

## **Jacek Wiatr, *Emergency Medical Services in the Politics of the Republic of Poland***

### **Abstract**

The State Emergency Medical Services system (Państwowe Ratownictwo Medyczne – PRM) constitutes a core component of public health protection and internal security in Poland, operating at the intersection of health policy, social policy, and internal security governance. The effectiveness of this system is determined not only by human and infrastructural resources, but primarily by organizational, legal, and technological arrangements resulting from public policy decisions. The aim of this doctoral dissertation is to analyze the functioning of the PRM system in Poland and to identify solutions that may contribute to improving its operational and systemic effectiveness.

The study is based on the assumption that reforms implemented within the PRM system have largely followed a reactive rather than strategic logic, which has limited their effectiveness in the face of growing social, demographic, and organizational challenges. The main research hypothesis assumes that the implementation of coherent organizational, technological, and legal solutions can enhance the efficiency of the PRM system. To verify this hypothesis, a main research question was formulated, accompanied by a set of auxiliary hypotheses addressing, among others, the role of medical volunteers, the scope of professional competencies of paramedics, the structure of emergency response teams, the safety of pediatric pharmacotherapy, and the legal conditions governing decision-making in critical situations.

Methodologically, the dissertation is grounded in the political science paradigm, conceptualizing emergency medical services as an element of public policy and the national security system. The theoretical and analytical part includes an examination of legal frameworks, definitions of security systems, and the current organizational model of PRM in Poland, supplemented by a comparative analysis of selected foreign emergency medical systems. A key empirical component of the study is an original survey conducted among 310 PRM system employees, including paramedics, physicians, and nurses, using a mixed-methods approach.

The findings contribute to the state of knowledge in public policy analysis by providing an empirically grounded diagnosis of the PRM system from the perspective of its key stakeholders. The results indicate that while the system is perceived as capable of fulfilling its core functions in routine interventions, it is affected by persistent structural constraints, including system overload caused by inappropriate service use, legal and organizational ambiguities, extended response times, and limited preparedness for large-scale crises. The dissertation formulates conclusions and recommendations that may serve as a foundation for future organizational and legislative reforms in emergency medical services policy.