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Abstract of the doctoral dissertation entitled "Local government in the process of metropolitan development in relation to new forms of participation".

Increasing globalization and societal changes have led to the emergence of new models of urban management. The question of turning cities into metropolises, and „regular" cities into smart, savvy, clever cities, is becoming more and more prevalent. Members of municipal governments are faced with the increasing demands of local communities, who, using various types of media to gain almost unlimited knowledge about the world, want to further develop their cities. The situation depicted calls for a redefinition of local government. Subject to transposition, the realities of modern public management reveal the range of problems that should be tackled by local governments, including those in metropolitan areas. The desirable model of modern local government appears to be one that not only enables citizen participation in governance, but also creates or offers the appropriate tools for this purpose. Technology is playing an increasingly important role here, and accelerating digitization is at the center of metropolitan development.

Research on this topic often lacks a holistic view of the issue of local government units interacting with residents, especially in relation to the concept of smart cities.

This dissertation is an attempt to analyse this topic from a slightly different perspective: it investigates metropolitan areas, around which there is currently a lively discussion. The debate concerns, among other topics, their place in the administrative system of Poland as well as numerous problems that concern them, such as lack of parking spaces, traffic jams, not enough of green spaces or the omnipresent smog. The lively tone of discussion is being set by, among others, urban movements, active for several years now.

A number of reflections were made based on research. It resulted in the main hypothesis of this dissertation: the role of modern local government is to create a field for interaction with local communities, with particular emphasis on communication and information technologies, as this contributes to improving the attractiveness of metropolitan areas and increasing their importance in the international arena. The hypothesis was verified positively.

As the specifics of metropolises vary around the world, post-1989 Poland has been chosen as the model. However English-language literature and references to the origins of local government, dating back to the 13th century, were considered as well.

An important component of this thesis was the depiction of the metropolization in Poland after 1989, as well as identification of cities that can claim to be metropolises. Polish legal acts and strategic documents addressing the issue of metropolitan development were reviewed. Another aspect was the definition of the role of local government units in the process of metropolization, and finally a discussion on the concept of smart cities, an understanding of which was important for further consideration of topics related to metropolitan development.

The subsequent topic was the historical and legal-institutional conditions of participation. Its strengths and weaknesses, along with the determination of the level of efficiency of modern civil socjety, were discussed.

The subject of smart cities, this time in view of their three generations (with particular attention to the concept of smart city 3.0, referring to the participation of residents in co-governance of the city), proved to be significant.

The final topic discussed was the issue of e-government, aimed at facilitating people's participation in public life, also considered from the point of view of local communities. In addition, the basics of the law related to digital administration, expanded and improved after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, was analysed. Finally, the bulk of issues related to the so-called government technology and civic technology were also touched upon. An analysis of crowdsourcing and its variations served as an introduction to this section.