

Abstract

This doctoral thesis deals with social assistance provided within the Regional Operational Programmes in Poland for the period 2007 – 2013.

The purpose of the thesis was to analyse the complex issues relating to the legal provisions regulating social assistance provided within the Regional Operational Programmes (ROP), to draw attention to advantages and disadvantages of the existing system of social welfare functioning in the ROP for the period 2007 – 2013 and to indicate the reasons for such a situation. In order to achieve the objective of the research, a basic thesis statement was formulated: provisions of law relating to social assistance regulating the implementation of the projects financed under the Regional Operational Programmes for the period 2007 – 2013 make it difficult for the entities engaged in them to adopt the correct procedures in order to use the financial means coming from the European Union in a way that is in compliance with the law.

The thesis consists of an introduction, five chapters, a summary and a list of resource materials and references. Each chapter has a uniform three-part structure comprising an introduction, content-related analysis and summary.

The first chapter contains a description of the origins and basic concepts relating to the issue of social welfare, it describes the nature of such social assistance, the division of responsibilities and competences with this respect between the European Union and Poland. The second chapter analyses the ROP in Poland with respect to finances for the years 2007 – 2013. The subject of discussion was the concept of the ROP, the goals and tasks they were supposed to fulfill, as well as the areas of support and sources of financing. The third chapter presents the public assistance law as one of the main areas of law functioning within the ROP. Two basic functions of this law were described: a passive and an active one. There were presented issues connected with the project and expenses eligibility. This chapter also presents the impact of the regulations relating to the public assistance law on the observance of the two legal principles: the influence on the principle of good administration (with respect to the European Union) and the influence on the principle of citizens' trust in the nation and in the laws this nation practises (with respect to the country). The fourth chapter provides a description of types of social assistance available in the ROP. It characterizes selected types of social assistance found in the projects implemented within the ROP. The fifth chapter analyses the issues relating to liability for infringements committed within the social assistance provided under the ROP, defines the basic concepts and describes types of liability. It also indicates the entities taking part in this process and explains the principles on which they bear this responsibility.

The summary of the thesis sets forth the arguments confirming the main and secondary statements of the thesis. It also contains conclusions and proposals *de lege ferfenda* relating to the legal regulations of the social assistance.