

ANALYSIS OF CITY GOVERNANCE TYPES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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Basic assumptions of the study

- Croatian cities – all with equal legal status and functions, BUT large variations in size, capacities, actors, governance strategies, formal and informal relations
- Lack of scientific cognition of city governance types in Croatia
- Lack of trend towards a holistic (integral) approach to city governance based on cities' best practices
- Open space for modernization of regulatory framework concerning city-self-government system

Research questions

- What city governance types can be identified in Croatia, dependable on certain variables ?
 - capacities, degree of openness in formulation and implementation of public policies and quality (in broader sense) of interaction with non-political actors within the city
- Are there differences in city governance type between smaller and larger cities and/or within the same categories (size defined by no. of inhabitants) ?

Thesis hypotheses

- **H1:** The larger the capacities of the city, the better the chances for identification of managerial governance types; the smaller the capacities of the city, the better the chances for identification of welfare (redistributive) governance type
- **H2:** The greater the openness in formulation and implementation of public policies the better the chances for identification of developmental governance type
- **H3:** The broader interaction with non-political actors within the city the better chances for identification of corporatistic governance type

Theoretical framework

- Open system theory – city is a dynamic, complex system, participating in the broader system of regional development governance
- Pierre (2011) four city governance types (managerial, welfare, pro-growth, corporatist)
- Urban regime theory (Stone, 1989., Stoker, 1995., Mossberger, 2001., DiGaetano&Strom, 2003.)

Research methodology

- Variables to be determined are the following:
 - **city capacity**
 - city size measured by no.of inhabitants
 - annual city income per capita
 - **openness in formulation of public policy**
 - regularity of use of different citizen's participation tools
 - **openness in implementation of public policy**
 - number and total cost of city public services provided in cooperation with business and/or non-profit sector
 - **intensity of interaction with non-political actors**
 - formal contacts with mayor, mayor deputy, city councilors and senior local civil servants in a year per 1.000,00 inhabitants

Selection of the approach and research methods

- mixed methods
 - objective data analysis
 - survey
 - semi-structured interviews

Case selection

- Classification of Croatian cities for research purposes (Doxiadis, 1982., Croatian Local Self-Government Act)

1. small polis A: 12.005-34.999 inhabitants	36 cities
2. small polis B: 35.000-84.035 inhabitants	9 cities
2. polis: 84.036-558.245 inhabitants	3 cities
3. small metropolis: 558.246-4.117.715 inhabitants	City of Zagreb

Research plan

- Survey: 10 people in 49 selected cities=specimen of 490 subjects
 - elected local representatives (2)
 - senior local civil servants(2)
 - directors of public institutions (2)
 - director of public Ltd. Companies (2)
 - president of citizen's association (2)
- The survey will be used to obtain information on selected variables that affect the type of city governance. In the second part of the empirical research semi-structured interviews with the mayor/ deputy mayors and/or heads of selected administrative departments in three Croatian cities (one from each of the classification group) to obtain additional qualitative assessments and insights and to check data obtained through surveys
- Data processing and analysis using standard statistical methods

Data processing

- standard statistical methods
- logical analysis of the thesis
- theoretical discussion
- previous empirical studies' results

Expected scientific contribution

- creation of links between open system theory, urban regime theory and city governance types
- construction of general theoretical cognition of variables conditioning city governance types in Croatia
- setting -up of scientific basis for systematic addressing of city governance and urban development problems, that demand multiactor, multilevel and multisectoral approach
- design of recommendations for prompting further scientific research of city governance types and models and for improvement of territorial organization and self-government system in Croatia.

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