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## **ECONOMIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF FINANCING HEALTH CARE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES IN POLAND**

The subject of the dissertation are issues of financing and organization of health care system in local government entities – cities with county rights. This dissertation results from an extensive professional experience in a department carrying out tasks of municipality in the field of health care, from an independent public health care unit, and from a health care entity that is a commercial law company. The functioning and financing of the health care system by municipality is also in the field of interests of the author and her active involvement in previous transformations, and the intention to participate in the work related to the development of beneficial and necessary changes in the future.

The aim of the paper is exploration the economic and organizational aspects of financing the health care system by Warmia and Mazury local government entities. In the dissertation, the author focuses on various aspects concerning the selected level of local government – municipalities with county rights (i.e. municipalities which ceased to function as seats of voivodeships by 31 December 1998, had more than 100,000 inhabitants, or received the status of a city with county rights in 1998). In Warmian-Masurian voivodeship there are two such urban municipalities: Elbląg and Olsztyn.

The research is primarily concerned with the activities related to the system reorganization, the amount of funds allocated, as well as ways of transferring them to the implementation of the health policy in the period of 2019–2021.

The main research problem of this dissertation is finding possible ways to implement the optimal allocation of financial resources and organizing the healthcare sector at the level of local government units - cities with county rights. Several key goals have been selected and taken into scrutiny to analyze the research problem.

Chapter 1, based on the available publications, discusses the role, principles, and organization of the Polish healthcare system.

Chapter 2 presents the scope of tasks carried out by a municipality with county rights resulting from statutory regulations. The discussed issues include the operating in the local government territorial divisions and participating in the organization of the system are. In addition, the chapter looks at the local government income and expenditure with regard to of the Act of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 on public finances and their classification and the role of the payer (Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia – National Health Fund) in the health care system.

Chapter 3 examines the execution of county tasks in healthcare in terms of their rationalization. The analysis is based on the legal system and professional experience in the implementation of the system at the county-level units – Elbląg and Olsztyn urban municipalities.

Chapter 4 presents the results of the research conducted for the purposes of the dissertation, concerning the municipalities of Elbląg and Olsztyn. The research data was gathered during the analysis of the local law acts (including budget resolutions of both municipalities from 2019 to 2021) and relies also on surveys based on carefully tailored questionnaires.

The analysis of the cited literature indicates that the research on the health care system is conducted including the functioning of local government units and healthcare entities in the light of applicable legal regulations. There have not been, however, any studies conducted so far at the level of municipalities with county rights. It may be observed then that there has been a continuous search for the optimal model of the system's functioning which keeps up with the constant changes and development of all branches of economic and social life.

Keywords: health care system, health care system financing, health care budget, health care system organization, public funds, local government, municipality with county rights, health care entity.