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Summary of the doctoral dissertation:

**Functioning of public benefit organizations in the civil society on the example of the
Podkarpackie Voivodeship**

Public benefit organizations (pbo) are third sector organizations (e.g. foundations and associations) which have obtained the public benefit status on the basis of the Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work. The condition for its receipt is the submission of the KRS-W-OPP form by a representative of a non-governmental organization and the fulfillment of a number of conditions for acquiring the public benefit status.

Pbo influence citizens who benefit from their support or participate in it as members or volunteers. They can provide their beneficiaries with financial and material assistance, protect their rights, and provide them with emotional support. Pbo create a space for expression, realization of passions, sharing knowledge. Public benefit organizations function in more than thirty spheres of activity, which have been recognized by the legislator as areas important from the point of view of social interest. Opp use various forms of promotion to inform and encourage them to support their activities (e.g. through the option of transferring 1% of personal tax or volunteering).

The aim of the doctoral dissertation is to diagnose the functioning of public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, to indicate the strengths and weaknesses of their activities, as well as to define recommendations that could improve the quality of tasks carried out by pbo and thus contribute to the creation of more durable structures of civil society. The research provided answers to questions about the problems and strengths of opposition activities and the specificity of their activities in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The impact of social trust on the functioning of opposition and the production of social capital by citizens involved in the activities of public benefit organizations was also taken into account.

The structure of the doctoral dissertation consists of six chapters divided into individual sub-chapters. The first part of the work presents issues related to civil society. The first chapter contains: a description of the criteria related to the recognition of a society as civic (and only there can be a resilient and dynamically functioning pbo), showing the role of social trust that affects its creation and building, selected concepts of social capital (its value falls in the categories mutual relations and social trust, without which it is difficult to talk about the existence of a civil society), a short outline of the history of the functioning of civil society in Poland and the location of public benefit organizations in civil society.

The second chapter contains a theoretical description of the functioning of pbo and selected research results related to the activities of NGOs. It includes: selected issues related to legal acts that indicate the way they function (the Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work, the Law on Associations, the Act on Foundations), the composition of an pbo (founder, foundation council, members of the association), method of obtaining special status, spheres of activity, rights and privileges of these legal entities. In the second chapter, the author also shows examples of scientific research that describe the number of public benefit organizations and other NGOs in Poland, the location of their seats (including towns and villages) and the territorial scope of activities of the above-mentioned entities. The problem of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and their partners (local government administration, government administration, private enterprises and non-profit entities), as well as the forms it adopts, are also discussed. The second chapter also includes a description of the economic issues on which the functioning of the public benefit organization is based. It presents sources of income for non-profit entities and models of financing their activities. In addition, the issue of social participation in NGO's of their members (associations), volunteers and beneficiaries was also included. The dissertation also includes a description of the methods and forms of promotion of Polish non-governmental organizations (both classic and contemporary), as well as the problems and needs of non-profit entities that have been noted in the research of Polish scientists.

The third chapter describes the methodological concept of own research. It includes the subject of research, research goals, problems, hypotheses, variables, indicators used, as well as methods, techniques and research tools used in the dissertation. The work also includes a description of the research area and the method of selecting the research sample.

The last three chapters contain a description of the results of own research. The fourth chapter presents the internal conditions that affect public benefit organizations in the

Podkarpackie Voivodeship. These include the number of opponents, their legal forms, the length of their activity, the location of their seats, functioning in specific public benefit spheres, forms of promotion and innovative activities that they use to achieve their statutory objectives. In addition, the researcher's attention is also focused on the influence of the leader, members of associations/boards of foundations, volunteers and beneficiaries on public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

Chapter five describes the external conditions that affect the functioning of an pbo. It takes into account the impact of family members, friends/acquaintances and the local community on decisions made by leaders of public benefit organizations, obstacles that occurred during the acquisition of this status, stimulators and barriers to the development of the surveyed non-profit entities, cooperation with representatives of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd sector socio-economic and the needs of the analyzed NGOs.

Chapter six consists of a description of the economic aspects of the functioning of public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. It presents the sources of opposition revenues, the structure of revenues and expenses of the analyzed NGOs, the ways of using the privileges of these entities, the use of fundraising leaders by their leaders, and the phenomenon of parasitic organizations and public uselessness in the mentioned administrative unit (these are new concepts, which were introduced into the sociological dictionary on the basis of the conducted research).

The doctoral dissertation is crowned with the final conclusions from the conducted empirical research. They provide a synthetic approach to the issues discussed. The obtained research results allow us to adopt the main hypothesis, which assumes that the majority of public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, through their operation, contribute to the creation of a civil society. Such a conclusion can be drawn from the assessment of the opposition functioning in individual poviats in relation to the factors analyzed in the research. It can be concluded that opp is active in fifteen poviats and cities with poviat status in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. In nine poviats and cities with poviat status, the functioning of public benefit organizations would require the application of the recommendations indicated at the end of the doctoral dissertation and a change in the manner of their management.

The dissertation is an attempt at a holistic approach to the functioning of public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship in civil society and allows its author not only to join the current scientific discourse, but also to supplement it with knowledge in areas that

have not been analyzed so far. Due to the interdisciplinary dimension of the doctoral dissertation, it can be used not only by representatives of sociology, but also of other sciences. The dissertation may also be helpful for leaders of public benefit organizations, representatives of government and local government authorities and students of such faculties as sociology or social work.

Keywords: public benefit organization, civil society, social capital, social trust, Podkarpackie Voivodeship.