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**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**  
**“STATE ACTIONS FOR YOUTH**  
**IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUTH POLICY**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OF THE EUROPEAN UNION”**  
**written under the supervision of prof. Dr. hab. Jerzy Jaskiernia**

The doctoral dissertation concerns youth policy in Poland in the context of youth policy of the Council of Europe and of the European Union.

This topic was taken due to the fact that the strategy for youth activities is very important in the work of the Council of Europe and the European Union. Both in the EU and in the RE as well as in their Member States, research is conducted on youth policy, whereas in Poland this issue has not yet been monographed.

The main aim of the dissertation was to fill the gap in this area and to examine to what extent the demands of the Council of Europe and the European Union in the creation of the national strategy for youth activities are implemented in Poland. The research has shown that a nationwide system has not been established in this area, and unfortunately the youth policy in the national dimension is not effective. An important element that was examined in this dissertation was also the way in which and in what dimension in Poland, apart from the national dimension, European youth policy standards are implemented at regional and local levels. It was noted that in many local communities, youth policy is being implemented effectively. The non-governmental sector plays a very large role in this respect.

An important point of interest in the dissertation are also trends in the development of youth policy in the member states of the Council of Europe and the European Union. During the research, it was noticed that there is no determination to translate the postulates of both European institutions in the field of youth into specific acts called "hard law".

However, youth policy in European countries is still very dynamic. It is evaluated in accordance with the social and economic situation in Europe and focuses mainly on equalizing the chances of young people to start in adult life.

The work uses a variety of research methods, due to the interdisciplinary character of the study. **The method of institutional and legal analysis**, by means of which analysis of legal acts of the European Union and the Council of Europe (both legally binding and of the character of "soft law") was crucial. This method was also used in the analysis of legislation and implementing acts. The use of the system analysis method was also important. Initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union have been analyzed in the broader context of institutional systems and the policies of international organizations. Based on **the method of historical analysis**, the genesis of the Council of Europe and the European Union was presented, as well as the evolution of the youth policy of these organizations. **The method of document analysis**, which was used to analyze the documents of the Council of Europe and the European Union regarding youth policy, as well as documents creating the youth policy of the Member States, and especially of the Republic of Poland was also important. The dissertation also includes **observations of a sociological and economic nature**.

The dissertation was divided into introduction, four chapters and the ending to accomplish the research goals. **In the first chapter**, the axiological system of the Council of Europe was generally characterized and it was shown how the youth policy of the Council of Europe is part of this system. The problem was presented in the light of legally binding instruments and "soft law". There are also presented the institutions of the Council of Europe that deal with youth policy. **The second chapter** presents the development of activities for youth in the European Union. The historical outline showed a growing interest in the young generation that will create Europe in the future. The European Union's youth documents discussed in this chapter make it possible to show the evolution of European trends in this area - from the activity of young and international youth exchanges to preparing them for the labor market. The youth policy of the European Union is discussed in the light of primary and secondary law. Analyzes of the activities of the Republic of Poland for the benefit of young people from the moment of Poland's accession to the European Union to the present have been made in **the third chapter**. A number of specific postulates, strategic objectives and areas of activity were formulated in the "State Strategy for Youth in the years 2003 -2012", developed at the Ministry of National Education and Sport and adopted by the Council of Ministers on August 19, 2003. The research, which was carried out, was supposed to give an insight into the extent to which the goals set in 2003 were met and how the Strategy is continued.

**The fourth chapter** is devoted to the study of development trends prevailing in the field of youth policy in the member states of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The analysis was carried out on the basis of reports on the youth policy of the Council of Europe, reports of the European Commission and documents issued by these institutions.

This dissertation first of all proved that although since the eighties of the last century the Council of Europe has been very much involved in the issue of youth policy, important elements of youth policy have been included not in legally binding documents, but about the nature of "soft law". This weakens the impact of the Council of Europe to create a youth policy. The European Union has also not given sufficient weight to youth policy. Poland, through the governmental program announced in 2003, has become part of the youth policy of the Council of Europe and the European Union, However, the policy is carried out in a distributed manner. There is no single coordinator of youth policy at the central level. The youth policy of the Council of Europe and the European Union has undoubtedly produced positive effects, inspiring the Member States to implement it, but it must be modified, including as a consequence of social and economic problems brought about by developments in Europe.

Keywords: Youth in Europe, youth policy, the National Strategy for Youth, Council of Europe, European Union.