

Dr Ewelina Podgajna (Ph.D.)

Lublin, January 4th 2019

Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin

Faculty of Political Science

Department of Political Thought

20-080 Lublin

Pl. Litewski 3

Attachment 3

SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Name and surname: Ewelina Podgajna

2. Full description of qualifications, diplomas, scientific degrees held, with their name, place and year of award and the title of the doctoral dissertation

a) Title of magister [Master] of political science, specializing in social and political system. UMCS [Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin] Faculty of Political Science. June 10th, 2003, title of diploma thesis: “Stefan Korbonski (1901-1998). Polityk ruchu ludowego” [*A Politician of the Peasant Movement*]. dissertation advisor: prof. Jan Jachymek, Ph.D.

b) Doctorate in humanities in the scope of political science. UMCS Maria [Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin] Faculty of Political Science, April 24th, 2009, title of doctoral dissertation: “Myśl polityczna Stronnictwa Chłopskiego (1926 – 1931)” [*Political Thought of the Peasant Party (1926-1931)*], advisor: prof. Jan Jachymek, Ph.D.; reviewers: prof. Antoni Mieczkowski, Ph.D. UMCS Associate Professor, prof. Andrzej Wojtas, Ph.D.

3. Information pertaining to employment in scientific institutions to date

a) Place of primary employment: Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Faculty of Political Science, Department of Political Thought – from October 1st, 2009 onward, as associate professor [*Pol. “adiunkt”*]).

b) Place of secondary employment within the meaning of the Act on Higher Education: Wyższa Szkoła Finansów i Zarządzania w Białymstoku [*The University of Finance and*

Management in Białystok], 15-472 Białystok, ul. Ciepła 40 – from February 1st, 2010 to September 30th, 2010 (Assistant Professor on a half-time basis).

c) Wyższa Szkoła Nauk Społecznych w Lublinie [*The University College of Social Science in Lublin*], 20-355 Lublin, ul Olchowa 8 – 17 September 2003 – 17 September 2005 r. (kierownik Biblioteki WSNS w Lublinie [*Library manager The University College of Social Science in Lublin*]).

d) Employment based on civil law agreement: Wyższa Szkoła Humanistyczna im. Alojzego Szubartowskiego w Lublinie [*The University College of Humanities in Lublin*] (2004-2005).

4. Indication of achievement resulting from Article 16 paragraph 2 of the 14 March 2003 Act on Academic Degrees and Scientific Title and on Degrees and Title in the Arts (Dz. U. [Journal of Law], No. 65, item. 595 as amended):

a) title of scientific achievement, author(s), publication title(s), year of publication, publisher's name

Monograph: **Ewelina Podgajna, *Myśl polityczna Wincentego Witosa (1874-1945)* [*Political Thought of Vincent Witos 1874-1945*], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej [Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Publishing House], Lublin 2018, page count: 449. (ISBN: 978-83-227-9181-3)**

b) overview of the scientific objective of the aforesaid work and the results achieved together with their possible applications

The submitted monograph, which focuses on the political thought of Wincenty Witos, is the final result of extensive research into Polish political thought which has been consistently conducted since 2009. Studies of the political thought of Wincenty Witos were inspired, first, by the cognitive interest focused on the political category found in the title, i.e. the political thought, history and ideological-political description of the peasant movement; second, by the need to fill a noticeable gap in the historiography of the peasant movement and third, by the exceptional character of Wincenty Witos – the leader of the peasant movement – a realist who asserted that good politics is the art of implementing what is possible. The choice of topic was also dictated by the conviction of the importance of the past for the present and the future. The need to know and understand the past is fundamental, because it largely determines our identity. Understanding the history of our own nation and state helps us create the future.

The addressed research issues should be regarded as important and meaningful. Alongside Roman Dmowski, Józef Piłsudski, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, and Ignacy Daszyński, Witos was one of the leading Polish politicians of the 20th century. Witos, as the leader of the peasant movement, exerted a lasting and extremely important influence, not only on the peasant movement, but also on shaping the social and political awareness of Polish society. He was a sincere democrat and opponent of all dictatorship. His versatile activity was combined with theoretical reflection, which was evident in his writings. His enormous achievements include the views and concepts related to the reality he faced, and which he wanted to change in order to make it better. He played an important role both in political practice and as the creator of an ideology.

The choice of this topic was dictated by cognitive and utilitarian reasons. Cognitive, because contemporary literature lacks a comprehensive elaboration of the political thought of Wincenty Witos, who was one of the most outstanding politicians of the first half of the 20th century. He had tremendous influence on the process of national awareness in the rural population. A peasants' leader, a statesman who combined political activity with insightful analysis of the most important issues for the Polish State, he participated in the process of developing the independent state. He fought for a Poland governed by the rule of law – independent and democratic – and he laid the foundations for democracy in the Second Republic. Witos lived for 71 years. He was an observer and participant in a number of ground-breaking events in Poland's history – from the time of the Partitions to the two World Wars and the reconstruction of the State; to over a hundred years of captivity and the creation of new political principles. The paths he took in his political career and struggles with reality were very difficult. He began as a local Galician activist and climbed to the top. Power, however, was never his target, but a means to implementing his ideals. He strove for the citizenship and liberation of the peasants, and to earn them a dignified place in society and the state. Thanks to their own efforts, the peasants were to rise to the role of citizens and co-hosts of the state, responsible for its prosperity and security.

Utilitarian reasons indicate that the analysed issues should be considered important and meaningful, because Wincenty Witos was one of the outstanding leaders of the peasant movement of the period both before regaining independence and in the Second Polish Republic. His activism was not limited to the political sphere. He ran a farm all his life, without neglecting this work, even while performing important state functions. This brought him closer to the peasants, and made him credible and trustworthy in his ideas, but also often

a butt of mockery on the part of political opponents. Among many areas of Witos's interests and social and political activities, the fight for education for the people came to the fore. He made peasants socially, economically, and politically aware, and fought against ignorance, the lack of education, backward thinking, and exploitation. In his social, local-government, and political, work he taught and educated the people, and linked their thoughts, desires, duties, and needs with the life of the state. It was quite rightly said about him that he was the one "*who restored the peasants to Poland*".

Witos left a vast ideological and conceptual output – he was a co-creator of programmes, all resulting from a broadly understood reflection on the existing political reality. He was also the creator of his own vision of political order in the state. Moreover, some of the political concepts proposed by W. Witos are of timeless importance, and cannot be enclosed in specific historical frames. The problem is particularly valid nowadays, when Poland is looking for solutions, which on the one hand comply with the requirements of the rule of law and civil society, and on the other hand are not standing in fundamental contradiction with historical circumstances and national and state interests. Wincenty Witos and his political thought constitute a special phenomenon in intellectual life, both in politics and in the history of social doctrines. The problems he described are generally still valid, and his solutions are still worth reflecting on today. He declared that the state was a common good for all citizens, a paramount value. "*The State is not built for one, two, or ten years, but for hundreds of years, and therefore we should not build it just for ourselves, but also for the next generations*". Indeed, learning about the social and political struggles of the peasant movement and its leader can facilitate our understanding of the present.

The monograph should also provide a better understanding of the struggle of the peasant movement and its leader to gain independence and bring about socio-political changes, eradicating the sense of harm, exploitation, and social injustice deeply rooted in the peasants' consciousness, and the desire of the working classes to take over power. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, Metropolitan of Kraków, on 6 November 1975, preaching in St. Mary's Basilica in Kraków on the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Wincenty Witos, said "*The achievements of his life, filled with hard work like the lives of his fellow peasants, were extraordinary. At the same time, they were pioneering when it came to the history of the common homeland, and all social groups and classes. His whole life was devoted to this fundamental mission, so that those who have always been there to feed and defend could also, with all responsibility, determine the fate of their homeland and of the nation which they fed*

and defended, which they continue to feed and defend. He devoted all his life to this mission, this great cause. For this great cause he worked and suffered. For this great cause, he not only held the highest positions in the State, but was also ready to go to prison and into exile. (...) A man of the people who loved the people, so that the people would be not only an object, but also a subject of justice, order, and peace in his own homeland and in the whole world. (...) The Polish people need this great legacy of Wincenty Witos. The Poland of today needs this. We all need this.” These words were clearly inspirational and insightful when it comes to the ideological foundations of Witos’s political thought, and his attitude towards the State, the peasants, society, and tradition.

The expression of the concept of political thought included in the title should be clarified. Research in this area as a separate scholarly discipline was pioneered by Professor Henryk Zieliński. As one of the first, he undertook the task of defining the needs and research requirements in this field. Political thought is a research area which enjoys the interest of many academic circles, especially political scientists and historians. The literature on the subject contains numerous definitions, which usually indicate the subject of scholarly enquiries, and determine the field of interest and methods of articulation of the political views of selected political movements, parties and their ideologists. Many eminent contemporary scholars of political thought create their own original and very broad definitions of the term.

For the purpose of this monograph, the reasonable solution was to adopt the broad meaning of this term, drawing on the findings and research achievements of outstanding Polish scholars Henryk Zieliński, Jan Jachymek, Ewa Maj, Alicja Wójcik, and Waldemar Paruch, as well as Roger Scruton from the UK. Taking into account previous findings and scholarly achievements, the author decided to define political thought as the views and concepts affirming, reforming, or negating the political reality, and creating a vision of a new social order. It includes all forms of reflection on political reality, regardless of the level of development, internal cohesion, systematisation, or concretisation. The main, but not the only, subject of this reflection is politics, seen as a form of social activity through relations and mechanisms related to the exercise of power, aimed both at the realisation of one’s own political order, and at the satisfaction of certain interests. Political thought cannot be limited to views on politics, power, or the state system. The scope of the term is broad, and includes descriptions and assessments of all facts considered to be political in a given historical period and cultural context. Opinions become political, also when they give rise to conflicts, both

with regard to the description and evaluation of the past as well as the proposals for shaping the future.

The central category of political thought – and of politics in general – is power, wielded by an organisation such as the state. The concept of power should be considered in a multi-faceted way, and not just on the basis of a single selected characteristic. Power, in a broad sense, is the social relationship between individuals or social groups, in which one party can legitimately and permanently force the other party to follow a particular course of action, and has the means to ensure the control of that course of action. The issue of power as the most important category in political thought should be considered as a phenomenon which depends on complex processes. It is a system of direct and indirect ties and dependencies, determined by material conditions. Power relations are determined mainly by material conditions, and it is under their influence that they are established and developed. They are the main source of power, its establishment and actions. Power is realised in three main fields. The first is economic power – over the means of production; the second is state power – connected with the political system; and the third is ideological – justifying the spheres of the psychological subordination of the ruled to the rulers.

The most general expressions of political thought were and continue to be the programmes of political parties. Especially the more advanced ones contain views and concepts involving the sources of political thought: the past of the Polish nation and State, its history, the social class (or status), the present (good or bad) in which a political party operates, the desired future towards which its supporters should be guided, and the best understood interests of Poland, as well as the political models of other states, which could be adapted to Polish conditions.

Having explained the subject matter, we should focus on the aspects of time and place. Neither requires extended explanation. The timeframe begins in 1874, the date of Wincenty Witos's birth, and ends with the date of his death, in October 1945. The timeframe also determines the territorial scope considered in the monograph, as Witos gave rise to political thought in his country and in exile in Czechoslovakia, where he stayed from 1933 to 1939. From the ideological point of view, Witos's political thought was the Polish fragment of the history of ideas of the interwar period, as it concerned mainly Poland and its political system.

The ideological contribution of Wincenty Witos to the achievements of the political thought of the peasant movement, and, in a broader sense, to Polish and European political thought, was significant. Witos's political thought covered a wide range of ideological,

political, systematic, historiosophical, social, economic, and educational issues. Witos outlined a vision of many categories of political thought, such as the nation – the people, society, the state, political power, education, the status of national minorities, attitudes to religion and the Roman Catholic Church, and state security, borders, alliances and defence.

The political thought of Wincenty Witos was determined by ideological, political, social, and economic factors. The most important include, first, the period of the Partitions and life in Galicia, where Witos grew up; second, Poland's regaining independence and establishing a country with a democratic system; third, the May Coup and the rise to power of Piłsudski's group and the strengthening of the authoritarian model of the state; fourth, the growing importance of anti-parliamentary and anti-democratic tendencies in Europe and Poland; and fifth, the great economic crisis.

A number of main objectives of the monograph can be distinguished. The first and primary objective was to present the political thoughts of Wincenty Witos in political categories. The second was to present the main factors determining the concepts and views of the politician. The third was to trace the evolution of Witos's political thought throughout different historical periods. Finally, the fourth was to map the place of W. Witos's thoughts in the ideological output of the peasant movement and Polish political thought.

Research hypotheses played an important role in scientific enquiries, and the author proceeded to verify them. They contain suggested answers to questions also important in the context of contemporary challenges. The first hypothesis relates to confirming or refuting the view that the political thought of Wincenty Witos was an original system of views based on the agrarian ideology. From this hypothesis we should deduce the second hypothesis – that Witos's political thought was influenced by both external (European agrarians), and internal, inspirations, ideological identity, and political thinking style, and also postulated concepts and paradigms concerning the regulation of the most important issues of the inter-war period. The third hypothesis assumes that Witos's political thought was based on two fundamental principles of the peasant movement – an independent and democratic state, and peasants as the most numerous social class. The fourth hypothesis is based on the assumption that Wincenty Witos played a significant role in Poland's regaining independence, and creating and strengthening Polish statehood, as well as making peasants more aware and gaining citizenship, in the psychological and social senses. The fifth hypothesis assumes that Witos adapted the political thought he was shaping to the existing political reality, addressing the current problems of political life and the peasants, which enabled him to occupy key positions

in the state, both before regaining independence and in the reborn Poland. The sixth hypothesis assumes that Witos did not avoid political compromises, seeking alliances with the parties of both the right and the left, doing so in order to implement ad-hoc policies, but also in order to make his programme objectives come true. The seventh hypothesis is based on the assumption that thanks to the broad support of the most numerous social class – the peasants – a programme meeting their expectations, the PSL “Piast” Party, and, after the reunification of the peasant movement’s party in Stronnictwo Ludowe (the People’s Party) under the leadership of Witos, would play a primary role in the state and implement the ideas of the people’s Poland. Six hypotheses in the research process were positively verified. The seventh hypothesis was assessed negatively.

In the monograph, I cite a number of publications in the fields of political science, history, philosophy, religious studies, political communication, and cultural studies, which allowed me to show various aspects of the history of Polish statehood in particular periods of activity, and the political activity of Wincenty Witos, against a wider background. I have also used numerous studies in the field of political thought, mainly devoted to the history of Polish political thought, especially in the field of the political thought of the peasant movement in the 20th century. The monograph is situated in the domain of scientific research devoted to the peasant movement, the history of which is inextricably linked with the history of the Polish nation and state. The history of the peasant movement is widely and creatively described in various pieces of literature, which were helpful in the preparation of this monograph.

By analysing the man’s history as a creator, theoretician, leader, and role model on a large and local scale, complex historical and political processes can be traced. The analysed problem enjoyed interest among historians and political scientists. Andrzej Zakrzewski’s book *Wincenty Witos: chłopski polityk i mąż stanu*, Warsaw 1977, and Jan Borkowski’s *Witos a Polska*, Chicago 1992, are close to the subject of the research, with the reservation that they concern mainly the political practice of Wincenty Witos, and not the theoretical and conceptual spheres. The importance of the subject matter meant that the biography and political activity and views of Wincenty Witos were taken up in studies devoted to the history and political thought of the peasant movement, as well as to more general issues. Previous studies were of a contributory and partial nature. An analysis of the state of research on the political thought of the peasant movement enables us to conclude that the contemporary literature lacks a comprehensive study covering the political thought of Wincenty Witos. For

this reason, it seems that the issues taken up here might fill an important research gap. The subject of the book is innovative and original. Without a synthesis of the political thoughts of Wincenty Witos it is impossible to elaborate the political thoughts of the peasant movement as a whole, or to accurately characterise the basic threads of Polish political thought in the 20th century.

The completion of the topic was possible thanks to the preservation of a wide source database of various origins. Witos's writings are of primary importance for the reconstruction of his political thought. His memoirs were collected in the five-volume publication "*Dzieła wybrane. Moje wspomnienia*", and the diary "*Moja tułaczka w Czechosłowacji*". Much importance should be attached to Witos's work published in the form of printed sources "*Witos o demokracji. Wybór przemówień, pism i rozmów Wincentego Witosy,*" edited and preceded by an introduction, and an essay about Witos, along with a preface and comments by Jan Borkowski in cooperation with Wiktor Kulerski Jr., Warsaw 1995. Also, his parliamentary speeches and political journalism, published in the people's press, mainly in the press organs "*Piast*", "*Wola Ludu*", "*Ludowiec*", "*Gazeta Grudziądzka*", "*Włościanin*", "*Zielony Sztandar*", "*Naprzód*", "*Piast Wielkopolski*", "*Zwrot*", and "*Odnowa*", and also in the foreign press, in "*Le Petit Parisien*". The press, which in interwar Poland was an important instrument of ideological and political propaganda, printed the texts of Witos's speeches, proclamations to the nation, ideological manifestos, and reports from congresses and party meetings. The articles written by Witos himself were found to be the most valuable for the researcher. Apart from the material published by the peasant movement, the press organs of other political groups of the interwar period proved to be an abundant source of information. The press is often a biased source, so the content had to be screened against other knowledge, and facts had to be established on the basis of other sources, and then reconstructed. The political press of the peasant movement carried the essential knowledge about the political thought of Witos. In characterising the source base of the monograph it is necessary to emphasise the importance of published source materials such as speeches in the Sejm, ideological declarations, and the programmes of the people's parties.

An abundance of source materials used in the research process can be found in the Archives of the Department of the History of the Peasant Movement in Warsaw, including the Collections of Wincenty Witos, the Polish People's Party "Piast" 1914-1931, the Volumes of Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe "*Wyzwolenie*", the Peasants' Party Files (1926-1931), the Peasants' Party Files (1931-1939), containing materials concerning the political activities of

the groups. The Archives of Jakub Boyko, the Archives of Władysław Kiernik, the collection of letters of people's activists, memoirs and diaries, the collections of Maciej Rataj, Andrzej Średniawski, Romuald Wasilewski, and Aleksander Bogusławski also played an important role. In the Archive of New Files in Warsaw the files of the Polish People's Party "Piast" 1918-1932 were drawn on; as well as Centrolew – the Union for the Defence of People's Rights and Freedoms (1929-1933); the meeting minutes of the Council of Ministers, the Council of State Defence and the Political Committee of Ministers concerning foreign policy and the internal situation in Poland; and the Brest Trials documents. It is quite impossible to overvalue the materials found in the National Archive in Kraków (the Supreme National Committee) and the materials stored in the Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków (the Files of Zygmunt Lasocki and the Diaries by Stanisław Kozicki), the National Library in Warsaw (Archive of Maciej Czuły, Antoni Górski); the Library of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (materials on the activities of the Polish Circle, the Supreme National Committee, and its Military Department 1915-1917); the Sejm Library in Warsaw (ad-verbatim reports from meetings of the Legislative Sejm, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the first term of office, regulations and resolutions of congresses, ephemera; Sejm prints 1919-1939, Parliamentary Questions 1919-1939); the Jagiellonian Digital Library (stenographic reports from the meetings of the Galician National Sejm), the Library of the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław (*Wincenty Bryja, Wincenty Witos w mojej pamięci. Wspomnienia z lat 1923-1939*; Jan Dębski, *Wspomnienia z lat 1889-1973*). Numerous sources can also be found in museums – the District Museum in Tarnów – a branch of Witos Museum in Wierzchosławice and the Museum of the Polish Peasant Movement.

The monograph is structured in a way that follows the described issues, which is the most appropriate form for researching political thought, because the research effort focused on key issues. It is divided into five chapters, which present key research categories in the field of political thought. The individual concepts and views developed by Witos are set against the broad political background. The structure of the monograph is conducive to the achievement of research objectives and facilitates the verification of the hypotheses. In the analysis of specific categories of political thought, the chronological system was also applied, with particular emphasis on the ideological and political transformations determined by the national and international political situation. It should also be noted that the adopted order of chapters is meant to reflect the degree of Witos's interest in particular categories.

The essence of the investigations is introduced by presenting the sources of political thought. The first chapter, *Origins of sources*, discusses the ideological justifications for the political thought of W. Witos. It presents the inspirations from which Witos drew and which had a significant influence on his ideological decisions. It also includes ideological receptions and historical inspirations. The analysis involved changes to the surrounding reality proposed by Witos, and the postulated vision of the state – the People’s Poland, which was a response to the crisis in the Polish political reality. The sources of Witos’s political thought derived from tradition, based on the highest ideals and values – democratic, Christian and national.

The second chapter describes the political order desired by Wincenty Witos, which includes the system of the state, and especially the social foundations of power, and defines the sovereign which should be the nation – the people, together with the essence and dimensions of this sovereignty and the ways of legitimising political power in the state. The place and role of peasants among other social groups were determined. Witos’s concept resulted in the necessity to reconstruct social relations in Poland. He was aware that peasants without civil equality would not become fighters for the cause of Poland, nor its builders. He understood that Poland would not be reborn without free peasants who are aware of their interests, active on the public level. Without the participation of peasants as the most numerous social class in the struggle for the nation, there would be no strength to regain independence. W. Witos tried to implement his own concepts by indicating various directions of activities, which would bring peasants closer to the vision of people’s Poland, which was longed for and expected. He tried to combine the interests of working people – peasants, intelligentsia and workers – with the best interests of the state. This chapter’s second section – Legislative power – presents Witos’s views on the essence of Parliament as the representation of the Polish nation and the functions it should perform. The analysis includes the attitude towards the Sejm and Senate taking into account electoral law, structure, competencies and relations with other authorities. The third section – Executive bodies – presents the opinion of Witos about the President of the Republic and the Council of Ministers, the manner of appointment and functions. Section 4 – The Judiciary – points to Witos’s views on the features and functions which should characterise the judicature. The fifth section – Local Government – presents views on the essence of local authority and competences of organs of individual entities.

The third chapter concerns the place of the individual in the state, and above all the freedoms, rights and duties of citizens. Among other things, the views on freedom of

conscience and religion, education, rights and duties of national minorities are reconstructed. In the sphere of fundamental rights, freedoms and duties Witos held the position of upholding all that were constitutionally guaranteed. The foundations of his ideology can in fact be reduced to human rights and civil liberties and democracy. They were seen by Witos as a guarantee of freedom and equal rights for citizens.

The fourth chapter describes Witos's economic concepts. It presents his views on the forms of ownership of means of production (private, state and cooperative ownership), as well as the role of manufacturing departments, especially agriculture and industry.

The fifth chapter reconstructs the concepts of state security, relations with neighbours, external alliances, and collective security, as well as views on the army and defence. The vision of the state postulated by Witos was primarily aimed at strengthening the independence, sovereignty and power of the state, as well as securing the interests of peasants – the majority of the nation.

This set of research problems covers as fully as possible the most important components of political thought. It also allows us to consider what factors determined Witos's political views and how they evolved in different periods of Poland's history to show the problems faced by the state, nation, and peasants. Such an analysis also facilitates a discussion of those values which were significant from the point of view of working people, i.e. the establishment of social justice.

The monograph on the political thought of Wincenty Witos is of an interdisciplinary character. Its basic field of research is politics, but it extends to the humanities and social sciences: the recent history of Poland, the history of political doctrines, state science, economics, sociology. Research problems are approached using methods specific to social sciences, primarily political sciences. The most important research method used in the implementation of the project was the hermeneutic method, which allowed to show the wide political, social and historical context of Witos's statements referring to a specific reality. Witos's political thought was formed in various political systems: during the Partitions, in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and in the conditions of a democratic state – Poland in the years 1918-1926, and during the reign of the Sanation dictatorship 1926-1939. On the one hand, the change in political systems had an impact on the evolution of political thought, e.g. on the issue of the struggle for the state system – by means of a “ballot paper” until 1930 – Centrolew and non-parliamentary forms of struggle – in the 1930s, and the Great Peasant

Strike in 1937; on the other hand, the change in the political system forced the invariability of views on the democratic system of Poland.

Due to the fact that Witos occupied an important place in the state structures of the Second Republic of Poland, and influenced many important decisions, and after the May Coup and the reunification of the peasant movement he was the leader of the opposition, it was justified to apply decision analysis. Thanks to this, it was possible to analyse the mechanisms of political life and demonstrate how Witos perceived the political reality, how he described and diagnosed various problems, what ideological and programmatic premises lay at the heart of the decisions he made.

The predominant research techniques used in the work involved the analysis of the objects and traces of political thought. An important role in research on the history of Witos's political thought was played by the analysis of programme texts, stenographic reports of sessions of the Sejm, and articles published in the press. When analysing source programmes and documents, the most important stage was to establish the cause-and-effect relationships, historical conditions, economic and ideological bases, sources of political thought and views on the state, social and political order, and the manner of political thought implementation. The skills specific to history as a science, and in particular the reasoning of political or social views from the source information and the description of historical facts, proved to be important and necessary.

The analysis gave rise to the formulation of conclusions which are contained in the end of the monograph. The summary and evaluation of the political thought of Wincenty Witos was connected with practical activities and views on the future of the Polish State. After all, he was a seasoned politician, a great publicist, a natural-born speaker, a farmer by passion. Witos developed political thought with its ideological inspirations provided by the democratic ideas of late-18th and late-19th century European social thought, agrarianism, the social teaching of the Catholic Church, democratic socialism. It referred to the fortunes and history of the homeland, liberation struggles, the Positivist grassroots work. The motivations stemming from these sources became the ideological foundation of Witos's political thought and activity. They were connected with the realisation of two basic values and goals – regaining independence and the social liberation of the peasants. Political thought reflected the most important issues related to the vision of the future state system and the implementation of essential social reforms. Far-reaching transformations were supposed to lift

the peasants out of backwardness, social handicap, political stagnation, and serve their emancipation and acquiring the sense of being citizens.

The ideal was a vision of a Poland ruled by justice and of the people caring for its citizens regardless of social origin. According to the principles of democracy, peasants were to take an active part in the government of the state and assume part of the responsibility for it. This postulate can be found in the assumptions of agrarianism adopted by the peasant movement.

Witos's life and political activities comprise a very difficult and complex subject. He was a self-taught politician who owed his political career to persistence and hard work. On his own example, he experienced the need to learn, and the role this played in the upbringing and development of young generations of Poles. He was the leader of a great social movement, a great political party, three times Prime Minister, an independent man, negligent of his own material benefits, and aiming at the interests of his country and its people. S. Pigoń wrote about him *“Witos is a peasant in every inch, so the people can easily find themselves in him. It is not only the birth and the long years spent among peasants which decide here. More important is the same shape of mind, the same structure of the psyche, the same attitude towards the world and life. This relationship is particularly marked by the individual personality traits of Witos, which increase his authority: by his high sense of dignity, by courage, inflexibility, in short, by a strong character. (...) His strength as a leader of the people is that he is a wonderful type of Polish peasant, raised to a higher power.”* He was a politician who always emphasised his peasant roots, in his speech, manner, gesture, apparel. This had a clear meaning in his times. It was one thing to originate from peasantry, but another to both grow out of and remain a part of it.

Witos was one of the most important persons in the great process of transforming peasants who were attached to the partitioning monarchs into a Pole and a conscious citizen. Without this process, this “miracle of rebirth” would have been much less effective and flawed. It was Witos and the peasant movement that made peasants interested in the idea of Polishness and having their own state. It is no coincidence that in 1920 he became the head of government. The whole of society had to be mobilised to fight the Bolsheviks, and two thirds of that society were peasants. Witos, as Prime Minister, showed them that they were fighting for their own people's Poland, a democratic one. The essence of Witos's political views was captured by the fact that he was a democrat and a patriot. Poland and Polishness were at the

forefront of his values. He outlined a vision of an independent and sovereign state according to the principles of the people's programme, and on the basis of peasants.

He presented a vision of the future reformed state – the People's Poland, which should have been pursued gradually, using legal forms of struggle. He rejected the bloody revolution as a means of political change for fear that it was a form of violence, leading to upheavals, and inevitably to dictatorship, of which, like all agrarians, he was an opponent.

To achieve this vision was to ensure the consolidation of an independent and beneficial development of the state. The system of the Republic of Poland was to be based on the principle of the people's power. The major place of peasants in Witos's vision of the future organisation of society was justified by their numbers, nature of work, and merits in cultivating the preservation of the Polish identity, patriotism and defence of the independence of the state. Thanks to the democratic electoral law, representatives of peasants were to gain an advantage in the Sejm and influence the establishment of laws and the implementation of necessary social reforms.

The concept of granting the power to peasants was inextricably linked to the condition of obtaining economic rights by peasants. They were linked by Witos to the reconstruction of ownership relations towards democratisation. He considered agricultural reform to be the most important point in these changes. The fundamental role in the whole process of developing peasants' social awareness and shaping their attitude towards the state and nation was the right to own land. He was in favour of agricultural reform through the reduction, not liquidation, of large-scale landed property. Initially, he was in favour of compensation, and with the significant restrictions formulated by the right. In the 1930s, under the influence of the peasants' wishes, his own reflections, and new tactical assumptions, as well as of the great economic crisis, and the changes to the social and economic situation caused by it, he opted for more radical methods and postulated reform without compensation. The Sanation dictatorship caused Witos to call for the transition to non-parliamentary forms of struggle.

Witos was a supporter of the democratic system, which he considered to be the best and only possible one for the realisation of the idea of the people's power. He was a supporter of the parliamentary and cabinet system, which was a result of the experience of the Galician National Sejm and the Vienna Parliament. At the beginning of the 1920s he fought for the strong position of the Sejm in the system of power. Recognising, however, the weaknesses of the Polish parliamentarianism resulting from the lack of control mechanisms over the legislative body, after a short period of hesitation, not without the influence of compromise

agreements, he became a supporter of bicameralism. In the mid-1920s, he advocated restricting the right to vote, the principles of equality and proportionality, which were primarily to affect national minorities. He formulated a programme of changes aimed at strengthening the executive at the expense of the legislature. By creating a programme to correct the mistakes of Polish parliamentarianism, after Pilsudski had pushed it away from power by assault, he defended it against attacks from the Sanation, which in both doctrine and practice implemented the principle of “strong government”. After May 1926, he became an ardent defender of Parliament’s institutions, principles, and ideas, stressing that the elimination of the Sejm would prevent the peasant class from having an influence on state affairs, and, as a result, would push them to the margins of the state. In the political history of the interwar period, Witos became an unquestionable and most consistent defender of parliamentary democracy, regardless of the weaknesses and deficiencies of this system, which were noticed and clearly articulated publicly. In the 1930s he repeatedly expressed his conviction that it was superior to all kinds of authoritarian rule, such as totalitarianism, fascism, and communism.

Respect for the law played an important role in Witos’s views. The outlined vision of the state system was to be based on the principles of the rule of law, i.e. on a law which was to be a guarantee of social justice. He proclaimed the equality of citizens before the law, regardless of nationality and religion and saw the duty to respect the law as the key political principle. The rule of law was to be safeguarded by the judiciary, accessible to all citizens, professional, free, or as cheap as possible. Courts were to be apolitical, and sentences were to be passed quickly and impartially.

The contribution of Wincenty Witos to the political thought of the peasant movement was significant; it consisted mainly of the search for ways to implement the concepts contained in the programmes of the peasant movement. Witos was a practitioner, a tactician – a realist, a sharp observer of reality, a pragmatist. He made agreements, alliances and signed compromises with various groups from the parliamentary left to the extreme right. He formulated views and drew conclusions from engaging in practical activity and observing reality.

Some of the postulates described and indicated by Witos in their general aspects are still valid, and therefore the solutions proposed by him are worth considering even today. Undoubtedly, these include the democratisation of power structures, the efficient management of the state, which he combined with high qualifications among administrative staff, the

observance of civil rights and freedoms, the promotion of patriotic ideals, and upbringing in the spirit of love for one's homeland.

Wincenty Witos was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding Polish leaders and politicians of the first half of the 20th century. He was a leading politician and parliamentarian of the Second Republic of Poland. He exerted great influence on the political thought of the peasant movement by negating the existing reality and formulating concepts of its reconstruction based on the canons of freedom and equality, social justice, and democracy. Witos's political thought enriched and developed an agrarian vision of the Polish State. His was a concept of the "Third Way" of social development, aimed at creating a state system between capitalism and socialism., the "Third Way", which was to lead to the goals postulated by Witos, contained in agrarianism.

Witos's political thought is of continuing importance for today and the future, as it was based on two great pillars: Poland's national independence and its democratic system. It seems indisputable that Witos most accurately summarised his own political thought in the words he addressed to his compatriots after returning from political wandering in Czechoslovakia in March 1939: *"A People's Poland, a Poland powerful and independent, a Poland of freedom and equality, a Poland of work, prosperity and justice, a Poland of national, Christian and democratic principles, a Poland beloved and defended by all."* The monument to Wincenty Witos in Warsaw features the inscription *"... and Poland should last forever."*

The monograph is addressed both to researchers of Polish political thought and to a wide range of enthusiasts of our national history, the peasant movement, and its political ideas in Poland. The advantage of the monograph is its contribution to the analysis of the evolution of Polish political thought. The results of the conducted research contained in the book can prove useful to scholars and students of humanities and social sciences, history, political science, national security, journalism, law, economics, and philosophy. The monograph can also be used by politicians, because the ideas and postulates contained in it have not lost their relevance.

5. Discussion of remaining scientific and research accomplishments

Upon the completion of a doctoral degree, scientific research achievements have been centred on the exploration of many areas of political sciences. I have a number of other academic achievements in addition to the monograph. My academic and research work after

obtaining the PhD degree has involved the exploration of several areas of political sciences. My major interest is Polish political thought, especially the ideas of the peasant movement, though my other important interests include political communication, political journalism, biography, recent political history, and issues related to national security. The results of my research have been announced at conferences, congresses and during academic lectures and classes, and published in monographs and academic periodicals.

My academic output over the said nine-year period covers a total of seventy nine publications. It is diverse both in terms of the form of academic expression and the research issues addressed. The author's monographs include two publications (including the book which formed the basis for initiating the habilitation procedure). Other work includes a multi-author monograph edited independently, seven co-edited multi-author monographs, twenty seven articles and chapters in multi-author monographs, eight articles in scientific journals, eight – prefaces to the monograph and twenty-one other published items (reviews, reports, abstracts) and four accepted for printing (pending publication). Six articles and chapters in monographs and periodicals were published before obtaining the PhD Degree (2005-2009) (see Annex 5).

For the list of scientific publications after obtaining the PhD Degree see Annex 5. According to the *Harzing's Publish or Perish* database, the value of the h-index for publications is 2, with the number of publications included in the database being 15, and the total number of quotations of all previous publications without self-quotations 6 (as at 20 December 2018).

In terms of the subject matter of my academic and research achievements, it is worth pointing out the published works which are the result of activities related to the exploration of Polish political thought. The most important work concentrated on reconstructing and demonstrating the political thought of the peasant movement (including its politicians and often its creators): views on power, the economy, state security, the importance of citizens in the state, their freedoms, rights and duties, and the presentation of the evolution of political thought. The main achievement is the monograph which is the basis for commencing the habilitation procedure (as described in the section above). However, the activities and character of Wincenty Witos also served as the subject of other lectures and publications: *Wincenty Witos w Zamościu*, [in:] *Wincenty Witos*, ed. Ł. Kot, Zamość 2013, pp. 21-29; *Tradycja historyczna i powstańcza w myśli politycznej Wincentego Witosa*, [in:] *Piekło i niebo Polaków. Powstania narodowe, bunty i rewolucje. Inspiracje, kontynuacje, spory*,

pamięć, ed. T. Sikorski, M. Śliwa, A. Wątor, Kraków 2014, pp. 306-318; *Myśl polityczna Wincentego Witosa. Zarys problematyki*, [in:] *120 lat polskiego ruchu ludowego*, ed. E. Podgajna, M. Kuranc-Szymczak, Warsaw 2016, pp. 51-71; *Wizja państwa w myśli politycznej Wincentego Witosa*, [in:] *Historia i tradycje ruchu ludowego. Ideologia, polityka i jej kreatorzy*, Vol. 1, ed. J. Gmitruk, A. Indraszczyk, Warsaw 2016, pp. 71-87; published in the Romanian academic journal *State in the Political Thought of Wincent Witos*, “*Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis • Series Historia*”, VOLUME XIII / 2016, pp. 233-247; and articles accepted for printing – *Wincenty Witos wobec Tymczasowego Rządu Ludowego Republiki Polskiej w 1918 roku*, [in:] *Ludowa wizja Niepodległej. Rząd Ludowy w Lublinie*, ed. M. Wichmanowski, Lublin-Warszawa 2018, 12 pages.

The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press has published a monograph dedicated to the Peasants' Party (Stronnictwo Chłopskie), one of the three most important groups of the peasant movement operating in 1926-1931 – *Stronnictwo Chłopskie 1926-1931. Studium z dziejów myśli politycznej*, Lublin 2011, 276 pages. This version of the doctoral dissertation was supplemented and corrected in accordance with the guidelines of the reviewers. Various aspects of Peasants' Party's activities and political thought were also the subject of academic articles in multi-author monographs and academic journals.

Biographical studies represent an extremely important branch of research explorations. Articles on the leading activists of the peasant movement and their political thought have been published in scientific monographs and periodicals. I placed Stefan Korboński's entire activities in the broad context of the environment in which he worked, which allowed me to show the versatility of his interests and initiatives: *Stefan Korboński (1901- 1989). Twórca i propagator myśli ludowej*, „*Myśl Ludowa*” , No 2/2010, pp. 127-139; *Stefan Korboński (1901–1989). Polityk ruchu ludowego* [in:] *Zawsze wierni Polsce. 115 lat Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego*, ed. E. Podgajna, M. Wichmanowski, Lublin – Warsaw 2011, p. 153-182. My academic research also concentrated on the sphere of axiology and the charisma of Jan Dąbski, the leader of the Peasants' Party, whose reflections on the past of the nation became the subject the article *Jan Dąbski o roli tradycji historycznej na łamach „Gazety Chłopskiej”* [in:] *Sapientia animorum magistra est. Wartości w nauce – wartości w polityce Księga Jubileuszowa z okazji 40. rocznicy pracy naukowej Pani Profesor Alicji*, ed. A. Dawidowicz, E. Maj, M. Wichmanowski, Lublin 2013, pp. 347-357.

Undoubtedly, preparing the publication entitled „*Przez lud dla ludu*”. *Irena Kosmowska (1879-1945), polityk, społecznik, wychowawca*, ed. E. Podgajna, Lublin 2014,

198 pages, was also an important achievement. Irena Kosmowska is a figure who represented the fundamental moral and intellectual values. Even her political opponents were impressed by her attitude, righteousness of character, and nobleness. The study allowed us to show the ideals and political values which guided the life of Irena Kosmowska and her publishing legacy, the concepts concerning cooperatives, and the establishment and activities of a school for girls in Krasienin. In the article *Irena Kosmowska w parlamencie II Rzeczypospolitej*, [in:] „Przez lud dla ludu”. *Irena Kosmowska (1879-1945), polityk, społecznik, wychowawca*, ed. E. Podgajna, Lublin 2014, pp. 65-83, I presented Kosmowska's activities in the Polish Parliament in the interwar period.

Research on the issues of state security in the political thought of the peasant movement led to the publication of the multi-author monograph *Sen o potęgę. Suwerenność. Bezpieczeństwo. Mocarstwowość. Rzeczpospolita Polska 1918-1939*, ed. E. Maj, J. Gryz, E. Kirwiel, E. Podgajna, Lublin 2014, 734 pages. The issue of state sovereignty and security was one of the most important issues of the interwar period. It was situated in the broadly understood issue of restoring the security of the national and state interest. Several articles were also published on the issues of state security: *Jana Dąbskiego wizja bezpieczeństwa państwa (1926-1931)*, [in:] *Sen o potęgę. Suwerenność. Bezpieczeństwo. Mocarstwowość. Rzeczpospolita Polska 1918-1939*, ed. E. Maj, J. Gryz, E. Kirwiel, E. Podgajna, Lublin 2014, pp. 243-263; *Armia i obronność jako fundament bezpieczeństwa narodowego Polski w myśli politycznej Wincentego Witosa*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo Europy. Bezpieczeństwo Polski*, Vol.1, ed. E. Maj, K. Mazurek, W. Sokół, A. Szwed-Walczak, Warsaw 2016, pp. 461-477.

The interest in the subject of the peasant movement resulted in the publication of collective monographs edited by me: *Zawsze wierni Polsce. 115 lat Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego*, red. E. Podgajna, M. Wichmanowski, Lublin – Warsaw 2011, 243 pages. *The academic issue discussed in 120 lat polskiego ruchu ludowego*, ed. E. Podgajna, M. Kuranc-Szymczak, Warsaw 2016, 193 pages, constitutes an important element in the research devoted to the position of the peasant movement among other political movements developing in Poland from the end of the 19th century. The subject matter presented in the monographs allowed us to notice the need to constantly update the issues concerning the reception of ideals and the legacy of the peasant movement in its over 120 years of existence.

The complex relations between the Republic of Poland and Russia over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries proved to be a very important field of research. Over the last few

years, we have witnessed an increasingly clear transformation of political relations between Russia and Poland, which has resulted in changes in the mutual perception of both nations. Thus, an in-depth and differentiated reflection on the images of both nations during the last century, i.e. the period of existence of modern nations in both countries, is an extremely important and topical research task. *Sąsiedzi wschodni w myśli politycznej Stronnictwa Chłopskiego (1926-1931)* [in:] *Obrazy Rosji i Rosjan w Polsce od końca XIX wieku do początku XXI stulecia. Myśl polityczna, media, opinia publiczna*, ed. E. Kirwiel, E. Maj, E. Podgajna, Lublin 2011, pp. 41-59. The research problems regarding the images of Russia in the public environment, in Polish-Russian relations, and in the field of political perception, were also discussed in the following volume: *Obraz Rosji i Rosjan w Polsce XIX i XXI wieku. Opinia publiczna, Stosunki polsko-rosyjskie. Pamięć historyczna*, ed. E. Kirwiel, E. Maj, E. Podgajna, Lublin 2012, 364 pages.

Another area of research interest in Polish political thought focuses on relations with the Roman Catholic Church, religion, Catholic social science and system of values, and the Christian vision of man and the world. This found expression in the following articles: *Religia i Kościół Rzymskokatolicki w myśli politycznej Stronnictwa Chłopskiego (1926-1931)*, [in:] *Więś i ruch ludowy w Europie: Chłopi w służbie ojczyzny. W 115. rocznicę powstania politycznego ruchu ludowego w Polsce*, ed. Janusz Gmitruk, Franciszek Kampka, Jerzy Mazurek, Stanisław Stępka, Arkadiusz Indraszczyk, Warsaw 2012, pp. 87-103; *Stronnictwo Chłopskie wobec konkordatu 1925 roku*, [in:] *Kościół, religia, myśl katolicka: studia i szkice ofiarowane profesorowi Antoniemu Mieczkowskiemu z okazji 70 rocznicy urodzin*, ed. E. Maj, J. Sanecka-Tyczyńska, M. Wichmanowski, A. Wójcik, Lublin 2012, pp. 89-101.

As a result of the interest in the role of education and science, the fruit of the author's investigations was the scientific article *Oświata i edukacja w myśli politycznej Stronnictwa Chłopskiego*, [in:] *Nauka, edukacja, kultura w polskiej myśli politycznej XX-XXI wieku*, ed. M. Wichmanowski, Lublin 2013, pp. 217-233 and an article submitted to print in English, *Selected Social Problems of Rural Areas in the Political Thought of Wincent Witos. Wschód Europy. Studia humanistyczno-społeczne*, 2019, vol. 5, ed. E. Podgajna, A. Indraszczyk, 16 pages.

Extremely important are the achievements related to the study of political communication and the press organs of the people's parties. The research concerns a dynamically developing phenomenon in the sector of mass communication of important

political content. Participating in the preparation of a publication for a series entitled *Wizerunek medialny grupy społecznej* was another significant experience, under the scientific direction of prof. dr. hab. Ewa Maj, prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz Mich and dr. hab. Marcin Wichmanowski. The aim of the publication was to reconstruct the media image of peasants in Poland presented by the press. I presented the historical role of peasants, their social position, economic significance, political preferences and presence in national culture. The article presents a media image of peasants in the magazine *Gazeta Chłopska (the Peasants' Gazette)* – the press organ of Stronnictwo Chłopskie – Chłopi na łamach „Gazety Chłopskiej” [in:] *Egoistyczna klasa czy odpowiedzialni współobywatele? Problematyka Chłopska na łamach prasy od końca XIX stulecia do 1939 roku*, ed. E. Maj, W. Mich, M. Wichmanowski, Lublin 2010, pp.142-162. I also undertook an analysis of the content of the press and political journalism. This resulted in scientific articles on the Peasants' Party's main magazine: „*Gazeta Chłopska*” w procesie komunikacji politycznej, [in:] *Polityka i politycy w prasie XX i XXI wieku*, ed. M. Dajnowicz, A. Miodowski, Białystok 2016, pp. 263-273. It was primarily an analysis of texts contained in “*Gazeta Chłopska*”, the methods and techniques of influencing readers – voters of the People's Party.

My area of interest also included the broadly understood issue of women in the political journalism of the peasant movement. The subject of analysis in the article *Kobieta na łamach prasy ruchu ludowego (1918-1931)*, “Czasopismo Naukowe Instytutu Studiów Kobięcych”, 1 (4) 2018, pp. 94-111, was based on the press organs of the Polish People's Party “Piast” – *Piast* and *Wola Ludu*, the Polish People's Party “Wyzwolenie” – *Wyzwolenie* and Stronnictwo Chłopskie – *Gazeta Chłopska*, which analysed issues related to the perception of women's role in society, their living conditions. and participation in political life.

In the scope of my research interests in the subject of political communication, I also referred to the communication skills of contemporary parties – to the Polish People's Party, as a creator of political information in the election campaign. to the Polish Parliament in 2011 and 2015. The aim of the research was to get to know and describe the method of allocation of goods and communication services at the level of Party life. As part of the research exploration, two articles were published in two book monographs: *Reklama polityczna w kampanii wyborczej Polskiego Stronnictwa Ludowego w wyborach parlamentarnych w 2011 roku*, [in:] *Komunikowanie polityczne: podmioty, szkice, komunikaty naukowe*, ed. E. Maj, Poznań 2014, pp. 52-66 and *Reklama polityczna w kampanii wyborczej Polskiego*

Stronnictwa Ludowego w wyborach parlamentarnych 2015 roku, [in:] *Komunikowanie polityczne*, ed. E. Maj, E. Podgajna, A. Szwed-Walczak, Ł. Jędrzejcki, Lublin 2017, pp. 243-258.

Among the publications resulting from the conference are those which go beyond the framework of the above-mentioned research fields. Papers were published thanks to the financial support of the Governor's Office of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, about people who were connected with the Zamość region through their origin or work: *Maurycy Zamoyski XV ordynat*, [in:] *Zamojszczyzna w służbie Polsce. Ludzie Myśli – Czyny*, ed. R. Dąbrowski, Ł. Kot, M. Wichmanowski, Lublin – Zamość 2009, pp. 23-33.

The recognition and appreciation of competence in the field of knowledge about the peasant movement can be evidenced by the fact that a branch of the Lublin Institute of National Remembrance – the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation – asked for an article on the peasant opposition in the Lublin region in the years 1926-1939. The article was sent for printing under the title *Opozycja ludowa na Lubelszczyźnie w latach 1926-1939* [in:] *Dzieje Lubelszczyzny 1918-1939. Political Aspects*, edited by M. Kruszyński et al., Lublin 2018, 16 pages (co-author M. Wichmanowski).

My activities in the fields of research and scientific publications are complemented by work in the didactic, popularisation, and organisation areas, and participation in conferences and scientific congresses in Poland and abroad.

Since 2015 I have been a member of the European Rural History Organisation (EURHO), an international scientific society whose aim is to promote research into rural history in Europe and beyond. The members of the organisation are engaged in researching and popularising the history of villages and peasant movements and parties. The membership is closely related to my academic activities because the conferences I have organised allowed me to present my scientific research in an international environment. On 7-11 September 2015 I participated in an international scientific conference organised by the Rural History Research Centre of the University of Girona in Spain. More than 700 speakers from all over the world took part in the conference. The conference was an invaluable opportunity to present opinions and learn about the current state of research in various thematic areas of rural history and the peasant movement. At this conference I gave the lecture *State in the political thought of Wincent Witos*, which was published in an international scientific journal published by the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu in Romania. On 11-14 September 2017 in Leuven, Belgium, I once again had the opportunity to present my research findings in an international

environment, at the International Conference of EURHO organised by ICAG (Interfaculty Centre for Agrarian History, University of Leuven) and CORN (Comparative Rural History Network, Ghent University and the University of Leuven, Belgium). Participants in the conference presented the most recent and promising research, based on source material previously unknown or available only in domestic publications. New concepts and methods were presented which explored the links between rural history and related research fields through comparative or interdisciplinary approaches. The papers presented proved to be crucial for researchers of rural areas in critically reflecting on their own research in related disciplines and current social debates. At the conference I gave the lecture *Selected social problems of rural areas in political thought of Vincent Witos*.

I participated in a discussion during a scientific conference in Riga, Latvia: *Demokratyczne procesy w Europie Środkowej i Wschodniej w 1917 r. Aspekty polityczne, militarne, społeczne i kulturowe (Democratic processes in Central and Eastern Europe in 1917. Political, military, social and cultural aspects)*, Riga (Latvia), 27-28.04.2017, a discussion panel: *Procesy polityczne i demokratyczne w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej pod koniec I wojny światowej (Political and military processes and the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe in the end of the First World War)*.

Participation in international scientific conferences, translated into my own academic development, gave me the opportunity to compare my own ideas and research results with other researchers, and also enabled me to establish contacts with scientists from various countries dealing with the broadly understood issues of the peasant movement and rural areas.

My scientific and didactic activity was associated with cooperation outside of Poland. Three times I participated as an academic lecturer conducting classes in English with students of the University of Latvia in Riga (University of Latvia LV RIGA, Faculty of History and Philosophy: April 7-11, 2014 - participation in the Erasmus Program, Individual teaching program for teaching staff 2013/2014: Running the course about: *Political communication peasant movement in 1918-139* for students of the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia. 20 -24 April 2015 Erasmus Program, Individual teaching program for teaching staff, 2014/2015, University of Latvia LV RIGA, Faculty of History and Philosophy; Topics of lectures: *People's Movement in Poland in 1918-1939* for students of the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia. Erasmus Program (24-28 April 2017), Individual teaching program for teaching staff, academic year 2016/2017, University of Latvia LV RIGA, Faculty of History and Philosophy. Subject matter of lectures: *Polish-*

Russian relations in the XXth and XXIth centuries for students of the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia.

My scientific and didactic activities at the University of Latvia resulted in the signing on 26 April 2017 of the Framework Cooperation Agreement of the Faculty of Political Science of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Prof. dr hab. Iwona Hofman) and the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia (Assoc. Prof. Valda Kļava). The agreement created conditions for scientific cooperation, joint research projects, access to library and archive resources, and student exchanges.

In September 2017 I took part in a study trip to the European Parliament in Brussels together with a group of scholars from various research centres in Poland, Romania, Croatia and Hungary. It was an excellent opportunity to establish contacts, which in the future will result in joint research projects.

Active participation in academic life is also connected with my organisational and popularisation activities. I engaged in academic cooperation with the Academic Club of Social and Political Thought *Vade Mecum*, the Catholic Association *Civitas Christiana*, and the Club of Catholic *Intelligentsia*. As part of this cooperation I gave a lecture in May 2014 in Lublin: *Religia i Kościół rzymskokatolicki w myśli politycznej ruchu ludowego 1918-1939*.

As part of my activities to popularise and promote the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, I cooperated with secondary schools by giving presentations and lectures in the following schools: Middle School No. 3 in Hrubieszów, 16 Zamojska Street, VIII LO in Lublin (General Secondary School), 5 Słowicza Street; The John Paul II Complex of Schools No 5, Elsnera Street, 5 (finals); the Complex of Secondary Schools in Niemce (finals), which resulted in signing a patronage agreement between the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Complex of Secondary Schools in Niemce. Moreover, since 2016 I have been cooperating with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Educational Centre Complex in Trawniki within the framework of periodic “Student meetings on history” initiated by me. Celebrations of national holidays have become a great opportunity to familiarise children and young people with the history of their homeland. The topics of the lectures were *The Polish paths to independence, the Fathers of Independence* and “*100 years of independent Poland*”.

I also took part in other projects popularising the history of the Polish State. I engaged in cooperation with *Telewizja Polska Historia*, which invited me to participate in the

preparation of a documentary film in the series *Polska z historią w tle – Lubelskie dni Ignacego Daszyńskiego* (Poland and its history. The Lublin Days of Ignacy Daszynski) – in cooperation with prominent historians and political scientists from Lublin universities (Prof. Jan Lewandowski, Prof. Stanisław Michałowski, Prof. Grzegorz Janusz, Prof. Stefan Stępień). The documentary first aired in November 2013 and has been a fixture of TVP Historia ever since.

Another area of my activities is the participation since 2011 in the examination committee of the Olympiad *Knowledge about Poland and the modern world* (district level in Lublin) for secondary school students. The organiser of the competition is the Main Committee of the Olympiads of Knowledge about Poland and the Contemporary World, headed by prof. dr hab. Konstanty Adam Wojtaszczyk. The competition is organised on behalf of the Ministry of National Education. The history of the competition dates back to 1959. The creators and organisers of the Olympiad wish to awaken and develop among young people an interest in the socio-political and economic life of the country and the world, shaping awareness and proper civic attitudes among the young generation, developing the research activities of students, stimulating creative thinking, supporting the ability to apply acquired knowledge in practical action, better preparation of students for higher education and vocational training, increasing the level of participation of young people in social life as conscious citizens, and awakening the need for intercultural dialogue, while understanding the necessity to strengthen their national identity.

Scientific and research works are frequently conducted in cooperation with various institutions, both in Poland and abroad. The centres which deserve special attention are as follows (alphabetically): The Institute of National Remembrance, John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Museum of the History of the Polish Peasant Movement in Warsaw, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń, The Pedagogical University of Kraków, Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities, Rzeszów University, Szczecin University, Białystok University, Warsaw University, Zielona Góra University, Historical Institute of the Peasant Movement in Warsaw and foreign institutions: University of Latvia Riga, Faculty of History and Philosophy; Croatian Institute of History, Slavonski Brod, Croatia; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia; National Archives of Hungary, Budapest, Hungary; Interfaculty Centre for Agrarian History,

University of Leuven Comparative Rural History Network Ghent University; University of Leuven, Belgium; Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu Romania.

Another important area of my activities is my editorial work, because I have acted as a co-editor of scientific monographs seven times, and once I was the chief editor (see the list of publications). Currently, together with prof. dr E. Maj and dr Marcin Wichmanowski, I am preparing an academic monograph entitled *Ludowcy – Wyzwolenie – Demokracja* which will be published for the 80th birthday anniversary of prof. dr hab. Jan Jachymek and a monograph co-edited with dr M. Kuranc–Szymaczak, *Mikołajczyk and Poland*.

Another important part of my activities is working as a reviewer. I have cooperated with the scientific journal of the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University *Poliarchia*. It is very important for me to actively participate in current scientific discussion and exchange opinions, which is why I am the author of several reviews of scientific works which have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals (see the list of publications).

I consider being involved in the organisational activities of the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University my important duty. Since my starting day of employment in 2009, I have actively participated in various scientific, didactic, and organisational initiatives undertaken by the Institute of Political Thought headed by Prof. Ewa Maj. My involvement in the work is demonstrated by participation in the organisational committees of conferences and symposia organised by the Institute of Political Thought (the list of conferences co-organised by me can be found in the general list of my participation in scientific conferences below). I have presented the results of my research as a speaker at national and international scientific conferences, scientific symposia, and congresses organised by historians and political scientists: 1) *Public space in authoritarianism, democracy and totalitarianism - changes and dysfunctions of contemporary political systems*, Krasieczyn, May 6-8, 2009 – the presentation on: *Model of territorial self-government in a democratic state in the political thought of the Peasant Party (1926-1931)*; 2) *Zamość region in the service of Poland. People-thoughts - deeds - Zamość*, May 16, 2009 (People's Scientific and Cultural Society, Lublin, Zamość Krasnystaw) (co-organizer) - the presentation on: *Maurycy Zamoyski*; 3) *Ideas, state, peasants, scientific symposium on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the birth of prof. zw. dr. hab. Jana Jachymka*, Lublin June 2009 (co-organizer); 4) *Popular parties and movements in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe in 1989-2009, Warsaw 19-20 November 2009* – the presentation on: *The vision of society in the*

political thought of the popular movement after 1989; 5) *Surveillance, neutralize, smash. Stefan Korboński and political emigration as an object of interest in the PRL intelligence in 1945-1989* - IPN Warsaw, 24-25 March 2010 – the presentation: *Stefan Korboński's activity until 1939*; 6) *The image of Russia and Russians in the public sphere - political thought, media, international public opinion, Lublin, 18-19 May 2010 (secretary of the conference)* – the presentation on: *Eastern neighbors of Poland in the political thought of the Peasant Party (1926-1931)*; 7) *Peasants in the service of their homeland, IV Congress of Village Historians and People's Movement, Warsaw, 1-3 September 2010* - lecture: *Religion and the Roman Catholic Church in the political thought of the Peasant Party 1926-1931*; 8) *115 years of the Polish People's Movement, LTNK, Krzywe, 7 October 2010 (secretary of the conference)* - the presentation on: *Stefan Korboński 1901-1989. People's movement policy*; 9) *Neighborhood and borderland. From the conflict in the past to cooperation in the future, Łódź October 2010* - the presentation on: *National minorities in the political thought of the Peasant Party (1926-1931)*; 10) *Between democracy and totalitarianism, Toruń, 20-21 May 2010* - the presentation on: *Vision of the political system in the political thought of the Peasant Party 1926-1931*; 11) *People's Republic of Poland, communist Poland, socialist or ... ?, Lublin, October 20, 2011, Faculty of Political Science at the UMCS (co-organizer)*; 12) *II Congress of Political Science in Poznań 19-21 September 2012* - the presentation on: *Political advertising in the election campaign of the Polish People's Party in the parliamentary elections in 2011*; 13) *A dream about power. Poland, 1918-1939, Lublin, 18 October 2012 (secretary of the conference)* - the presentation on: *Jan Dąbski's vision of state security (1926-1931)*; 14) *"Through People for the People," Irena Kosmowska 1879-1945. Politician-social activist-promoter, Lublin May 14, 2013 (co-organizer)* - the presentation on: *Irena Kosmowska in the parliament of the Second Republic of Poland*; 15) *Sapientia Animorum magistra est. Values in science - values in politics, scientific symposium, Faculty of Political Science UMCS, Lublin, 18 June 2013 (co-organizer)*; 16) *Wincenty Witos in Zamość, Zamość, 29 June 2013* - the presentation on: *Wincenty Witos in Zamość*; 16) *Political thought in the era of the information society. Categories of political thought - methodology - state of research. Adaptation and modernization. Scientific Symposium on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Political Thought Foundation, Lublin 27 March 2014 (secretary)* - the presentation on: *30 years of the Political Thought Department*; 17) *Main political camps of the Second Polish Republic and the Roman Catholic Church, Lublin May 6, 2014* - the presentation on: *Religion and the Roman Catholic Church in the political thought of the People's Movement 1918-1939*; 18) *Between real socialism and*

liberal capitalism. Third Way - Opportunity or Utopia, Lublin, May 8, 2014 (Vice-Chairwoman of the conference); 19) *Security of Europe - Security of Poland*, Lublin 9 June 2015 (co-organizer) - the presentation on: *Army and defense as the foundation of Poland's national security in the political thought of Wincenty Witos*; 20) *5th Congress of Village Historians and People's Movement: History and traditions of the people's movement*, Warsaw, September 2-3, 2015 - the presentation on: *State in political thought of Wincenty Witos*; 21) "Rural History 2015" - Girona, Spain 11-14 September 2015 - the presentation on: *State in the Political Thought of Wincent Witos*; 22) *Polish People's Party Liberation on the hundredth anniversary of the uprising*, Lublin January 30, 2016 (co-organizer) - the presentation on: *Peasant's Party against the Polish People's Party "Wyzwolenie"*; 23) *Political communication, International communication, Intercultural communication*, Lublin 14 April 2016 (secretary of the conference) - the presentation on: *Political advertising in the election campaign of the Polish People's Party in the parliamentary elections of 2015*; 24) *Causes and consequences of the May 1926 coup, Sejm of the Republic of Poland*, Warsaw, May 9, 2016 (debater); 25) *Politics and politicians in the XX and XX century press*, Białystok 16-17 June 2016 - the presentation on: *"Gazeta Chłopska" in the process of political communication*; 26) *Security of Europe - Security of Poland. Metamorphoses of security and threats in the 20th and 21st centuries: new political, military, demographic and cultural quality*, Lublin 24 November 2016 r. (Co-organizer) - the presentation on - *Wincenty Witos on the international location of Poland (1918-1939)*; 27) *Democratic processes in Central and Eastern Europe in 1917 Political, military, social and cultural aspects (Political, military, social and cultural aspects)*, Riga (Latvia), 27-28.04.2017, discussion panel, debate: *Political and Democratic processes in Central and Eastern Europe at the end of World War I (Political and military processes and the rise of the World War II)*; 28) *1st Symposium of Political Murder researchers of the 20th and 21st centuries*, Toruń, 11-2 May 2017 - the presentation on: *Idea of parliamentarism in political thought of Wincenty Witos*; 29) "Rural History 2017" - Leuven, Belgium 11-14 September 2107, the presentation on: *Selected social problems of rural areas in political thought of Vincent Witos*; 30) *Challenges for Poland's security system resulting from the analysis of internal and external security environment. Military and non-military aspects*, Zamość, May 11-12, 2018 - the presentation on: *The security of Poland in the political thought of Wincenty Witos. Selected problems*; 31) *Politics in the women's press*, Białystok, 25-27 May 2018, - the presentation on: *Woman in politics in the pages of "Głos Kobiet", "Życia Kobiet" and "Wiciarki" - supplements to the weeklies of the Polish People's Press in 1931-1939* ; 32) *4th Political Science Congress: The State at the*

Time of Change, Lublin 18-20 September 2018. Moderator in the panel: *Independent State. Creators - strategies - social communication* - the presentation on: *Wincenty Witos' idea of independence*; 33) *People's vision of Independence. People's Government in Lublin*, Lublin, November 8, 2018 (co-organizer) - the presentation on: *Wincenty Witos to the Provisional People's Government of the Republic of Poland in 1918*.

Academic and research activities are also connected with applying for grants or obtaining funds for the implementation of research tasks. Undoubtedly, an important achievement after obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Humanities was to receive an individual scholarship / habilitation grant from the Zofia and Władysław Pokus Foundation for the Support of Rural Youth Education, which enabled me to finance trips to conduct archival and library searches for research on the political thought of Wincenty Witos. Efforts to obtain funds financed by the Government of the Lubelskie Voivodeship for the implementation of the *Zamojszczyzna w służbie Polsce. Ludzie – myśli – czyny* task from 16.05.2009 to 12.06.2009 (Agreement No. 82/K/09, concluded on 07.05.2009). The result was the organisation of a scientific session in Zamość, and the publication of post-conference materials in print. Twice applications for research-funding competitions were also submitted to the National Science Centre (they did not obtain funds for implementation): Grants were financed by the National Science Centre, contests OPUS 8 – December 2014, OPUS 9 – June 2015, entitled *Myśl polityczna Wincentego Witosa (1874-1945)*.

I have been awarded for my outstanding research, teaching and organisational activities: Dean's Awards for outstanding work in 2010, 2011. In 2012 I received the Individual Award of the Rector of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in the 3rd Degree. The basis for the award was the publication of a monograph, which was a modified version of the doctoral dissertation entitled *Stronictwo Chłopskie 1926-1931. Studium z dziejów myśli politycznej*. Lublin 2011, 276 pages, published by the Maria Curie Skłodowska University Press.

My scientific, teaching and organisational activities have also been appreciated by the authorities of the Dean's College of the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and by my appointment to curriculum development teams for the fields available at the Faculty of Political Science: I am a member of the curriculum team at the faculty for the field of National security, second-cycle studies (under the supervision of prof. M. Pietraś and prof. W. Sokół); a member of the curriculum team for third-cycle studies (doctoral) in the field of media studies (under the direction of prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz

Mich); and a member of the Faculty Commission for the confirmation of learning outcomes acquired outside formal education (under the guidance of dr hab. Wojciech Zięta, Prof. UMCS). Membership of the Expert Database in the Centre for Innovation and Commercialisation of Research of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Support for the Scientific Research Module with the Expert Database in ZISZ (SAP) of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University) deserves to be emphasised. Another important experience was conducting postgraduate lectures in “Knowledge about Society” at the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

In the aforementioned period, the following are also worth mentioning: my participation in the works of the Committee for the Promotion of the Faculty of Political Science through active participation in *Night Classes in Social Sciences*. Participation in the promotion of the University through active participation in the Open Doors of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (stand of the Faculty of Political Science at the Rector’s Office of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University). In 2013, as part of the initiative taken by Prof. Andrzej Dąbrowski, Rector and Education Superintendent Krzysztof Babicz “A week of developing talents”, I gave a lecture for students of middle school students, which was part of the “*Year of Discovering Talents*” announced by the Ministry of National Education, entitled *Jak bardzo jesteście inni? O różnicach kulturowych w globalizującym się świecie*.

One cannot omit my participation as a secretary and coordinator in the faculty recruitment committees at the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin in 2010/2011, and in 2011/2012 in the field of Political Science and Journalism and Social Communication. Educational and didactic functions have been and are being carried out also thanks to the position of supervisor of the first-cycle studies in Political Science and second-cycle studies in Media Production since the academic year 2017/18 until now. For several years I also took minutes during monthly academic meetings.

An important function in the light of the mode of scientific promotion is my position of an auxiliary promoter in doctoral recruitment commissions. Prof. E. Maj acts as a promoter of Arkadiusz Woźniak, a PhD student at the Faculty of Political Science, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (third-cycle studies), while I was appointed as auxiliary supervisor.

Reviewing theses (67 Bachelor’s and Master’s theses) and participation in examination commissions may also be considered as kinds of extra activities in addition to my work on the development and promotion of students.

As part of my academic and teaching activities, I provided scientific consultations to scholarship holders of the *Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program*, who in the winter semester of the academic year 2017/2018 took part in my exercises on the subjects of Political communication and Communication in crisis situations. I also served as secretary during the meeting of the Council of the Faculty of Political Science of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin on the postdoctoral examinations conducted by the Council.

Membership in academic societies can be considered an important element in my research and popularisation activities. I am a member of the National Scientific and Cultural Society (member of the Main Board and vice-president of the Lublin branch LTN-K) and the Polish Society of Political Sciences, Lublin, and the European Rural History Organisation EURHO.

I also teach a wide range of courses (lectures, exercises, faculties, general university lectures) including in the faculties of study: Political science, Journalism and social communication, National security, Russian studies, and Iberistics. The subjects covered include Poland's contemporary political thought, Poland's political thought, Contemporary Polish history, Contemporary world history, The theory of politics, Political communication, Communication in crisis situations, An introduction to political science, International political and economic relations, The history of journalism, and International and intercultural communication. An important area of my didactic activities has been to prepare and conduct open lectures. The subject matter of the lectures has met with great interest among the students of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and involved *Komunikowanie w dyplomacji publicznej i dialog międzykulturowy* (Communication in public diplomacy and intercultural dialogue) and *PR w służbie dyplomacji publicznej* (PR in the public diplomacy service).

In conclusion, it should be noted that the author has made every effort to include in this Summary of Professional Accomplishments the most important information concerning her achievements and activities since she obtained her PhD degree. It has been a period of very intensive work in many fields, primarily involving her work for the Faculty of Political Science and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, and gaining academic, research and teaching experience.

Ewelina Podgajna