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## Geographical aspects of social capital creation on the example of events organization in land counties of Eastern Poland.

### Summary

The main research problem undertaken in the work are multi-dimensional conditions and effects of cultural events. The aforementioned problem was analyzed in relation to the Polish region characterized by a lower level of socio-economic development as compared to other areas of the country but covered by special strategic activities aimed at improving this state. The work also assumes that the organization of mass events has a stronger impact in rural areas, within smaller territorial units and local communities, than in the case of highly urbanized areas.

The spatial scope of the research includes five voivodships: Warmian-Masurian, Podlaskie, Lubelskie, Świętokrzyskie and Podkarpackie. These are regions with one of the lowest scores in rankings when it comes to a number of socio-economic indicators. At the same time, it is an area with unique cultural and natural values that are crucial for the events organized there.

The main purpose of the work is to determine the impact of events organization on local development. The specific objectives of the research concern:

- identification of geographical aspects affecting the organization of events;
- determining the level of local development in Eastern Poland;
- characteristics of the links between social capital and local development;
- identification of infrastructure necessary for organizing mass cultural events in rural areas;
- identification and characteristics of the basic goals of the organization of events and the main groups of beneficiaries of activities related to the organization of these events.

In addition, the application goal of the research is to develop an index of actual effects of cultural events.

In order to achieve the assumed goals, the paper presents one main hypothesis and four additional hypotheses. The main hypothesis is based on the assumption that thanks

to the strengthening of social capital, cultural events organized in Eastern Poland are a stimulus for local development.

The work adopts an integral approach to the research, combining quantitative and qualitative methods and obtaining data both directly and indirectly. In order to verify the hypotheses, field studies, surveys, structured interviews and critical literature review were used. The study covered seven cultural events organized in the voivodships of Eastern Poland.

The dissertation was divided into six chapters. The first chapter introduces the research issues, describes the purpose and assumptions of the thesis, as well as the adopted research methods. The results of the literature review were also presented. As has been demonstrated, there is a need to broaden the knowledge of local events, including events that take place outside urban areas. The second chapter presents key concepts regarding socio-economic development and presents local development indicators. In addition, the focus was on assessing the level of development of Eastern Poland voivodships against the background of other regions of Poland, in social, economic, environmental, cultural and innovative dimensions. Chapter three of the dissertation focuses on discussing the basic theories of social capital and in particular its impact on local development. This chapter also presents the unique situation of the analyzed area resulting from historical conditions. The fourth chapter is devoted to issues of events, their typology, spatial and organizational aspects. As it has been shown, the key issue determining the positive impact of events is the involvement of all potential beneficiaries in their organization. Chapter five of the dissertation focuses on discussing the prerequisites for the implementation of events. It is based on a detailed analysis of literature and partly on interviews with event organizers and on field observations. It presents the effects events in relation to the economic and socio-cultural dimension. It has been shown that as a result of the organization of events, there are multidimensional interactions between individual groups of stakeholders, which lead to the consolidation and expansion of ties. Chapter six of the dissertation presents in detail the effects of the field studies carried out, as well as the characteristics of the events surveyed. The author's index of the effects of mass events implementation divided into external and internal was presented. The index presents the impact of a given effect over time, as well as possible indicators for its measurement. The culmination of the sixth chapter is the analysis of the results of surveys and interviews, which shows the special effect of events in the form the expansion of social capital. The last part of the work is a summary, where the research

hypotheses put forward in the work were verified and the possibilities of practical use of research results were indicated.

It has been proven that the effective organization of mass events, taking into account the needs of all groups of beneficiaries and focusing on real achievable effects, can lead to the expansion of social capital and thus to the support of local development.