

## Summary

Author: Joanna Radzioch

Title: The functioning of participatory budgets in Poland based on the example of provincial cities

This doctoral thesis addresses the functioning of participatory budgets in 18 cities in Poland. The main research objective of the study was to present the strengths and weaknesses of participatory budgets in provincial cities in Poland—both from the perspective of residents and public officials involved in the organization of participatory budgets. This goal was achieved through the realization of several specific objectives, including: addressing the essence of participation and distinguishing between citizen participation and social participation, as well as defining how civil society operates and formulating conclusions based on a non-representative survey conducted among residents of Poznań regarding the issue of the participatory budget in this city. Furthermore, the author conducted in-depth interviews with public officials involved in the organization of participatory budgets in 18 cities across Poland, which, according to the definition adopted in this study, are provincial cities. Based on the conducted research, the study was able to determine, among other things, the opportunities and threats for participatory budgets, how public officials assess the legal basis for the functioning of participatory budgets, and what changes in the procedure are expected by the residents of Poznań who participated in the survey (non-representative study).