

# **SCHOLARSHIP STAY FINAL REPORT 164296**

## **PHD EWELINA KANCIK-KOŁTUN**

This project was created as a result of my interests and research - developing over several years - concerning the activity of political parties and local groups in local government units in the Visegrad countries. For four years I have been employed as an adjunct at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. I am the author of over 40 scientific publications. I participated in over 70 scientific conferences, including many foreign ones (eg in: Greece, Denmark, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic). I did scientific internships in Ukraine (V 2017), Slovakia (X-XI 2017, V-VII 2018), Czech Republic (V 2019). Currently, my research focuses on local government units in the Visegrad Group States, including the self-government of the local government and their effects, including the impact on citizens' participation, political corruption and other phenomena triggered by it.

### **Aim of the mobility**

The main objective of the research was to acquire knowledge about the rules of democratic games taking place between such players as: local governments, political parties and civil society in Hungary. On the other hand, the specific objective is to learn about phenomena and dysfunctions that function together in the studied local space. Correlation between these three entities, and especially the influence of political parties on local government and civil society, as this is very important in the context of democratic systems. Among the effects of local politics can be listed the following problems: political clientelism, political corruption, strengthening of centralism, indebtedness of local governments, weakening of representative democracy, consolidation of structural pathology.

### **Content of the workplan**

The subject of the study was territorial self-governments, civil society and political parties as well as all their mutual relations.

### **Research problems**

The main research problem was to answer the question, what are the relations of political players between the surveyed entities? Are there such phenomena as: political clientelism, political corruption, strengthening of centralism, indebtedness of local governments, weakening representative democracy? But also the issue of activating local public opinion, the scale and level of citizens' activation and the ways in which political parties influence citizens.

## **Research methods**

Taking into account the specifics of the research problem, which is the activity and functioning of Hungarian political parties at the local and central level, the following methods were used during the research: observation, library query, analysis of local media in terms of opinions of selected representatives of local communities and authorities. During my stay I was to get acquainted with the scientific work of my employees and exchange experiences related to scientific research and didactic methods.

## **Previous relationship with the host institution**

The project planned by me involves preliminary research and analyzes, hence the two month period of stay and implementation, which was set jointly with the Hungarian partner for June-July 2022. Currently, my internet research is still running until 4/10/2022 and is open to all citizens: <https://civil-aktivitas.webankieta.pl/>.

## **Justification of the period applied for (it should be in line with the workplan and the readiness for acceptance)**

Hungary became the last country I studied in the Visegrad Group in the context of my research on political parties at the local level and their impact on the development of civil society. During this scientific internship I was able to obtain scientific materials for my habilitation thesis and will allow me to observe the political system of Hungary from the inside. To what extent would the scholarship contribute to the development of your professional activity?

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