

Participatory Instruments in Polish Local Government - From Evolution to Directions of Change

Monika Augustyniak¹

Kozminski University in Warsaw - Poland

mail: monikaugustyniak1@gmail.com.

Abstract:

The aim of democracy implemented in local government is to conduct a binding decision-making process by residents of local communities, considering their interests and the public interest. It guarantees additional protection of their rights and strengthens the sense of identity with the local government community.

The subject of this article is to present the instruments of direct democracy in local government in Poland in an evolutionary approach and to indicate the directions of changes in the participation of residents in decision-making processes in the local government community. These instruments can be divided into two groups: classic mechanisms and new forms of direct democracy. The Polish legislator increases the scope of direct democracy instruments, indicating the important role they play in the revived local government, thus laying the foundations for civil society and a democratic state of law. The proper normative approach to these mechanisms and their correct application guarantee the modernity of democratic local government.

The article uses the dogmatic-legal and historical method.

The scientific reflections made in the article will enable practitioners to properly interpret legal regulations in the field of social participation instruments in local government in Poland. The results may also be used by the legislator to change legal regulations in this area.

Keywords:

direct democracy, evolution of instruments of public participation, forms of public participation, instruments of social control, territorial self-government,

¹ Dr habil. Monika Augustyniak, Prof. at KU, Associate Professor at Department of Administration and Administrative Law, Kozminski University in Warsaw, in Poland; ORCID: 0000-0001-6196-1989; mail: monikaugustyniak1@gmail.com.