision-making processes.

The research team will consist of 9 scientists. In the Polish group there will be the principle investigator (associate professor in urban governance), a co-investigator holding a PhD (expert in urban innovation) and 2 PhD students (to be selected in an open competition, having competences in sociology and management). The Czech team will consist of the principle investigator (professor of social geography with focus on urban planning), expert on stakeholder engagement (social psychologist), expert on social economy, urban sociologist and a research assistant. In addition, graduate students will take part in conducting some parts of the field research.

The tangible effect of the project will be a book, at least 3 research papers submitted to free scientific journals and at least 3 presentations on international conferences endorsed by acknowledged urban studies societies. Knowledge acquired during the project will be disseminated in non-academic audience: urban policy practitioners and politicians, through online videos and social media. For a wider public there will be dedicated project web-site launched at the very beginning of the project in one of the popular academic portals where the most important results of the study will be published.