Title of doctoral dissertation: Democratic culture. Policymaking process in the field of culture

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Summary of Ph.D. dissertation:

The dissertation is devoted to the description of the policy-making process in the field of culture. The dissertation consists of six chapters. The first chapter presents the theoretical background, whereas the second is a description of the historical background of cultural policy in Poland after 1945. The third chapter presents the empirical framework and the next three chapters (4, 5 and 6) describe the results of the fieldwork. The research questions that organize the empirical material concern the conditions, principles and actors involved in the analyzed political processes. The doctoral thesis adopted in the paper is as follows: There exist informal rules that organize policy-making processes in the field of culture. Qualitative empirical analysis has been performed in order to verify the hypothesis. Ontological assumptions contained in the paradigm of social constructivism are adopted as a starting point. This, in practice, translates into the adoption of the ethnographic method in the course of the research. The research consists primarily of individual in-depth interviews with people involved in the policy-making processes in the field of culture. Inspiration for the construction of the research project and subsequent analysis of the collected material is provided by the theoretical framework, including the concepts of Jurgen Habermas (2000, 2002, 2005), Niklas Luhman (1994), and David Easton (1975). There are also other important theoretical concepts used for the purpose of the analysis – ones that define the meaning of key concepts, i.e. public policy (Peters 2004) and culture (Czarnecki et al. 2012, Krajewski 2013). The observed processes are also organized and interpreted by the concepts of Jan Lutyński's simulated activities (1977, 1990) and Tomasz Zarycki's center-peripheral model (2009). The combination of the theoretical inspirations and empirical material is served by

an ambiguous metaphor of democratic culture. Relating this metaphor to cultural participation and the way the field of culture is organized allows for the analysis of the research material with regard to the theoretical inspirations.

The collected research material allows to describe cultural policy as space in which two forces – external impulses and institutional order – clash. External impulses are related to the process of European integration. The impulses influence the change of cultural policy by supporting its professionalization. The process of professionalization bases on the dissemination of a professional model of cultural policy in Poland, typical for Western European countries. In this model, the policy contains three dimensions: strategic, operational and social. The dissemination takes place, among others, through the lens of the discourse of modernization. The established institutional order – resulting from both political decisions and cultural conditions – has a stabilizing function in the field of culture. This order results in the existence of numerous political centers that try to mask the political nature of their decisions, focusing on the procedural understanding of their actions. Policy-making is also an area of informal relations shaping the final outcome of the decision-making processes. Such rules provide an opportunity to decipher the network of mutual relations between decision-makers and stakeholders shaping cultural policy. The social actors involved in policy-making processes have been organized into three circles – internal (mainly political decision-makers), indirect (non-obvious social actors), and external (mainly stakeholders). An important finding is that cultural participants are rarely allowed to be an active actor of policy-making processes. The collected material allows for reading out the true meaning of socializing public policy as a 'golden mean' between allowing stakeholders to become decision-makers and a total shutdown of interaction with the environment.