

PRO-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ON A SELECTED EXAMPLE

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Abstract: The main reason for the creation of this article is to diagnose the activities of the Municipality of the City of Częstochowa in terms of cooperation with the environment to develop appropriate pro-social activities in the management of municipal resources, which can be considered as the originality of the presented material. The research hypothesis is: Undertaking the cooperation of municipalities with the scientific and economic environment to develop innovative pro-social solutions in municipal resource management is important for residents. The research instrument was a structured survey questionnaire prepared by the authors of the article. The survey was conducted in 2022. There were 362 correctly completed questionnaires. The research results confirmed the significance of the cooperation of the municipality with the environment as well as the positive assessment of actions taken in the opinion of residents of municipal resources.

Keywords: management, municipal resources, pro-social activities, municipality

Introduction

Municipal housing resources consist of real estate owned by the municipality, which has not been handed over in perpetual usufruct (Journal of Laws 2023.344). The basis for the creation of municipal housing resources is the studies of the conditions and directions of spatial development of municipalities, adopted on the basis of the provisions on spatial planning and development (Journal of Laws 2023.344). The creation and use of municipal housing resources is one of the main tasks of municipalities to create conditions to meet the housing needs of the self-government community - as stipulated in Art. 4 Sec. 1 of the Act on the protection of tenants' rights, housing resources of the municipality and on the amendment of the Civil Code (<https://www.prawo.pl>). Residential premises constituting housing resources of the municipality, except for social housing and premises intended for rent for the duration of the employment relationship, may be rented only for an indefinite period. To perform its tasks, the municipality may also rent premises from other owners and sublet them to persons whose households have a low income (Kabus, Dziadkiewicz 2022, pp. 3-4).

The conditions and development of the knowledge-based economy bring about that nowadays municipalities must face many new challenges related to the need to adapt to changes and transformations taking place in the environment (Dziadkiewicz 2014, pp. 27-28). Pro-social activities, including the search for knowledge necessary to manage the resources of the municipality, become the basis for modern entrepreneurship. The effective introduction of new ideas requires the acquisition or supplementation of knowledge in terms of the implementation of this process, considering the specificity of the changes made (Gill, Maung, Chowdhury 2016, p. 566). Therefore, it becomes necessary for the environment of the city authorities to cooperate with the scientific field. This will allow for accelerating the implementation of the assumed development objectives.

The space for pro-social activities is inscribed in the skillful management of business and science relations, bringing not only mutual benefits, but it also significantly affects the development of the local economy (Witek 2012, pp. 382-383).

In view of the above, municipalities should strive to ensure proper housing management, and thus effective and efficient management of housing resources created and owned by them, i.e., municipal housing resources (Nalepka 2018, p. 67). In turn, the applied management methods, along with



consultation with scientists should translate into an improvement in the quality of life of residents, in particular safety and satisfaction (Talib, Rahman, Qureshi 2010, pp. 115-116).

The objective of the article is to identify the activities of the municipality in terms of cooperation with the environment to develop appropriate pro-social activities in the management of municipal resources on the example of the Municipality of the City of Częstochowa. The research tool was a questionnaire. The survey was conducted in June 2022 among residents of municipal resources in the city of Częstochowa, the Silesian Voivodeship, Poland. The conducted research included in the article potentially extends the literature on the subject, presenting pro-social activities in municipal resources on a specific example. In addition to scientific values, the study also has a practical aspect that can be used by municipalities and managers of municipal housing resources as support in conscious and effective planning and implementation of pro-social activities in resource management to improve the living conditions of residents.

Research methods

The main objective of the study was to diagnose the activities of the municipality in the field of cooperation with the environment to develop appropriate pro-social activities in the management of municipal resources on the example of the Municipality of the City of Częstochowa. The adoption of the objective of the study influenced the formulation of the research hypothesis:

RH: Undertaking the cooperation of municipalities with the scientific and economic environment to develop innovative pro-social solutions in the management of municipal resources is important for residents.

The research tool was a structured survey questionnaire prepared by the authors of the article. Following the principle of respondent data disclosure, the questionnaire was filled in anonymously. Simple one-dimensional balanced scales were used to represent the measured values, which reflected the values assigned by the respondents to the evaluated features.

Depending on the question, a forced scale was used, in which the respondent indicated a strictly defined category on the scale, and an unforced one, when they were unable to express their opinion. The respondents' task was to respond to the provided answer options, according to a certain degree to which they agreed with it. The intensity of the respondent's attitude was measured using a bipolar, five-point ordinal scale, described verbally and numerically. The answers were given numerical values (e.g., from 1 to 5), keeping the principle that the assigned values should increase in accordance with the nature and direction of the defined feature. A Likert Scale was used, where 5 amounts to definitely significant; 4 - significant; 3 - insignificant; 2 - definitely insignificant and 1 - no opinion. The answers of 362 respondents were analyzed. The participants of the study were residents of municipal resources in Częstochowa. 400 completed questionnaires were received, 90.5% of which, i.e., 362 (N=362) questionnaires were correctly completed. The questionnaire contained the main part and demographics. The study considered such variables as: the respondents' gender, age, education, and source of income (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of the respondents in terms of the variables

gender	female	173	47.8%
	male	189	52.2%
age	under 18	4	1.1%
	18-25	19	5.3%
	26-35	52	14.4%
	36-45	100	27.7%

	46-55	98	27.1%
	56-65	66	18.3%
	over 65	22	6.1%
	ND	1	
education	primary	21	5.8%
	vocational	51	14.2%
	secondary	136	37.8%
	higher	152	42.2%
	ND	2	
Source of income	full-time or part-time job	201	55.5%
	earning a living from farming	3	0.8%
	student/pupil	12	3.3%
	own business	48	13.3%
	contract work	30	8.3%
	pensioner/annuitant	33	9.1%
	odd job	17	4.7%
	unemployed	9	2.5%
	other	9	2.5%
Total		362	100.0%

N=362, ND- no data

Source: Own study

The respondents in the study were 173 women and 189 men. The largest group was people aged 36-45 (27.7%), as well as people aged 46-55 (27.1%). Among the respondents, there were only 4 people under the age of 18 (1.1%) and 19 people (5.3%) aged 18-25. The largest number of respondents was people with higher education - 152 (42.2%). Primary education was indicated by only 21 respondents (5.8%), and two did not answer this question. The most frequently indicated primary source of income was full-time employment, accounting for 55.5% of all the responses. 13.3% of the respondents run their own company, 8.3% work on a contract basis. 33 respondents (9.1%) live on an annuity or pension, and 17 (4.7%) on casual work. The study involved 12 students (3.3%) and 3 respondents earning their living from farming (0.8%). 9 were unemployed, which amounted to 2.5% of the respondents.

Results

In the Development Strategy for the City of Częstochowa 2030+, which was adopted by Resolution No. 435.XXXII.2016 of the Częstochowa City Council of December 1, 2016, in the chapter *Mission, vision and strategic goals*, there is, among other things, an obligation to make Częstochowa, in the perspective of 2030, a city friendly to residents, offering a high quality of life, understood not only as material living conditions, health, education, economic and cultural activity, free time and social relations, personal security, quality of infrastructure, natural environment, but also subjective well-being, understood as the satisfaction that people derive from various aspects of life as a whole, mental well-being and felt emotional states, a city efficiently managed in an effective, efficient way and through partnership, by means of increasingly integrated activities covering entire urban functional areas and active cooperation with residents (Strategy of the City of Częstochowa).

Therefore, in this paper, the issues related to pro-social activities of the municipality in the field of the management of municipal resources and the level of the respondents' acceptance of these activities have been interpreted. The survey included, among others, such activities as: strengthening the

cooperation between the scientific community and the economic environment, implementing the results of scientific research and development works in practical activities of the municipality to improve the quality of life, analyzing the social needs of tenants, participating in the scientific life of the university, observing achievements of other municipalities from the point of view of commercialization opportunities or indicating areas for the application of social innovation. The answers obtained in the survey and the applied statistical methods made it possible to examine the extent to which the municipality implements pro-social initiatives and whether these activities are accepted by the tenants of municipal resources. The respondents were asked whether, in their opinion, the specified pro-social activities undertaken by the municipality are important to them (Table 2)

The conducted analyzes showed that activities undertaken by the municipality in the field of cooperation with the environment to develop pro-social solutions in the management of municipal resources are accepted by inhabitants. Strengthening the cooperation between the scientific community and the economic environment was considered important by 48.6% of the respondents and as very important by 17.1%. Only 1.4% of those surveyed acknowledged that the activities undertaken in the field of cooperation with scientists are completely irrelevant in activities of the municipality. Another analyzed question concerned whether, according to the respondents, the implementation of the results of scientific research and development works in practical activities of the municipality affect the effective management of the municipality in terms of municipal resource management. The analysis showed that 179 (49.4%) respondents indicated this action as important, and 71 people (19.6%) as very important. 57 (15.7%) of the respondents claim that the implementation of research in the management of housing resources is insignificant. Further activities, i.e., promoting technological offer through participation in exhibitions, conferences, and fairs (48.8% - important, 19.1% - very important), analysis of social needs of tenants (46.7% - important, 26.5% - very important) and controlling scientific research results in terms of their practical usefulness were considered significant by the vast majority of the respondents (46.1% - significant, 19.9% - very important).

Discussion

The subject matter referred to in the presented study is the result of the analysis of the data collected using the survey. It focuses on pro-social aspects of activities in terms of municipal resource management in the Municipality of the City of Częstochowa. The authors made an attempt to show the areas of cooperation of the municipality and the environment to develop effective solutions in the management of municipal resources, which translate into an improvement in the quality of life of residents. The research results presented in the article allowed the following conclusions to be drawn:

- the respondents see the legitimacy of the cooperation of the municipality with the scientific and economic environment to develop activities supporting pro-social solutions,
- the research showed that the implementation of the results of scientific research and development works in practical activities of the municipality is significant or definitely significant for the inhabitants of resources,
- promoting technological offer through participation in exhibitions, conferences, and fairs is statistically significant,
- the results of the survey confirmed that the analysis of the social needs of tenants by the municipality is important and very important for the respondents,
- the respondents recognized that controlling the results of scientific research in terms of their practical usefulness is important in terms of municipal resource management.

Table 2. Assessment of the significance of activities of the municipality

Type of operation				F	M	F-%	M-%
strengthening the cooperation between the scientific community and the economic environment	I have no opinion	51	14.1%	19	32	11.0%	16.9%
	definitely insignificant	5	1.4%	2	3	1.2%	1.6%
	insignificant	68	18.8%	36	32	20.8%	16.9%
	significant	176	48.6%	82	94	47.4%	49.7%
	definitely significant	62	17.1%	34	28	19.7%	14.8%
		362	100.0%	173	189	100.0%	100.0%
implementing the results of scientific research and development works in practical activities of the municipality	I have no opinion	48	13.3%	18	30	10.4%	15.9%
	definitely insignificant	7	1.9%	2	5	1.2%	2.6%
	insignificant	57	15.7%	29	28	16.8%	14.8%
	significant	179	49.4%	85	94	49.1%	49.7%
	definitely significant	71	19.6%	39	32	22.5%	16.9%
		362	100.0%	173	189	100.0%	100.0%
promoting technological offer through participation in exhibitions, conferences, and fairs	I have no opinion	49	13.6%	18	31	10.4%	16.5%
	definitely insignificant	7	1.9%	3	4	1.7%	2.1%
	insignificant	60	16.6%	32	28	18.5%	14.9%
	significant	176	48.8%	82	94	47.4%	50.0%
	definitely significant	69	19.1%	38	31	22.0%	16.5%
	<i>ND</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>		
		362	100.0%	173	189	100.0%	100.0%
analyzing the social needs of tenants	I have no opinion	42	11.6%	14	28	8.1%	14.8%
	definitely insignificant	10	2.8%	3	7	1.7%	3.7%
	insignificant	45	12.4%	22	23	12.7%	12.2%
	significant	169	46.7%	74	95	42.8%	50.3%
	definitely significant	96	26.5%	60	36	34.7%	19.0%
		362	100.0%	173	189	100.0%	100.0%
controlling the results of scientific research in terms of its practical usefulness	I have no opinion	52	14.4%	21	31	12.1%	16.4%
	definitely insignificant	10	2.8%	5	5	2.9%	2.6%
	insignificant	61	16.9%	28	33	16.2%	17.5%
	significant	167	46.1%	74	93	42.8%	49.2%
	definitely significant	72	19.9%	45	27	26.0%	14.3%
		362	100.0%	173	189	100.0%	100.0%

N=362, ND – no data, F- female, M-male

Source: Own study

The empirical research conducted in this study confirmed the hypothesis. With regard to the hypothesis put forward, it should be stated that housing resource management processes should assume cooperation with the economic and scientific environment and the implementation of scientific research results in shaping models for the management of municipal housing resources to meet social needs, strengthen social ties and create new cooperation models.

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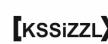
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