

Michał Ożóg

University of Białystok

Poland

e-mail: m.ozog@uwb.edu.pl

ORCID: 0000-0002-4315-5235

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PATRON OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRADITIONS

Abstract. The subject of the introductory article is to present the subject matter of the articles created in the implementation of the project Establishment of the patron of a local government unit in local and regional traditions from the Science for Society Competition (project no. NdS/551622/2022/2022). The particular legal, political and historical issues of the project tasks are presented. The announced texts are about the implementation of individual project tasks.

Keywords: municipality, district, province, local government.

Municipalities, counties and provinces in Poland have long been adopting resolutions on the selection of their own patron. In this sense, the presence of patrons in public space is nothing new, although the legal and political conditions in which these resolutions are issued have changed. It is usually assumed that a patron signifies a deity, a protector of a person or a community. Nowadays it is not uncommon to see extensive promotional activities around patrons. Thus, the spiritual element does not seem to be the only motive for choosing a particular patron of local government communities.

The institution of the patron of a local government unit can be studied from many perspectives, including historical, theological, sociological, cultural studies, political science, as well as legal. The project “The Establishment of a Patron of a Local Government Unit in Local and Regional Traditions” (project no. NdS/551622/2022/2022) from the Science for Society Competition attempts to study this phenomenon from an inter-

Publication subsidized by the state budget as part of the “Science for Society” program of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, project no. NdS/551622/2022/2022. Detailed information on funding is provided in the texts on the implementation of specific tasks. Total project value PLN 602,500.00, Poland (Polska).

disciplinary perspective. In this month's issue of *Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric*, we propose a thematic series of articles on selected issues in this subject area. The title issue is closely linked to the tension between the need to maintain the precision of the regulation of the legal basis for the operation of local government bodies and the scope of self-government communities' independence.

The dispute over interpretive issues leads to the question of the possible need for changes in the law to clarify doubts. In the most general terms, it can be boiled down to the question of whether the general provisions of competence of the constituent bodies of local government units to adopt such resolutions are sufficient, or whether an explicit provision of substantive law permitting or prohibiting this practice is necessary?

A series of articles on the subject of establishing patrons of local government units presents the results of the project team's research. The starting point is to take into account the changing historical context for a better understanding of the idea of establishing a patron, as well as to see the new functions of patronage. Changing legal and political conditions also affect the assessment of the acceptability of this practice. Infrequent political disputes lead to the politicization of the institution of patronage. Their understanding is facilitated by seeing the complexity of the matter. The subject matter of the texts also concerns the evaluation of the accepted administrative practice of establishing patronage in the perspective of selected principles of the relationship between the Polish state and churches and other religious associations set forth in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of April 2, 1997.

Undoubtedly, any resolution of local government bodies should be based on the applicable laws, and the participation of religious communities in such proceedings should take into account the content of Article 25 of the Constitution. At the same time, the comparative context is important, allowing to see the presence of patrons in the broadly understood public space also in countries with separation of the state from religious communities. Solutions from other countries can also provide inspiration for the Polish legislator. Taking into account the currently occurring limited scope of regulations directly concerning this matter, it is necessary to take into account first of all the existing legal solutions and institutions. This also applies to the issue of financing initiatives and projects aimed at commemorating the patron.

The presented research results are also based on the collected survey material. As part of the project activities, questionnaires were sent out to all local government units to obtain information on established patrons of mu-

municipalities, districts and provinces, also to establish a picture of the adopted resolution procedure. As a result, a picture of the practice of establishing patrons of local communities in selected areas of Poland was presented, along with its evaluation and proposals for changes in the law.

The authors present their own research results, and no unification of positions has been sought, on the assumption that each position can contribute to further scientific research. It remains to be hoped that the texts in this series will prove useful not only to lawyers, but also to all those interested in the affairs of local and regional communities.

Project implemented by the International Research Center for Public Finance and Tax Law



Acknowledgement

Publication subsidized by the state budget as part of the “Science for Society” program of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, project no. NdS/551622/2022/2022.

Detailed information on funding is provided in the texts on the implementation of specific tasks. Total project value PLN 602,500.00, Poland (Polska).



**SCIENCE FOR
THE SOCIETY**