

Existing studies in political science prove that social benefits and services have an impact on political attitudes and behaviors of beneficiaries and other relevant actors. Mechanisms referred to as "resource effect" and "symbolic effect" cause that, thanks to e.g. money received, skills, social contacts and symbolic messages that accompany benefits and services provision, people often change the way they think about own standing as first- or "second-class citizens" in the state and whether they deserve help, they also change political preferences or feel more or less prone than before to participate in elections. As a result, certain social policy programs are either more stable or likely to be ceased relatively quickly, which is referred to as the policy feedback mechanism.

The planned project aims to take a closer look at policy feedback mechanism by trying to determine what is the importance of places and spaces where benefits and social services are provided. On the example of services and benefits for two vulnerable social groups - refugees and young people from families experiencing in poverty, research team will try to determine how the spatial features of places and their modes of governance can cause aforementioned resource and symbolic effects. Therefore, the study will help to determine, for example, how the location of the community center, the space for street-working, the availability of a place where counseling services are provided, governance mode of shelter for refugees (whether it is a local government space or, for example, a one owned by non-governmental organization, or subject to a cooperation of various entities) translate into actors' political identities, beliefs, attitudes and political activities of three relevant groups: respective welfare recipients, aid providers and the local community. The project assumes that the aforementioned spatial features of places and ways of managing them are decisive for conducting an inclusive social policy at the local level.

The study will primarily consist in the implementation of comparative case studies in two or three cities, including several locations where social welfare is granted in each of them. It will include observation in selected locations, conducting individual in-depth interviews with service providers and recipients, and an analysis of the local discourse (e.g. in terms of beliefs expressed in official and social media regarding the deservingness of beneficiaries). The selection of research locations will be preceded by an analysis of legal regulations and a survey with representatives of social assistance and local civic organizations in 50 cities.