Integrated Territorial Investments as an (in)effective tool of urban policy - the experience of the Czech Republic and Poland

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Abstract

Local government is one of the pillars of democracy, responsible, among other things, for stimulating the local economy. The territorial dimension has become an important element of the EU's cohesion policy. To support the development of urban areas, the mechanism of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) was established. ITI is an EU support instrument addressed to cities and surrounding local governments (e.g., municipalities). This EU tool serves the integrated development of territorial structures, stimulating integration activities (cooperation) among local government units in agglomerations. This is one way to address the fragmentation and particularism inherent in agglomeration, exacerbated by problems resulting from suburbanization.

The aim of this presentation is to determine the sustainability (continuation) of local government cooperation in agglomerations in Poland and the Czech Republic. In light of this stated objective, the paper aims to answer the following questions: What is the future of agglomeration cooperation in both countries? Do Integrated Territorial Investment partnerships serve the purpose of creating a culture of cooperation in agglomerations? What barriers must local governments overcome in cooperation within urban areas?

This presentation will draw on the results of empirical research (surveys) conducted among members (local governments) of Integrated Territorial Investment structures in Poland and the Czech Republic.