

## ABSTRACT

Polish local self-government reform implemented in 1989 changed the outlook philosophy on system of government throughout the country. Local self-government units were created, enabling more efficient management and shifting decision-making processes closer to citizens. Decentralization of government authority liberated social activity, resulting in creation of grounds for civil society. Forwarding government authority to local units significantly influenced the healthcare system. Powiat self-government units were presented with the role of healthcare organizer with appropriate financial authority, competence and supervision over healthcare entities in accordance with binding law regulations.

Analysis, carried out for present dissertation, attempted to diagnose dependency between healthcare system and local self-government. Analysis were based on legal references and theoretical scientific studies of conformation and functioning of the system concerning the Powiat self-government of Jarosław between 1991 and 2014. To solve the main research problem (*Where is the healthcare system placed in functioning of local self-government?*) following research hypothesis were assumed:

1. Social, economic, commercial and demographic conditioning directly influence the citizens' health of Powiat Jarosław.
2. System legal solutions of local self-government significantly influence the functioning of healthcare system.
3. Increased costs of healthcare system functioning, encumber the large number of population to access some healthcare services.
4. Progressive social problems (*e.g. economic migration, impoverishment and ageing of society*) require prospective and comprehensive practical solutions both in healthcare system and local self-government.

The first chapter presented similar worldwide problems of healthcare systems facing challenges of increased costs of medical services and society's ageing. In Europe the pursuance of introduction of uniform solutions for healthcare, based on common origins and values of human rights, is observed. Modern healthcare systems are subject to globalization processes with all their consequences. The second chapter presented the analysis of Polish healthcare system reform with particular attention drawn to changes resulted from 1989 political transformation. New law regulations enabled novel

solutions, enabling private capital on healthcare market and addressed the issue of patient's rights. The third chapter presented the analysis of dependency between healthcare system and local self-government. The pertinence of local self-government objective to secure healthcare on govern territory was emphasized. The importance of emerging citizenship and its influence on healthcare decision-making processes on behalf of local residents was observed. The fourth chapter presented the focus on social-economic dependencies of local self-government functioning in Powiat Jarosław. The municipality of Jarosław was described, with its potential, main demographic and economic ratios elaborated compared to region, country and Europe. Common dilemmas and possible solutions were indicated. The main problem of depopulation of Powiat Jarosław caused by high unemployment, emigration and low rate of natural increase was acknowledged. It influences the acceleration of ageing process of local residents. The fifth chapter presented the structure of healthcare system in Powiat Jarosław. The role and influence of various health determinants on health conditions of individual and population as a whole of Powiat was described, with particular significance of health related decision-making in short-term and long-term perspective. The final, sixth chapter of present dissertation, presented the possible perspectives for development of Powiat Jarosław, indicating the most important strategic goals of healthcare system development for local community. It was concluded that the health of individual is the highest potential of community and locally, healthy society may predestinate the possible social-economic development which may significantly influence future generations. Based on conducted SWOT analysis, the most important strengths and weaknesses of Powiat were shown and detailed opportunities and threats of external factors were elaborated.

Upon gathered information and conducted analysis, the necessity for change of healthcare organizational system was acknowledged, resulting from inevitable phenomena concerning human lives globally in the context of integration and globalization processes. The role of locally-made health-related decisions and importance of social consciousness towards perception of health as both individual and collective values was emphasized.

Key words: decentralization, civil society, the cost of the system, globalization, self-management.