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**Health policy as the element of the public policy system.**

**Case study of the State Sanitary Inspection**

The State Sanitary Inspection (PIS) as a subject of scientific research has not received many studies. This statement is particularly relevant in the social sciences, especially in political science and administration. This state of affairs contradicts the actual, social role of the Inspection's area of activity, which is public health. It is, according to Marc Lalonde's holistic model of fields - determinants of health, the basic determinant of human health<sup>1</sup>. The marginal treatment of social issues among problems concerning medicine seems unjustified. Moreover, the degree of interest of political centres in the situation and activities of the State Sanitary Inspectorate can be an element in assessing the attitude of these centres towards public health (policy) issues.

The aim of this study is to analyze the place of the State Sanitary Inspectorate in the public policy system. Achieving this objective leads to the main research question: What is the role of the State Sanitary Inspectorate in the system of public policies of the Republic of Poland? To be able to realize the set objective and answer the main research question, specific questions need to be answered: How do we understand public policy? How do we understand health policy? What place and role does public health policy have in society? What societal challenges does the State Sanitary Inspectorate face? How does the State Sanitary Inspectorate deal with the challenges it faces?

The subject of the case study, is the PIS, one of the two main institutions operating in the system of public health protection<sup>2</sup> in Poland. The formal-legal framework of its operation is regulated by the *Act on State Sanitary Inspection* of 14 March 1985, which has been amended many times. (Dz.U.2017.1261 t.j. of 2017.06.28). The Inspectorate is formed by more than 340 units, organized into a structure with codified tasks, relations and principles of financing activities.

The paper is written using general, cognitive and theoretical methods. The problem of the research relates to the field of public policies, including public health policy. The logical and causal analysis used in the paper shows the links between the various theories and their empirical application. The genetic and explanatory synthesis used in the paper shows the relationships between the theories presented. The theoretical methods used within the political and administrative sciences were complemented by methods used in other social sciences, such as economics or management and quality sciences, i.e. participatory observation both in terms of the formal and legal conditions of the

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<sup>1</sup> The health fields take on the following statistical values: biological-hereditary factors - 16%, health care - 10%, living environment - 21%, lifestyle - 53%. Of these factors, the last two (together 74%) constitute the field of public health and therefore the field of work of the Inspectorate. Estimation of field values: M Wozniak et al. *Individual and collective health*, Journal of Clinical Healthcare 4/2015

<sup>2</sup> The second of the main institutions in this area is occupational medicine.

Inspection's operation and the analysis of basic economic quantities. The basis for drawing conclusions related to economic sciences is an empirical study of the situation of one of the regional units of the State Sanitary Inspectorate.

The paper adopts a structure based on an introduction, five chapters and a conclusion. Chapter I, entitled *The concept of public policy and its models*, describes the phenomenon of public policies in a broad sense. The science of public policy is described in its definitional aspect. It also discusses the issue of the creation of public policies, their initiators and implementation. The main research streams and relations of the research with related sciences are also analyzed in this part. In Chapter II, public policies are presented as a part of the political system, where theoretical knowledge aims to explain the mechanisms of state and social structures and their changes. The applicability dimension of public policies, their models, typology and ways of making are presented in the chapter. The complexity of public policies is also discussed, which results in problem-solving methods that require a framing derived from within the system. Chapter III, entitled *Health policy and its place in the system of public policies*, addresses such issues as the definition of health care, access to health care, provisions on health found in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, and in the Act on universal health insurance. Chapter IV presents the State Sanitary Inspectorate as an example of an organization functioning within the framework of public policies. It is a detailed analysis of the operation, organizational structures, legal regulations and economic situation of the Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Łódź as a regional unit. Chapter V, entitled *Sanitary Inspection in the Face of Contemporary Challenges*, presents issues related to the biosecurity of the population in the context of activities in the face of new - emerging and growing social challenges. The conclusion of the dissertation contains the main conclusions based on the conducted research and analyses included in the individual chapters, which are classified in points relating to the sources of the health policy deficits diagnosed during the research, as well as the functioning of the State Sanitary Inspectorate. They can be classified into several most important points relating to the sources diagnosed during the research of health policy deficits as well as the functioning of the PIS. Firstly, they are related to the lack of an 'owner' as a factor paralyzing the operation of the institution. Secondly, the lack of policy (especially long-term policy) of the central authorities as a cause of disorganization of the operation and inertia of the institution. Thirdly, the lack of independence of the institutions as a reason for the destruction of staff creativity. Fourthly, economic decline in the form of ageing infrastructure, decapitalisation of movable assets and inability to manage staff properly.