

“Outsourcing as an element of educational policies” – Summary

The issue of outsourcing as an element of educational policies discussed in the present dissertation was analysed with respect to two main areas of the relationship between the concepts of "outsourcing" and "education" in educational practice. These areas were defined as *outsourcing of education* and *outsourcing in education*. The aim of the presented research was to characterize the phenomenon of outsourcing in educational policies, in terms of foreseen and actual functions present in the education system and its educational institutions. Based on literature studies on the phenomenon of outsourcing of public services in Poland, I concluded that outsourcing is a phenomenon present in education and educational policy.

Outsourcing of education can be broadly understood as market mechanisms in the provision of public services in the field of education, which transfer what is public to the private sphere. However, for the purposes of the research I used a narrower definition of outsourcing of public services in the field of education, namely outsourcing the provision of public services – outsourcing of public educational services. This perspective mainly covers the methods of contracting educational services, transferring the operation of educational institutions by local government units to legal or natural persons specified in education law, but also awarding public procurement contracts, entrusting the implementation of public tasks to non-governmental organizations, or other less common solutions used in Poland by local governments. The second empirical area of the issues discussed is *outsourcing in education*, which means all outsourcing phenomena and processes that take place in the education sector and concern processes auxiliary to the social mission of the school or preschool, and especially to the educational process related to the obligation to implement the core curriculum.

Outsourcing of education is a phenomenon present in educational policy, which was confirmed in the present research by the collected, presented and described opinions of respondents. The opinions of individual groups of respondents were sometimes very similar - for example, opinions regarding the idea of outsourcing education among representatives of local government and bodies managing schools and preschool. Sometimes they differed markedly – e.g. in terms of the mode and mechanisms of outsourcing educational tasks. In the case of school directors, teachers and parents, the opinions were even more diverse, especially due to the type of institution: local government, non-local government public, non-local government non-public.

The second issue examined is **outsourcing in education** – outsourcing of services supporting education in educational institutions, at the level of primary schools and preschools. In this area, a general tendency has emerged which can be described as approval for outsourcing in education among groups of managing bodies. In the case of participants of the educational process, based on statistical analysis, there is a large diversity of opinions among school directors and teachers regarding the phenomenon of outsourcing of auxiliary services. The only group in which no differences were noted on the issue of outsourcing in education are parents of children attending primary schools and preschools (local governmental, non-governmental public, non-governmental non-public).

The issue of education outsourcing, despite its wide application, has not yet been discussed in detail in the Polish literature on educational policy. My goal was to provide readers with knowledge in this area. The dissertation broadly discusses the current and growing phenomenon of education outsourcing in Poland. Also, in the opinions of respondents, this outsourcing is becoming more common and more important. This is particularly important at a time of dynamic economic changes, as well as the challenges facing education management in the face of a looming population crisis in Poland and constant problems in the financing of education by the state. According to the respondents, it is expected that the scale of education outsourcing will also become more important in the future.