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Presentation of the doctoral thesis

**Values in governance of territory
(based on example hydrographic region of upper Warta)**

This thesis concerns public management and I researched public administration, as a wide ranging organization, operating in a multifaceted context: the law, structures, procedures, cooperation, social participation, resources, public objectives, management paradigms, management skills, and political influences. The research was focused on territory, as the human environment. Through this choice I could observe the real substantive and institutional management network.

My research was based on the interpretative paradigm using the qualitative methodology. The chosen axiological perspective, as a tool for observing the realities of public management, allowed me to concentrate on immaterial management objectives. I have been inspired by Elzenberg's definition of "values" as "a state of affairs which should be", so I tried to recognize values connected with each of aforementioned contexts and then I researched the impact they have on the achievement of public objectives by the administration. Therefore, I could confront theoretical assumptions with management practice.

Empirical research was conducted using the induction method combined with research of science literature, in all research stages. I used research techniques such as: in depth interviews, content analysis, in particular of legal provisions, field study and participant observation.

As a result of my research, I could identify what helps and what prevents the appearance of values in the public sphere. I described good and bad - from the perspective of the common good - management practices, showing opposition between theory and practice. My research shows that good legal framework and a system of management influences integrated with such legal framework play an important role in governance. It also shows the importance of long-term relationship building based on trust, respect for history and tradition, and the importance of the sense of mission and good personal relations between people involved in governance.

Notwithstanding many doubts, I conclude that governance is helpful to values in public life. However, results achieved by this management are incommensurate to implementation efforts and resources involved.