

Conclusions from the Kraków meeting/guidelines for final version of the papers:

Taking into account the general aim of the SPACE project as well as the conclusions from our Cracow meeting, we would like to present you some ideas that could be developed in the final versions of our papers in order to make them more compatible and to fit into a common publication.

First of all it seems that no one questioned the fact, that political parties are undergoing the serious crisis of representation. Some phenomena which can be observed in public sphere are either the result of this crisis, or are in some way connected with it: low electoral engagement, rather narrow membership base of the parties etc.

We also agreed that there are other actors, who enter the political field vacated (emptied) to some extent by the crisis of the political parties. Those organizations are situated outside the political mainstream of politics, but they have the potential to become important players in public/political sphere. For the purpose of this project we called them Socio-political Alternatives. What we mean by this term are politicized social interests, that can act flexibly either as traditional regular interest groups indirectly influencing state institutions or organizations directly involved in politics themselves, for instance running in elections.

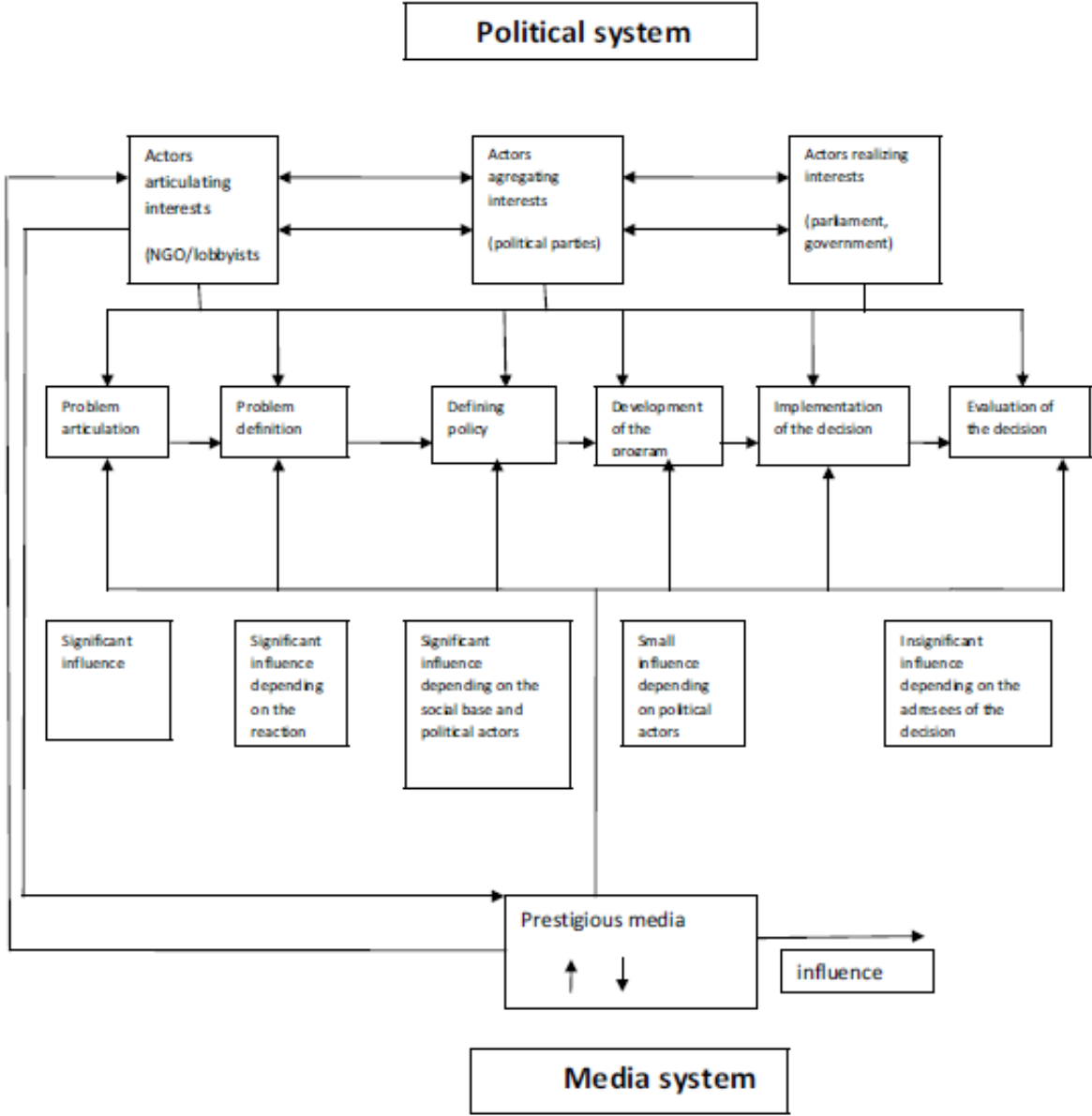
The basic assumption of SPACE research project is that these entities create a multidimensional ALTERNATIVE to political parties and, what is even more important, that these actors go beyond the "typical" politics of protest and create a unique sphere of representation and politisation within a wider area of civil society.

Important aspect of this problem is to focus on activities characteristic for political parties and their SPACE counterparts. According to the research done so far (details in the chapter by Soblewska-Myślik, Kasproicz) the clear-cut distinction is, at least, ambiguous. The interest groups here called SPACE, proved to be capable of become political players and the other way round, political parties in the era of post-cartel party (Yishai 2001) proved to be going back to the strong linkage with organizations of different types i.e. trade unions. In some areas of their activities they overlap (i.e. both parties and SPACE's candidates run in election). Therefore, the clear distinction cannot and, in our opinion, should not be made at this point.

To map out the SPACE organizations and to better understand and explain it, we propose to adapt model used by Agnieszka Hess, specialist in political communication. In her work she utilizes the scheme of "phase model of political process" (Phasenmodell des politischen Prozesses) developed by Otfried Jarren, Patrick Donges and Helmut Weler (O. Jarren, P. Donges, *Politische Kommunikation in der Mediengesellschaft. Eine Einführung*, Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden 2011, p. 205) in which particular actors perform various roles in the different phases of the political process (A. Hess, *Social Participants of Media Political Discourse in Poland*, Kraków 2013).

In this model, widely defined social actors [NGOs, lobbies, social movements] take part in the first, most open phase of the process, which is the phase of articulation and definition of the problem. In this phase the actors define the problem as political in a sense that it concerns big groups of citizens, is present in the public sphere of discussion, is perceived as

possible to solve and is addressed to political actors. (Hess: 64) Political parties in this model are active mostly in the second phase of the political process, the phase of defining policy and (partly) of development of the program. In the phase of defining policy the political parties are looking for the possible solutions. The problem is discussed within party structures but is also subject to the professional evaluations of the experts. In the phase of developing program the parties are still active, but their role diminishes and the task is taken by political organs, particularly parliament. In this phase the problem and its' solutions are transformed into legal acts. The model encompasses also the role of the media in this process, however we do not discuss it in detail, because our attention is concentrated mostly on parties and interest groups (for the graphics, please see picture below).



Source: O. Jarren, P. Donges, 2011:205

The model enables us to map out the possible SPACE actors, that are active in the first phase of this process, that articulate and define issues politically - concerns big groups of citizens, is present in the public sphere of discussion. The modification we made concerns the addressee of this claims. In model quoted by Hess, issues are perceived as possible to solve and addressed to political actors. As the phenomenon we aim to capture goes beyond the traditional roles of political and social organizations, the third condition for distinguishing SPACE is the fact that the issues are not necessarily addressed to political actors (parties) but to political sphere in general. That would constitute the SPACE.

The most important conclusions drawn during Cracow meeting, which we think should be developed in final versions of our papers are the following:

The first question to be answered is : who are these [SPACE] actors? What is their identity? In other words we should more precisely identify those actors and it seems that the best way to do it at this stage of research is to describe some examples of the actors which fit the SPACE criteria.

Other problems, related to the above question are:

In what way they define (articulate) problems?

What is their message?

Whom do they represent?

Do they propose solutions?

Do they shape political agendas?

What is their relationship to political parties?

In conclusion, we propose that all of us prepare the final version of the paper trying to include the perspective created by the detailed questions enumerated above.

As mentioned, the papers are due for the 10th Jan 2014, then we will circulate them and work on final versions.

General style guide for publication:

Our preferred package is Microsoft Word, we accept text files in doc, docx or rtf. Preferably Times New Roman, font 12 p., spaces 1,5., between 11-25 pages long.

If you use a Mac, please make sure that your file is PC compatible.

Graphic objects please enclose in separate files and label them accordingly.

We prefer footnotes at the bottom of the page rather than endnotes. Footnotes should be entered using the Word note function.

Preparing footnote please pay attention to the order in which details are listed, use of capitalization, italics and punctuation.

Book and journal titles should be in italics, each entry should include: author/editor name(s) and initials; book or article title; journal title, volume number; issue number; place and year of publication; page numbers.

Please refer to the attached examples:

Book by single author:

M. Meyer Resende, *The Unintended Effects of Europe on Central and East European Party Systems: Poland and Beyond*, Tallinn 2009, p.33-34.

Joined publication

P.G. Lewis, *The EU and Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Questions and Issues*, [in:] *Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe*, eds. P.G. Lewis, Z. Mansfeldova, London 2006, p. 7.

Journal article

R. Ladrech, *Europeanization and Political Parties. Towards a Framework for Analysis*, "Party Politics" 2002, Vol.8, No. 4, p. 389-403

The bibliography should be placed at the end of the text. While preparing bibliography refer to the same style as used in footnotes.