

Summary

Keywords: social insurance, social security, social policy, Social Insurance Institution, changes in the social insurance system in Poland

The dissertation is arranged chronologically and consists of six chapters.

In the first chapter, entitled „The place and role of social insurance in the social policy of the Polish state”, I presented the concepts and definitions of Polish social policy as well as political and economic conditions in its creation. I also presented definitions of basic terms in the field of social policy. I also showed the place of social insurance in the social security system of the state.

In the second chapter, the title of which is „Creating the Polish social insurance system”, I described the beginnings of work on the Polish social insurance system, I characterized the first legal acts introducing individual types of insurance, as well as merging insurance and establishing the Social Insurance Institution together with its activities related to the implementation of insurance, related to insurance, as well as activities not directly related to insurance, and the final organization of the pre-war Polish insurance system. I also presented the main concepts of the founder of the Polish social security system and the reactions of the public opinion. I also showed the impact of current political, economic and social conditions on the formation of the insurance system and the creation, as well as the functioning of institutions that implemented social insurance.

The next chapter, entitled „The meaning and role of ZUS during World War II”, was devoted to describing the functioning of insurance institutions during World War II in the Polish territories under German occupation. I presented both the legal regulations introduced by the occupier (discriminating against Poles, which resulted from the doctrine adopted by Nazi Germany regarding the role of nations conquered by the Third Reich), as well as the attitudes of employees of insurance institutions towards these regulations and their participation in the patriotic conspiracy. I also described the conceptual work carried out at the end of the war on the post-war organization of the social security system.

The fourth chapter is entitled „Reconstruction of ZUS after World War II and liquidation of the Institution in the 1950s”. I devoted it to presenting the conditions of the post-war reconstruction of insurance institutions, describing the impact of the political situation on changes in the insurance system in the first decade after the end of World War II and the role of ZUS in the social policy of the state. I also presented the activity of ZUS not related to social insurance in

that period, as well as the reasons, circumstances and stages of liquidation of the Social Insurance Institution.

In the fifth chapter, entitled „Reactivation of the Social Insurance Institution and changes in the social insurance system in the years 1960-1989", I presented the changes in the social insurance system and the conditions for the functioning of the Social Insurance Institution in the years 1960-1989. I also described the impact of the political situation on changes in the insurance system and the activities of ZUS. I also presented the scope of activities not related to social insurance and insurance-related activities conducted at that time by the Social Insurance Institution.

In the last chapter, entitled „ZUS in the social security system after 1989", I presented the political, economic and social crisis of the early 1990s and its impact on the act amending the social insurance system of 1998, the main assumptions of the reform of the social insurance system and the resulting new obligations for ZUS. I also described the changes that were made in the social insurance system and in the functioning of ZUS until 2022, as well as the scope of insurance-related and non-insurance activities conducted at that time by the Social Insurance Institution.

Due to the subject of the work, I did not expose international comparative studies.

Finally, I also described the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the functioning and operation of the ZUS and the changing role of ZUS in the social policy of the state. At the end, I presented recommendations for the directions of changes in the social insurance system and in the further functioning of the Social Insurance Institution.