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„THE STAROST AND THE MAYOR WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE TOWNSHIP
AND COUNTRY DISTRICTS.”

Abstract of the doctoral dissertation

Key words: starost, mayor with county rights, country district, city with county rights

The topic of the PhD dissertation is the issue of the institutions of the starost and mayor with county rights. The background to the considerations is the functioning of the country and township districts and the inequality of these two governmental entities. The PhD dissertation aims at verifying the thesis on the evolution of the status of mayor with the lack of any activity of the legislator in the area connected with the functioning of the starost.

Particular attention was paid to inconsistencies in the scope of granting of the status of an authority or a public official to the starost and the lack of recognition of the mayor with county rights as a starost. The doctoral dissertation also brings up the issue of the penetration of the two indicated government entities in the specific symbiosis of the township and country districts. The paper also focuses on the political dimension of the performance of both functions, particularly in terms of their local leadership.

The aim of the comprehensive presentation of the role of the starost and mayor in the governance of the township and country districts was supplemented with comments on the specific situation of the small former provincial city - Krosno.

As a consequence, the paper presents a multidimensional analysis of the conditions of the process of performing the functions of the starost and mayor with county rights, and defines the essence and specificity of the instruments that can be used by these two governmental entities.

The aforementioned considerations are set out in the introduction, the six chapters and the conclusion. The following chapters are the core of the PhD dissertation: two, three and five. Each chapter contains a synthetic summary of the content and considerations.

Chapter I called “The specificity and essence of the construction of township and country districts” is an introduction to the dissertation. It includes historical, political and legal issues connected with the formation of the township and country districts. This chapter discusses in detail the specificity of both districts in the light of their system, tasks and public bodies.

The next one, chapter II is entitled “Tasks of the starost in the country district”. It is a broad analysis of the specific roles designated by the legislator for the starost on the basis of the Polish system of administrative law, civil law and labour law. An attempt was made to catalogue the circumstances that determine the perception of the starost as a local leader.

The tasks of the mayor as town authority with county rights were discussed in Chapter III. This chapter examines the evolution of legislative solutions that have had influence on strengthening the position of the governmental entity in question. The differences and similarities in relation to the starost were noted. An attempt was also made to decide whether the mayor is the starost of the township district.

In chapter IV entitled "*The starost and the mayor as supervising (controlling) and supervised (controlled) entities*", both governmental units are characterized as being the ones that supervise and control themselves and are subject to the control and supervision. A lot of attention was paid to the principles of management control in the context of effective management. This chapter is also an analysis of the situation in which the starost (mayor) may be faced with as a result of irregularities in its operation.

Chapter V of the PhD dissertation with a title: *The forms of activity of the entities performing the functions of the starost and the mayor with the county rights on the basis of the functioning of the Krosno districts in the 5th term* started from indicating the generally accepted division of legal forms of administration and assigning it to the activity of both discussed governmental entities. Therefore, considerations in this chapter concerned the function of normative acts established by the discussed governmental entities in the internal field, specificity of issued administrative acts, conclusion of administrative agreements, civil-law contracts, social and organisational activity and material and technical activities applied by the starost.

The last one - chapter VI, entitled “*The District Self-Government of the City of Krosno, in the view of the authorities, officials and residents*”, is an in-depth social and political analysis of the City of Krosno and the Krosno District. By means of available statistical data and available publications, the paper focused on reflecting the specific situation of both districts. The chapter presents opinions received from former and present local government officials, residents of the city and districts, and officials employed in these governmental entities. The comments concerning the amendment of the Administrative Procedure Code have been considered and then the methodology of the survey, the group of respondents and the results of the survey were indicated.

In conclusion, it was indicated that the aims of the PhD dissertation were intended to be achieved by means of: theoretical considerations, theoretical and empirical argumentation or only by means of empirical studies. An attempt was also made to create a catalogue of systemic legislative solutions responding to the postulate to increase the consistency of regulations. Some of the changes made to the administrative procedure were approved.