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Social foundations of functioning and development of local communities

INTRODUCTION

In terms of the efficient course of social changes, it is vital that local communities are capable of grass-roots activities and creativity when it comes to autonomous way of solving social and economic problems. As a result of system transformations, in which local communities have been participating since the 1990s, the conditions of their functioning have also changed. Along with the territorialisation of developmental processes, the usage and development of endogenous social resources have taken essential meaning. They increase the possibility to acquire system solutions, as they are the foundation of integration and complete participation of citizens in both the functioning and development of local socio-territorial systems. Efficient and consistent functioning of the authorities endowed with social trust, as well as the activity of empowered communities, contribute to the practical usage of the developmental potential of local communities.

The functioning and development of local communities is significantly influenced by the character and the strength of social bonds, founded on the sense of empowerment, self-agency and social activity. Weak group bonds, lack of trust and detachment makes it difficult to communicate and cooperate, thereby limiting the ability to take common initiatives. Authority, professionalism and efficiency of local governments, as well as a participatory model of management, supports the process of shaping and strengthening social bonds and trust. They become the impetus for activity and social self-organisation. Favouring greater openness to changes, they increase trust in one's own abilities and strengthen the will to act for the common good (Tuziak, 2014, p. 10).

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The main goal of this article is an attempt to define the role of endogenous resources in the form of subjectivity, participation and civil activity, treated as social foundations of local communities' functioning and development. While conducting the research, the author applied the method of literature analysis. Analytical characteristics of subjectivity, participation and civil activity proved their mutual relations and multiple positive influence on cooperation, integration and activity of local communities oriented towards their efficient functioning and self-development.

In the author's intentions, the added value of the study is the discursive character of presenting subject issues. It is also an attempt to create the model of a triple social helix – prepossessing mutual dependencies between subjectivity, participation and social activity as social conditioning of the development at a local community level.

THE SUBJECTIVITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The academic discourse dealing with the issue of subjectivity mostly concerns social science (Cichocki, 2003, pp.18–46). The manifestation of multi-dimensionality is evident in the theories developed within psychology, behavioral sciences and sociology. The limited framework of this article makes it impossible to present the full variety and complexity of positions regarding the discussion on the phenomenon of subjectivity. It may be highlighted that the psychological analysis of subjectivity encompasses two main levels. The first level concerns the individual itself, the second relates to the relations of the individual with the social surroundings. Pedagogical concepts of subjectivity extend the analysis of this phenomena into three levels – the individual falling within socialisation, the individual's relations with primal groups as well as with institutional structures.

It is worth presenting the essence of sociological approaches to subjectivity at a slightly broader level, which the author adopts as the most appropriate from the point of view of the subject scope of the study. Sociological analysis focuses on social and institutional conditions that enable or limit the possibility of subjectivity manifestation. As part of the sociological approach, the scope of research and analysis includes: the impact of individual actions on the external symbolic and material reality; control of the social environment by individual and collective entities; the impact of activities of individual subjects and collective entities on social micro- and macro-structures; the impact of the pursuit of subjectivity on the emancipation processes of relatively disadvantaged groups, as well as the impact of collective entities' activity on historical processes (Cichocki, 2003, p. 48). It should be stated in favour of the sociological approach that the main criterion of subjectivity is the impact of the collective entity (in this case the local community) on its own social environment.

Within our social activity, subjectivity takes a different form and it manifests itself in many dimensions of local reality. It is especially significant at the local level, where there are networks of social connection based on partnership and cooperation (Markocka, 2017; Szostok, 2017). At the beginning of the systemic transformation in Poland, the postulate of subjectivity was an essential element of changes taking place in the economy, in politics, as well as in collective consciousness. When planning the changes concerning social relations, local governments and regionalisation were the substance of it. Empowerment is a social value and one of the requirements for the development of local communities. It became the source standard for the emerging social order, as well as the source grading criterion for the prepared reform projects, when it comes to both individual and group dimensions. The legal and institutional solutions implemented during the administrative reform created new conditions for the subjectivity of local communities. They also changed the relations between these communities, public institutions and the government system, as well as they changed the conditions to reverse mutual mechanisms of affection between society and bureaucratic-political structures (Cichocki, 1996, pp. 7–8).

Local governments, as an institutional tool of implementing the rule of subjectivity, are appointed to organise social development by creating suitable life conditions for local and regional communities. As early as in the 1990s, local governments, as important institutions of a democratic country, became the decisive factor of local development. The local government is not the only subject working for the development of local systems. Entrepreneurs and all sorts of institutions functioning in the area of education and culture are also such subjects. Still, the role of local governments, as the widest representation of local community interests, is certainly very important. Local development is based on initiative and active participation of citizens living in a certain territory and being members of a subjected local community. An essential factor when it comes to local development is citizen engagement in the creation of permanent economic and cultural values.

Subjectivity of local communities through decentralisation and development of local governments is manifested in a set of occurrences, processes, conditioning and factors, these being mainly sociological and political. This ‘conglomerate of subjectivity’ consists of the following elements:

- a) a population living in a certain area transforms into a psychologically and politically empowered community that generates wealth;
- b) a local community connected with its area and its place by many factors, including: historical, ethnographic, housing, professional, family, neighbours etc.;
- c) there is a necessary minimum of social bonds showing a tendency to develop and support the process of social integration;
- d) there are local institutions which, created by a certain local community, become a form of – and a way of – empowering the citizens, which makes it possible to articulate their collective needs;

- e) within a local community, on the basis of commonly felt needs, the awareness of common interest and the sense of common good is created, transforming a local community into a collectivity;
- f) social activity develops, civic attitudes improve, local communities become more creative, social energy is released, various local initiatives oriented towards achieving a set goal are created;
- g) the mechanisms of local governments improve and develop, and a certain community acquires the ability to carry out public tasks of local importance;
- h) through the above-mentioned functions and values, the local community becomes the subject of creative development (Piekara, 2003, pp. 26–27).

The subjectivity of local communities is effectuated through providing a real impact on the fate of local self-government ties, as well as meeting the basic needs connected with the place of living. One of the subjectivity conditions, manifesting itself in an active influence on the surroundings, is the integration of local communities, which plays an important role in various realms in the life of such communities. The indicators of local community integration are primarily: territorial bonds in an area limited by the range of everyday contacts, local bonds such as family, neighbourhood, colleagues, parish, and, generally, country bonds. They also include bonds emerging from common activity which causes the implementation of common social contacts (interactions, relations) between the citizens, usually on the level of a village or a commune (Sadowski, 2005, pp. 145–146).

An important role in empowering society and developing its participatory and pro-social attitude, is played by the territory – understood as the “adapted space” of local life. Territory as understood in this way is “the best place to learn the pro-social attitude, and therefore to search for foundations for shaping the forms of effective working local communities in Polish conditions” (Wódz, 2005, p. 231). The level of subjectivity of local communities depends extensively on the model of management. In this context it is important to emphasise the need of spreading the modern approach to exercising authority, whereby breaking the traditional model of local community based on staff-expert management (Wódz, 2005, p. 239). This kind of management is not particularly stimulating for the local community and it strengthens the belief that the authority should handle all of the important matters and solve local problems. Modern management is desirable due to the fact that this kind of partnership empowers society as it is based on social partnership.

PARTICIPATION ON A LOCAL LEVEL

Social participation on a local level is a manifestation of the decentralisation of public administration (Kalisiak-Mędelaska, 2015; Legutko-Kobus, 2018). Due to such participation, local communities gain the status of the subject of

power. In reality it makes it possible to implement the rules of subsidiarity, self-government and civic control over performing tasks and public competences. It is often emphasised that only civic self-government institutions guarantee frugal and rational (that is in accordance with the local needs) allocation of public resources to particular social, economic and developmental goals (Izdebski, Kulesza, 2004; Jaska, Skoczek, 2018).

Participation of local communities in exercising authority should be one of the permanent elements of local government policy. Building a network of cooperation with citizens may take place on different levels. The first level is sharing information with citizens when it comes to issues concerning internal functioning of local government authorities, policy, as well as information concerning external situations in a certain community. This is done through activities such as: conducting information campaigns, maintaining contacts with the media, using direct and informal information channels, organising meetings, conferences etc. The second level is gaining information from the citizens, which is understood as feedback in relation to the first level. This dimension of citizen participation is focused on the engagement of citizens in the decisive process through introducing them in the process of accumulating data. And it is not only about objective data concerning the citizens' situation, but also citizen preferences, their expectations, needs, interests and doubts. The third level of building a network of cooperation between local governments and citizens is through dialogue. On this level of social participation, a very important function of dialogue is to negotiate optimal solutions by the sides partaking in it. The fourth, and the most advanced manifestation of citizen participation in authority is their participation in the decisive process. Citizens are then treated as consultants or makers, working on the final decision, recommending solutions or sharing responsibility with local governments (Rybczyńska, 2002, pp. 115–117).

A self-governing activity may be characterised by a voluntary participation and engagement, as a result of internalisation of certain norms and rules of social life on the intellectual level (Schimanek, 2015). Social engagement and local patriotism cause the level of local identification to increase, whilst democratic procedures make up for the high level of political alienation amongst citizens. The efficiency in inducing civic engagement and participation and the creation of self-governing communities depend on the following several rules. The first of them concerns the need to keep contact with citizens and maintain a full transparency of decisions made by local leaders. The second rule makes us choose people according to substantive criteria, so, above all, trust-building, discovering and meeting needs, own examples, accepting the decision by a group and direct intervention (Starosta, 1995, p. 105).

Implementing the idea of civil society and the development of self-government are significant conditions of systematic growth of local community participation in solving the problems of a commune (Szaja, 2015). Social engagement of

individuals is a function of their attitude towards the community they live in. Being ready for social participation is greater in communities characterised by a higher level of integration. This determines the development and strengthening of localism understood as the empowerment of certain communities in terms of economy, society and culture under a broader socio-spatial and political-constitutional system. Fully empowered civil society participating in the governing process is able to create a new image of their local and regional environment. This sets certain tasks for the structures of local governments in terms of initiating and organising activities, as well as creating conditions for the creativity and entrepreneurship of the local community. The activities of self-government should proceed multidimensionally and refer to social, economic and political issues (Potoczek, 2001, pp. 30–32).

Local self-government institutions should favour strengthening the feeling of being rooted in a local community, which conditions the individual to be the subject and not the object of the socio-economic processes in progress. A sense of belonging to a certain territory, place, community and its tradition is the foundation of human activity. Hence, the need to shape the sense of local identity as the basis of engagement in the functioning of one's own community. A strong sense of local identity usually means being ready to undertake activities for the reference community, including innovative doing. This results in the need to rebuild the sense of local identity, supporting dynamic development and enriching the values which are present in one's own closest environment. Taking these conditions into consideration helps in the stimulation of local development understood as a series of changes taking place under the influence of a certain way of thinking and deeply rooted social powers (Jałowiecki, Szczepański, 2002). Local self-government is a common ground to create active, participatory attitudes for taking actions within a local community to meet their needs and to allow for comprehensive development (Sadowska et al., 2019).

CIVIC ACTIVITY

In scientific discourse, civic activity is considered against a broader background of civil society issues (Bokajło, Dziubka, 2001; Pietrzyk-Reeves, 2012; Wojtaszek, Krawcewicz, 2016). The concept of civil society is used in various contexts, both descriptive and normative. It is also the subject of a dispute which, on the one hand, is connected with its sources in the tradition of political thought, and, on the other, its cognitive and explanatory value (Pietrzyk-Reeves, 2012). Narrowing, out of necessity, the scientific discussion on the subject of civil society to contemporary concepts, one should point to the problem which is associated with its ambiguous understanding in the context of economic activity. Some theorists, referring to the liberal tradition, assume that the sphere of economic activity is within civil society. Others, who support the concept of A. Gramsci –

who defined civil society as “the political and cultural hegemony of one social group over the whole society” (1961, t. 2, p. 417) – place civil society outside the economy and the state, outside the sphere of power and capital. Therefore, two interrelated issues are the subject of the dispute” to which spheres of social life the civil society category should be related and what relations there are between civil society and the market economy (Pietrzyk-Reeves, 2012). It seems that the most appropriate position in this dispute connects civil society and free market activity. As these are not spheres that are mutually exclusive (but rather complementary), they allow the implementation of individual intentions under various types of activities that shape relationships and interpersonal relations.

Social civic activity is based on common and conscious articulation, implementation and defence of interests (needs and aspirations) of some social group by its members (Gliński, Palska, 1997, p. 366). The range of civic activity is very diverse in terms of its content and form (Gawkowska et al., 2005; Ziółkowski, 2005; Gliński, 2006; Raciborski, 2010; Zboron, 2017). The frames of civic activity are described by the area of voluntarily created associations, organisations and institutions functioning between the citizen with the family and the country together with economy; in short, it is an area of institutions mediating between the citizen and the state (Fukuyama, 1997).

A self-governing community is an example of a local system relevant to pluralistic (civic) society. Civic society with a local self-government as the fundamental institution is an alternative for both the country dominance and free market in social life. A self-governing community, permanently inscribed in the structures of civic society, is characterised by a strongly developed network of contacts and secondary relations, especially local associations and organisations. Voluntary associations are places to shape public opinions and social norms (Starosta, 1995, pp. 102–103).

The range of civic activity, identified by researchers of these issues, is broad (Gliński, Palska, 1997, p. 367). It includes, among others, activities favourable to creating civic identity and performing typical civic functions. These include articulating the interests of a certain social group, government control, civil protest. Additionally, they embody participation in the processes of preparing and taking decisions on various government levels (consulting, information access, advisory bodies, legal solutions project analysis, participation in decisive bodies etc.). They include the signalling of social problems and issues; preparing projects of alternative decisions, social programmes etc.; independent development of certain public areas – direct meeting of social needs (projects, campaigns, implementing certain programmes, services, education etc.). Finally, they include civic self-education.

In the literature, four basic types of social civic activity are indicated: verbal, potential, enclave and empirical (Gliński, Palska, 1997, pp. 356–384). Verbal activity does not have a great deal to do with activity favouring the

development of democratic society. It is an attempt to join public life only on the level of declarations, prescriptions and advice. Potential civic activity is also declarative, and the activating potential may easily change into social frustration. At the same time, it is characteristic of potential activity to influence positively self-organisation of society on the local level. Empirical (sounding) activity is the picture of civic attitudes which emerges from surveys and opinion polls. Enclave activity takes place in certain, partly isolated, areas of social life and does not concern relatively 'excluded' social environments. Enclaves have two dimensions: they concern certain particularly active social groups, as well as specific social problems, among which the intensification of independent social civic activities are in focus.

Civic activity has become a fundamental favour of market and social changes, and an important element of "innovative socialisation", i.e. of the shaping of affirmative attitudes against system changes (Gagacka, 2003, p. 325). The research indicates a significant variety of ranges and forms of civic practices in Polish society (Raciborski, 2010). Civic communities created by people implementing a common goal and aiming at common good are guided by the rules of equality and justice which, according to the rule of subsidiarity, guarantee empowerment to individuals and communities without depriving them of state support. The rule of subsidiarity leads to socialisation of the country through the empowerment of citizens (Piekara, 2003).

Civic activity of Polish society is manifested in many different ways, above all through participation in many various grassroots movements, initiatives and social organisations (Bartkowski, 2005; Domaradzka, 2009; Lewenstein et al., 2010). Civic initiatives are most often undertaken in the area of the so called third sector, which is a domain of non-governmental organisations. Non-governmental organisations are structures integrating citizens, aiming at changing people's mentality and behaviour. They are independent and non-commercial, and they have a significant volunteer share. In Poland, the term 'non-governmental organisations' is quite widely understood, and it encompasses all of the organised groups or social institutions which are not directly engaged in politics, and where social, volunteer and spontaneous civic participation plays a significant role. Such organisations are characterised by being self-governing, having considerable independence of any state, economic or self-government structures, as well as social utility, i.e. a lack of pursuit of profit (non-profit). Finally, and most significantly, they are characterised by being engaged in the creation and distribution of 'public' and 'factual' goods, or, more widely, active attitudes towards public issues (Frączak, 2010, pp. 42–60).

Regardless of their different types, content and civic society manifestations, they actually fulfil one positive role (Ziółkowski, 2005, p. 34–35). The most important beneficial results of their functioning (both locally and socially) are the following: (a) legitimising various pressure groups, including those competing

for authority and thus recognising the right to be opposed, to be different and distinguishable, establishing the opinion that a dispute, competition and conflict are something natural; (b) reducing resistance against surprising changes, preventing the isolation of political institutions from society, activating and engaging people in the process of reforms and changes; (c) teaching and inuring to creative and innovative behaviour; (d) contributing to boosting confidence, and so building social capital.

SUBJECTIVITY, PARTICIPATION, CIVIC ACTIVITY:
MODEL OF TRIPLE SOCIAL HELIX

Social potentials in the form of subjectivity, participation and civic activity are endogenous factors and resources which play a fundamental role in the functioning and development of local communities. In the context of the subject analysis and characteristics of the spheres of endogenous development resources as discussed in the article, an attempt should be made to create a scheme ordering a relationship between them.

The suggestion of mutual and pro-development interactions in the area of the three spheres is a proprietary model called the social triple helix. The inspiration to create this model is the concept of triple helix functioning in the research and analysis of mechanisms and conditions of local and regional development (Etzkowitz, Leydesdorff, 1997; Etzkowitz, 2002). In its original shape, the triple helix model concerns the interaction and cooperation between the elements of the innovation system: science – enterprises – public authority, in an attempt to increase the effects of innovation and regional competitiveness. The main idea behind the model is an interpenetration of the spheres of impact of individual institutional entities (helixes). This has a universal character and can be referred to as a system, part of which are social institutions (including principles, norms, patterns of action and interaction) which build social networks and economic interpersonal relations.

Cooperation for the development and implementation of local community needs requires active cooperation and networking among local entities. Effective cooperation between individual participants in activities for the development and implementation of the common good of local communities, can be carried out according to the triple helix social model. Local communities create some kind of systems equipped with their own resources which manifest themselves, among others, in subjectivity, participation and civic activity. In such local social systems, there are several important issues. These include historically shaped culture, value systems, accumulated knowledge and experience. These create their own specific and unique character. Entities that make up the local system should be connected with each other, as the system is an ordered arrangement of elements between

which certain relationships occur, forming a certain whole. The synergy effect that arises as a result of mutual cooperation of local entities, is important for the system. Relationships in three spheres (subjectivity, participation and civic activity) do not have a rigid, static nature, but are subject to dynamic changes. The social triple helix model emphasises the importance of networks of cooperation and social contacts in which learning and consolidation of pro-developmental behaviors, stimulation of trust and development of activity focused on the common good of the local community takes place.

The analysis of the social foundations of local community functionality and development (in the context of the triple helix social model) allows for identification of the essential dimensions of the interpenetrating positive interactions of three types of endogenous resources (helixes). These include subjectivity, participation and civic activity. It can be expressed as the following ordering list:

- a) efficiency and scope are increased regarding activities implemented for the effective and socially responsible course of development processes;
- b) both the scope and forms of cooperation within the local community develop in order to meet its needs;
- c) optimisation of functioning and an improvement in the standard of living of the local community through an exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as an increase of mutual trust and social responsibility for the well-being of the whole community;
- d) links and feedbacks between the three elements of social resources of the local system (subjectivity, participation, civic activity) promote the improvement of local leadership, whereby building partnership and strengthening social cohesion;
- e) the situation within each of the spheres of resources (helixes) and the deepening relationships between them form a system of interactions exerting a significant positive impact on the functioning of the local social system;
- f) the functioning and the development of the local community according to the triple helix social model is conducive to raising the level of awareness in terms of values arising from network cooperation, which stimulates connections and improves social relations within the local system.

The social triple helix is a pictorial view of the interactions taking place between the sphere of subjectivity, participation and civic activity. It guarantees the preservation of the essential role of these interactions, their own specificity and relative independence while simultaneously interpenetrating these spheres. This permeation consists of the adoption of a range of interactions and functions by one of the spheres, whose performance is assigned to one of the other two spheres (helixes). The social triple helix model is an attempt to capture the transformation of typical interactions and relationships that link the sphere of subjectivity, participation and civic activity as equally legitimate endogenous resources underlying the functioning and development of local communities.

CONCLUSIONS

Local development is a form of social activity aiming at achieving certain goals. The subject of this development is a local community, on behalf of which self-governments take certain actions. Local success depends mostly on endogenous factors and resources, and this is evident in the form of empowerment, participation and civic activity. When it comes to local development, economy plays the main role, but it should not be solely reduced to economic issues. One indicator of local development is constituted also by the citizens' subjective experience of improvement, expressing the level of fulfilling their needs and aspirations.

Local development is a grassroots process with not only economic, but also social, cultural and political dimensions. One of the most important factors is claimed to be the existence of effective leadership exercised by someone who is able to formulate a vision of development, and unite around themselves the local elite who would be able to implement it. Participation of citizens in making decisions is also important. Success in local development also depends on the institutional infrastructure of a certain local system, i.e. effectively functioning local institutions focused mostly on supporting entrepreneurship, as well as those which create foundations for civil society. Moreover, achieving success in local development is favoured by a high level of social empowerment and mutual trust, as well as by compromise and cooperation with the use of social capital.

The objective of the analyses and descriptions contained in the article is to outline the social model of the triple helix. It presents relations and interrelationships as well as an interpenetration of the impact ranges of three helixes, i.e. subjectivity, participation and civic activity, having a range of social institutions. As endogenous social resources, they create a dynamic system of functionally related fields of activity and impact that make up the social foundations of the functioning and development of local communities.

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Summary

The purpose of the article is an attempt to answer the question about the role of endogenous social resources in the functioning and development of local communities. The initial thesis of the analyses undertaken in the article is included in the statement that such resources as subjectivity, participation and civic activity constitute the social foundation and functional requirement for the duration and development of local communities. In the scientific recognition of the subject matter, a method of analysing the literature was used. The scope of the study includes characteristics and analyses of the subjectivity of local communities, participation at the local level and civic activity.

The first part of the study shows the subjectivity of local communities as a function of decentralisation and development of local government. Attention was focused on a set of phenomena, processes and factors of the sociological and political character – the integrated co-existence of which is an expression of subjectivity – by providing a real impact of the residents on the functioning and development of the local community. In the second part of the study, social participation was analysed as a manifestation of decentralisation of public administration and an important element of local development programming. A multi-level system of cooperation between citizens and local authorities was presented, as well as rules determining the effectiveness of involvement and participation in the conditions of local government. It stressed the importance of the local government as an institutional environment formation of the active participatory attitude towards undertaking the activities within local communities for the implementation of their needs and self-development. The following part of the article focused on social civic activity as common and conscious articulation, implementation and defence of the interests, needs and aspirations of the local community. Types, scope and manifestations of civic activity were presented, emphasising the pro-development and functional benefits of civic involvement.

The analyses and descriptions provided in the article lead to the conclusion that the functioning and development of local communities are a bottom-up, integrated process of economic, political, social and cultural character. Their orientation and proper conduct are positively influenced by endogenous and social potential in the form of subjectivity, participation and civic activity. A synthetic approach to the issue under scrutiny is the author's model of social triple helix depicting interdependencies and interpenetrations of the three spheres of influence – subjectivity, participation and civic activity within the functioning and the development of local community.

Keywords: subjectivity, participation, civic activity, development, triple social helix, local community.

Spoleczne podstawy funkcjonowania i rozwoju społeczności lokalnych

Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest próba odpowiedzi na pytanie o rolę endogenicznych zasobów społecznych w funkcjonowaniu i rozwoju społeczności lokalnych. Wyjściowa teza podjętych w artykule analiz zawiera się w stwierdzeniu, że podmiotowość, partycypacja i aktywność obywatelska to społeczna podstawa i funkcjonalny wymóg trwania i rozwoju społeczności lokalnych. W naukowym rozpoznaniu przedmiotowej problematyki zastosowano metodę analizy literatury przedmiotu. Zakres opracowania obejmuje charakterystyki i analizy podmiotowości społeczności lokalnych, partycypacji na poziomie lokalnym oraz aktywności obywatelskiej.

W pierwszej części opracowania ukazano upodmiotowienie społeczności lokalnych jako funkcję decentralizacji i rozwoju samorządu terytorialnego. Skupiono się na zespole zjawisk, procesów i czynników o charakterze socjologicznym i politycznym, których zintegrowane współwystępowanie

jest wyrazem upodmiotowienia przez zapewnienie realnego wpływu mieszkańców na funkcjonowanie i rozwój wspólnoty samorządowej. W drugiej części opracowania przeprowadzono analizę partycypacji społecznej jako przejawu decentralizacji administracji publicznej i istotnego elementu programowania rozwoju lokalnego. Przedstawiono wielostopniowy system współpracy obywateli z władzami lokalnymi oraz zasady decydujące o skuteczności zaangażowania i partycypacji w warunkach społeczności samorządowej. Podkreślono znaczenie samorządu terytorialnego jako instytucjonalnego środowiska kształtowania się czynnych, partycypacyjnych postaw na rzecz podejmowania działań w obrębie społeczności lokalnych dla realizacji ich potrzeb i samodzielnego rozwoju. Kolejną część artykułu poświęcono społecznej aktywności obywatelskiej jako wspólnej i świadomej artykulacji, realizacji i obronie interesów, potrzeb i aspiracji społeczności lokalnej. Przedstawiono typy, zakres i przejawy aktywności obywatelskiej, podkreślając prorozwojowe i funkcjonalne korzyści obywatelskiego zaangażowania.

Przeprowadzone w artykule analizy i charakterystyki prowadzą do wniosku, że funkcjonowanie i rozwój społeczności lokalnych to oddolne, zintegrowane procesy o wymiarze ekonomicznym, politycznym, społecznym i kulturowym. Syntetycznym ujęciem problematyki opracowania jest autorski model społecznej potrójnej helisy obrazujący współzależności i przenikanie się trzech sfer oddziaływań – podmiotowości, partycypacji i aktywności obywatelskiej w funkcjonowaniu i rozwoju społeczności lokalnych.

Słowa kluczowe: podmiotowość, partycypacja, aktywność obywatelska, społeczna potrójna helisa, społeczność lokalna.

JEL: O10, O15.