

# **The Impact of the Partnership Principle on the Mobilization Among Local Actors: a Comparative Analysis of Glasgow and Krakow**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The literature on local politics points out to various patterns of governance and decision making processes in cities. With the introduction of the EU Structural Funds regulations and their emphasis on the partnership principle, one would assume that the decision making process in European cities would become more harmonized resembling the governing of the Europeanized elite. However, the Structural Funds regulations tend to be interpreted differently in each national setting and thus local authorities get involved in different horizontal and vertical interactions with local actors. This paper aims to analyse how, as a result of the European Structural Funds regulations, local actors mobilize themselves and interact on the horizontal and vertical levels by cooperating and competing in order to benefit from the opportunities emerging from the European integration. The main question of the paper is the following: how do Structural Funds regulations influence the power structure in European cities?

The paper emphasises the role of local authorities in the horizontal and vertical interactions (cooperation and competition) with various actors. Special attention is dedicated to the partnership principle that encourages participation from various groups in management of the Structural Funds. Specifically, this paper will consider the aforementioned question by contrasting two EU cities: Krakow (from a new member state) and Glasgow (from an old member state) with a focus on European Structural Funds regulations.

**Key Words:** partnership, Glasgow, Krakow