

The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow

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Doctoral thesis: "Functioning and determinants of the activity of Polish organizations in Saint Petersburg"

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SUMMARY

This dissertation discusses the topic of Polish organizations in Saint Petersburg. Its title is "Functioning and determinants of the activity of Polish organizations in Saint Petersburg." The main research purpose of this study is an attempt to identify the scope of implementation of the functions of Polish organizations in St. Petersburg determined by their statutes, as well as an attempt to identify the scope of influence of the factors determining the development of these organizations. The study also has a practical purpose, which is to identify the problematic areas of the activity of Polish organizations in Saint Petersburg and – on this basis – to determine the needs of these organizations in the area of support of their activity from the country of origin.

To achieve these purposes, the research consisting of four stages was carried out. The following methods were used: desk research and document analysis, individual in-depth interviews, focused group interview and expert interviews. Material collected through the research allowed for obtaining answers to the research questions and achieving the established purposes.

As a result of the literature review and the conducted research, this dissertation was created, which consists of four chapters, an introduction and a conclusion. The first two chapters compose the theoretical part of the thesis, while the remaining two - the empirical part.

The first chapter describes the origins of the concept of national minorities. The purpose of this chapter is to present the issues that are key to the research from a theoretical perspective. It describes issues relating to the concept of nation, national minority and ethnic minority, national identity and its determinants, as well as organizations of national minorities and the determinants of their development.

The second chapter outlines the image of Saint Petersburg's Polish national minority – both from historical and contemporary perspectives. In regard to the historical perspective, the following issues are considered: the reasons for settling of Poles in Saint Petersburg, their

contribution to the life of the city, Polish organizations and their role in the process of integration of Saint Petersburg's Polish national minority, as well as the role of the Roman Catholic Church in this process. In regard to the contemporary perspective, the socio-demographic situation of the Polish national minority in Saint Petersburg is described, as well as the issue of Polish organizations in this city.

The third chapter presents the methodology of the conducted research. The chapter discusses both theoretical issues in the field of conducting research, as well as decisions made regarding the methodology of the conducted research and their reasoning. The chapter presents the purpose and the subject of the research, the research problems and the hypotheses, as well as the chosen paradigm. Then, the methods and tools of the research are presented, and the use of triangulation is described. The last part of the chapter includes the conceptualization of the key concepts that are included in the purpose and the subject of the research, the research problems and the hypotheses, as well as description of the variables and their indicators.

The fourth chapter presents the analysis of the material obtained through the research. First, it describes the methodological changes that have occurred compared to the originally established plan, along with their reasoning. Then, the course of each stage of the research is presented. The next part of the chapter presents the results of the conducted research in relation to the issues included in the research questions. Then it follows with the general conclusions, which are formulated in relation to the research questions and the hypotheses. The conclusions include an attempt to relate the results of this research to the results of other research on the considered topic. The chapter ends with a section containing recommendations, both practical and theoretical.

The obtained research results not only have a meaning for the theoretical understanding of the studied issues but may also have a practical value. The formulated recommendations can be used in planning activity both by Saint Petersburg's Polish organizations and by Polish institutions supporting Polish national minorities. As a result, they may contribute to the implementation of the functions of Saint Petersburg's Polish organizations to a greater extent.

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