

**Summary of doctoral dissertation “The role of direct democracy in the development of the political system of the Swiss Confederation” written by mgr Krzysztof Duda, under the supervision of prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Wallas (auxiliary supervisor: dr Marcin Łukaszewski) at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland**

The subject of the dissertation was situated in the area of research on direct democracy. In the contemporary world, one of the few countries in which this type of democracy plays a very important role is Switzerland. The subject of the study is the results which are being presented in this dissertation and they concern the institutions of direct democracy and their role in the Swiss political system. Frequent changes to the constitution are the result of decisions taken by referendums and often worked out through popular initiatives. The above mentioned are what caused its evolution.

Due to such dynamics of political processes, the analysis of the Swiss Confederation's experience in using the direct democratic tools in state decision-making processes seems to be a very interesting undertaking that is worth exploring. Additional motivation for the research on the above topic is also the fact that the role of direct democracy in Switzerland (which is regarded as a role model according to European, or even world standards) is appreciated by more and more countries, and the solutions that Switzerland has implemented are perceived as modeled.

Direct democracy is the inseparable feature of the Swiss political system. Participation of citizens in direct decision-making is present at all levels of the administrative structure - in municipalities, cantons and at federal level. At the federal level, which was analyzed at the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation 18th April 1999 hearing established a citizens' initiative and a referendum, which divided them into additional two categories: obligatory and optional.

The chronological scope of this paper covers the years 1848-2016. In addition, special attention has been paid to the additional caesura in 1971, when the electoral rights at the federal level were granted to women; as well as in 2000, when the current Federal Constitution was enacted.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, five main chapters, final comments with conclusions, bibliography, list of tables and annexes. The first chapter deals with theoretical foundations of the research on direct democracy. The content considering the role of democracy with particular emphasis on its direct form is also examined in this part. In the second chapter the Swiss political system is analyzed. It focuses also on the impact of various bodies on the institutions of direct democracy. In the third and fourth chapter the popular initiative and referendum are examined. Whereas, in the last chapter the results of own research, which was carried out by using the questionnaire, on the institutions of direct democracy in Switzerland are shown.

In order to achieve the goals of the dissertation, research methods specific to political science have been used; in particular the middle-order system analysis, institutional and legal, historical and quantitative methods. The research also uses research techniques such as document analysis, questionnaire, interview and participant observation. The source database

consisted of legal acts and other documents, scientific papers in Polish, German, English, French, as well as press texts and Internet sources.

In the course of the made analyzes, the author has proven that the Swiss political system, with the present institutions of direct democracy, is functioning efficiently and that the role of direct democracy in the political system is large, however the system is not flawless. In the reviewed time frame, direct democracy institutions have evolved and now also aspects the need improvement have been identified. However, Switzerland is still likely to remain the only country in which direct democracy will be used to such a large extent. The author also points to the factors that make it possible to answer the question whether the current hybrid direct democracy system with representative democracy will remain unchanged or will evolve into a new form to keep up with the pace of change in contemporary Europe and the world?