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## The 2010 Local Government Election in Polish Voivodeships which Border with Slovakia

*Słowacja graniczy z trzema polskimi województwami: podkarpackim z siedzibą władz w Rzeszowie, małopolskim z siedzibą w Krakowie i śląskim z siedzibą w Katowicach. W wyniku wyborów samorządowych spośród komitetów wyborczych najwięcej mandatów radnych w województwach podkarpackim i małopolskim uzyskał Komitet Wyborczy Prawa i Sprawiedliwości. Natomiast w województwie śląskim największą ilość mandatów wywalczyli kandydaci Komitetu Wyborczego Platformy Obywatelskiej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Oprócz tego na uwagę zasługuje Komitet Wyborczy Ruchu Autonomii Śląska, któremu udało się wprowadzić do poszczególnych stopni samorządu śląskiego swoich przedstawicieli. Największą jednak ilość mandatów radnych zdobyli kandydaci bezpartyjni.*

*Slovakia borders with three Polish voivodeships: the Sub-Carpathian, whose government is based in Rzeszów; the Lesser Poland, with the government based in Krakow; and the Silesian, with the government based in Katowice. As a result of the local government election, the largest number of councillor seats in the Sub-Carpathian and Lesser Poland Voivodeships were won by the Electoral Committee of the Law and Justice. In contrast, in the Silesian Voivodeship, the largest number of seats went to the Electoral Committee of the Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland. Apart from that, noteworthy is the Electoral Committee of the Silesian Autonomy Movement, which managed to introduce its representatives to governments at all local levels. However, the largest number of councillor seats were obtained by independent candidates.*

### 1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN POLAND

Some forms of local government have been in operation since the beginning of the Polish state in the Middle Ages and in the 16th to 18th centuries (Kubicki, 2010, pp. 250-258, 286-290) Yet proper beginnings thereof go back to the Duchy of Warsaw period (Cichoń, 2006, pp. 51-56, 138-140). Local government was also in operation in partitioned Poland, including the Austro-Hungarian monarchy's sector (Izdebski, 2006, pp. 55-56; Wójcik, 1999, pp. 80-122). Its development followed Poland's regaining of independence in the inter-war period (1918-1939) (Sidor 2010; Bardach, Leśnodorski, Pietrzak, 1996, pp. 531-534). After the Second World War, in 1950, local governments

were abolished (Rogowski, 2006, pp. 300-304; Malec, Malec, 2003, pp. 206-211) and not re-established until 1990 – and that only in municipalities (Ustawa, 1990, pp. 198-206). In 1999, a tripartite territorial division of the state was introduced in Poland: it comprised municipal (gminny), district (powiatowy) and regional (wojewódzki) local governments (Ustawa, 1998, pp. 3285-3296; Ustawa, 2001, pp. 11307-11325; Emilewicz, Wołek, 2000). The year 2002 saw introduction of direct elections for one-person organs of the executive in municipal and urban local governments, i.e. heads (wójt) of municipalities, and mayors (burmistrz) and presidents of towns and cities respectively (Ustawa, 2002, pp. 7326-7346; Janik, 2007, pp. 186-198).

## 2 THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION IN 2010

The date of the local government election was announced on September 15, 2010 by the President of the Council of Ministers, Donald Tusk, to take place on November 21, and the runoff election for heads of municipalities, mayors of towns and presidents of cities – on December 5 and 19 (Premier 2010). On September 17, the Prime Minister issued a formal regulation which specified the above election dates as well as a detailed election calendar. It was published in Dziennik Ustaw (The Law Gazette) of September 20, which was practically equivalent to the start of the election campaign (Rozporządzenie, 2010, pp. 13254-13256). Then, on October 27, the National Electoral Board (NEB), basing on the then-binding 1998 electoral law (Ustawa, 2004, p. 7174), conducted a draw of uniform nationwide numbers for the electoral committee lists of councillor candidates which met the statutory requirement of registration in over 50% of all regional parliament constituencies (see Table 1).

Table 1.: Nationwide numbers of electoral committees in 2010 local government election in Poland

Number	Electoral Committee
1	Democratic Left Alliance Electoral Committee (DLA EC)
2	Polish People's Party Electoral Committee (PPP EC)
3	Polish Labour Party – August 80 Electoral Committee (PLP–A80 EC)
4	Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland Electoral Committee (CP EC)
5	Law and Justice Electoral Committee (L&J EC)

Source: Komunikat, 2010.

### 2.1 Nationwide Election Results

The nationwide turnout rate in the local government election of November 21, 2010, was 47.32%, the best ever result in the history of post-1989 Polish local government elections. In contrast, in the runoff election for heads of municipalities, mayors of towns and presidents of cities, the turnout rate reached only 35.31 %. In total, the largest number of councillor seats (almost 5.5 thousand) was obtained by the Electoral Committee of the Polish People's Party (PPP). It was a committee formed by

a political party which was a member of the ruling coalition in Poland. Roughly a thousand councillor seats less went to Poland's largest parliamentary party, i.e. the Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland (CP) which – together with the PPP – made up Donald Tusk's government. A similar number of councillor seats went to the largest opposition party in the Polish Parliament, i.e. Law and Justice (L&J). Yet a large majority of council seats were taken by local or regional electoral committee candidates. Out of the political parties, the largest number of representatives in councils of municipalities of up to 20,000 inhabitants were won by the Polish Left Alliance. In councils of municipalities of over 20,000 inhabitants, councils of towns with district rights, councils of town boroughs and district councils, the largest number of seats went to the Civic Platform candidates (see Table 2).

The Civic Platform also achieved the best result in the election to regional parliaments. In thirteen out of sixteen voivodeships, the regional parliament election was won by the Civic Platform. Lower election results of the Civic Platform were noted only in the regional parliaments of Lublin, Świętokrzyskie and Podkarpackie (Sub-Carpathian) voivodeships, where the highest numbers of votes went to the Law and Justice as well as the Polish People's Party candidates. It is also worth noting that the third power in the post-election regional parliaments was the PPP, whose support surged to a good, double-digit number and overtook the lead of the Democratic Left Alliance (DLA) (see Table 3). In the previous local government election of 2006, the social democrats received a somewhat higher support than the people's party. However, as early as that election, upon seat distribution, it appeared that the Polish People's Party scored higher than the Democratic Left Alliance (Flis, 2008, pp. 12-18).

Table 2.: Seat distribution in regional parliaments and councils in the whole of Poland after local government election of November 21, 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Seats	Regional parliament	District councils	Councils of towns with district rights	Municipal councils		Borough councils	Total
						over 20,000 inhabitants	up to 20,000 inhabitants		
1.	PPP EC	quantity	93	999	8	198	4,175	0	5,473
		%	16.58	15.88	0.47	3.56	12.93	0	11,69
2.	CP EC	quantity	222	1,315	600	1,138	981	187	4,443
		%	39.57	20.91	35.27	20.44	3.04	45.72	9.49
3.	L&J EC	quantity	141	1,085	365	762	1,655	103	4,111
		%	25.13	17.25	21.46	13.69	5.13	25.18	8,78
4.	DLA EC	quantity	85	493	214	377	596	40	1,805
		%	15.15	7.84	12.58	6.77	1.85	9.78	3.86
5.	Other	quantity	20	2,398	514	3,093	24,867	79	30,971
		%	3.57	38.12	30.22	55.55	77.04	19.32	66.16

Total	quantity	561	6,290	1,701	5,568	32,280	409	46,809
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Wyniki, 2010.

Table 3.: Percentage of valid votes in regional parliament election in 2010, by Polish parliamentary party election committee

N o.	Elec-toral Co-mmi-tee (EC)	Voivodeship																
		Lower Sile-sian	Kuyavi-an-Pomera-nian	Lu-blin	Lu-busz	Łódź	Lesser Po-land	Ma-zovian	Opole	Sub-Carpathian	Pod-lasie	Pomera-nian	Sile-sian	Świętokrzys-kie	Warmi-an-Ma-su-rian	Greater Po-land	West Pomera-nian	Po-land (to-tal)
1	CP EC	30.11	33.81	22.97	33.89	27.00	33.82	28.56	31.93	21.71	31.43	43.76	33.66	15.86	34.84	32.04	40.80	30.89
2	L&J EC	41.17	17.77	28.38	16.97	24.22	31.69	23.85	17.43	38.54	30.09	18.79	20.76	20.50	16.56	17.95	18.67	23.05
3	PPP EC	8.28	14.49	23.12	14.49	18.84	10.33	22.30	12.13	21.53	19.23	9.43	7.11	32.91	24.17	18.00	12.96	16.30
4	DLA EC	12.34	17.35	12.58	26.09	18.01	9.46	14.51	16.71	12.32	12.72	12.11	16.42	13.86	15.98	21.60	18.52	15.20
5	Other	31.55	16.80	12.95	8.56	11.93	14.70	10.78	21.80	5.90	6.53	15.91	22.05	16.87	8.45	10.85	9.05	14.56

Source: Wyniki [2], 2010.

Nevertheless, in the head of municipality and town mayor election, the highest result was achieved by the Polish People’s Party. In total, upon this party’s recommendation, 428 heads of municipalities and 110 mayors of towns were elected (Kubicki, 2013, p. 121). However, in the largest cities, presidents were elected primarily from among the candidates of the Civic Platform and the Democratic Left Alliance (DLA). It can be stated that the two largest winners of the 2010 local government election were two parties co-governing Poland, i.e. the Civic Platform and the Polish People’s Party.

## 2.2 The 2010 local government election in voivodeships which border with Slovakia

Slovakia borders with three Polish voivodeships: the Sub-Carpathian, whose government is based in Rzeszów; the Lesser Poland, with the government based in Krakow; and the Silesian, with the government based in Katowice. In this area, the largest numbers of candidates were presented by the electoral committees of Polish parliamentary parties. In total, the largest number of candidates in these three voivodeships was presented by the Electoral Committee of the Law and Justice. A somewhat higher number of candidates in the Silesian Voivodeship was obtained by the Electoral Committee of the Civic Platform

of the Republic of Poland. A high number of candidates was likewise presented by the Electoral Committee of the Polish People's Party, particularly in the Sub-Carpathian and Lesser Poland Voivodeships and somewhat lower in the Silesian. The situation was the reverse in the case of the Democratic Left Alliance, which presented the highest number of candidates for the Silesian Voivodeship. Quite a large number of candidates was presented in Silesia by the Electoral Committee of the Silesian Autonomy Movement (SAM) (see Table 4). Apart from that, it may be observed that some electoral committees had interesting names, such as the Bunch of Scoffers Electoral Committee, headquartered in Sosnowiec; the Centre-Behavioural-Socialist Agreement Electoral Committee in Sosnowiec; and the Human Rights Defenders Electoral Committee in Krakow (see also Żurek, 2013, pp. 143-156).

Table 4.: Number of candidates in voivodeships which border with Slovakia, by electoral committee in local government election in 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Voivodeship			Poland's total
		Lesser Poland	Sub-Carpathian	Silesian	
1	Law & Justice EC	2,509	2,634	2,557	31,818
		7,700			
2	Civic Platform EC	1,833	1,343	2,589	29,158
		5,765			
3	Polish People's Party EC	1,052	1,513	833	25,491
		3,398			
4	Democratic Left Alliance EC	926	500	1,564	19,384
		2,990			
5	Silesian Autonomy Movement EC	0	0	430	466
		430			
6	Right Wing of the Republic EC	105	69	116	562
		290			
7	Supporters of Janusz Korwin-Mikke EC	141	10	51	559
		202			
8	National Party of Retirees and Pensioners EC	0	66	97	809
		163			
9	Polish Labour Party – August 80 EC	46	33	75	789
		154			
10	Andrzej Lepper's Our Home Poland – Self-Defence EC	1	62	43	1 370
		106			
11	Tarnogóra District Civic Initiative EC	0	0	132	132
		132			
	Left Coalition Electoral Committee	46	0	55	497
		101			
13	Polish Nation's Alliance EC	0	0	93	155
		93			

14	League of Polish Families EC	8	12	71	368
		91			
15	National Self-Government Communi-ty EC	7	57	17	1,130
		81			
16	Krakow Justice EC	81	0	0	81
		81			
17	Marek Nawara's Lesser Poland Com-munity EC	73	0	0	73
		73			
18	Election Platform EC	0	0	70	70
		70			
19	National Revival of Poland EC	25	0	36	140
		61			
20	Real Politics Union EC	0	0	48	244
		48			
21	Human Rights Defenders EC	15	0	0	15
		15			
22	Poland's Direction EC	0	0	8	112
		8			
23	The Young as Guarantee of Change EC	0	0	8	19
		8			
24	Free Thinkers EC	0	0	8	8
		8			
25	Protect Nature EC	0	0	7	7
		7			
26	Bunch of Scoffers EC	0	0	6	6
		6			
27	Centre-Behavioural-Socialist Agree-ment EC	0	0	6	6
		6			

Source: own research.

In the Sub-Carpathian and Lesser Poland Voivodeships, the local government election turnout on November 21, 2010 was higher than the national average, reaching 50.75% and 48.58% respectively. In the Silesian Voivodeship, in contrast, the turnout was much lower, reaching only 42.94%. Lower turnout (40.99%) was recorded only in the Opole Voivodeship. Even lower turnouts were recorded in the runoff election for heads of municipalities, town mayors and presidents of cities on December 5, 2010. At that time, also the Silesian Voivode-ship had Poland's lowest turnout, i.e. less than 30% (29.45 %).

As a result of the local government election, the largest number of councillor seats in the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship was obtained by the Law and Justice Electoral Committee. The Polish People's Party Electoral Committee came second, with half as many seats. The Law and Justice had a considerably larger support at almost every level of the local government. It was only in the election for the councils of towns with district

rights that this party was overtaken by the Civic Platform (see Table 5).

Table 5.: Seat distribution in regional parliaments and councils in Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship in local government election of November 21, 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Seats	Regional parliament	District councils	Councils of towns with district rights	Municipal councils		Total
						over 20,000 inhabitants	up to 20,000 inhabitants	
1.	L&J EC	quantity	15	160	24	99	300	598
		%	45.45	37.12	26.67	29.12	14.29	19.97
2.	PPP EC	quantity	7	77	1	20	189	294
		%	21.21	17.87	1.11	5.88	9.00	9.82
3.	CP EC	quantity	7	51	26	26	21	131
		%	21.21	11.83	28.89	7.65	1.00	4.38
4.	DLA EC	quantity	4	4	3	4	10	25
		%	12.12	0.93	3.33	1.18	0.48	0.84
5.	Other	quantity	0	139	36	191	1 580	1,946
		%	0	32.25	40.00	56.18	75.24	65.00
Total		quantity	33	431	90	340	2,100	2,994
		%	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Wyniki [2], 2010.

In the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, the local government was also won by the Law and Justice Electoral Committee. Yet the number of the seats which it obtained here was by 160 seats lower than in the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship. The victory was also weaker in the Lesser Poland Voivodeship which offered ca. 500 seats more than in the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship. Following the election, in Lesser Poland, the second most important power became the Civic Platform, which in this voivodeship obtained a total of more than twice as many as in the Sub-Carpathian. Third came the Polish People's Party, with over 250 seats. Out of all the electoral committees, it also obtained the largest number of seats in the municipalities of up to 20,000 inhabitants. In terms of councils of municipalities of above 20,000 inhabitants, the situation in the Lesser Poland Voivodeship paralleled that in the Sub-Carpathian: the largest number of seats went to the Law and Justice, and in the councils of the largest cities – to the Civic Platform (see Table 6).

Table 6.: Seat distribution in regional parliaments and councils in Lesser Poland Voivodeships after local government election of November 21, 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Seat	Regional parliament	District councils	Councils of towns with district rights	Municipal councils		Total
						above 20,000 inhabitants	up to 20,000 inhabitants	
1.	L&J EC	quantity	16	131	27	110	154	438
		%	41.03	29.31	29.67	17.94	6.84	12.73
2.	CV EC	quantity	17	95	40	96	33	281
		%	43.59	21.25	43.96	15.66	1.47	8.17
3.	PPP EC	quantity	4	38	0	14	197	253
		%	10.26	8.50	0	2.28	8.76	7.35
4.	DLA EC	quantity	2	13	2	21	17	55
		%	5.13	2.91	2.20	3.43	0.76	1.60
5.	Other	quantity	0	170	22	372	1,849	2,413
		%	0	38.03	24.18	60.69	82.18	70.15
Total		quantity	39	447	91	613	2,250	3,440
		%	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Wyniki [2], 2010.

In the Silesian Voivodeship, the largest number of seats were won by the candidates from the Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland's Electoral Committee. They obtained the highest support at almost every level of the local government. Only in the municipalities of up to 20,000 inhabitants more seats went to the candidates supported by the Polish People's Party. The second political power in the region became the Law and Justice, and third came the Democratic Left Alliance, which – regularly – obtains one of the highest electoral results in Silesia. Apart from that, it is interesting to note the Silesian Autonomy Movement, which managed to introduce its representatives into all levels of the local government (see Table 7).

Table 7.: Seat distribution in regional parliaments and councils in Silesian Voivodeship after local government election of November 21, 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Seats	Regional parliaments	District councils	Councils of towns with district rights	Municipal councils		Total
						above 20,000 inhabitants	up to 20,000 inhabitants	
1.	CPEC	quantity	22	96	143	90	61	412
		%	45.83	24.18	30.43	19.96	3.20	12.60
2.	L&J EC	quantity	11	49	70	33	41	204
		%	22.92	12.34	14.89	7.32	2.15	6.24
3.	DLA EC	quantity	10	28	44	23	22	127
		%	20.83	7.05	9.36	5.10	1.15	3.88



4.	PPP EC	quantity	2	23	0	2	93	120
		%	4.17	5.79	0	0.44	4.88	3.67
6.	Other (incl. SAM EC)	quantity	3 (3)	201 (6)	213 (3)	303 (4)	1,688 (20)	2,408 (36)
		%	6.25 (6.25)	50.63 (1.51)	45.32 (0.64)	67.18 (0.89)	88.61 (1.05)	73.62 (1.10)
Total		quantity	48	397	470	451	1,905	3,271
		%	100	100	100	100	100	100

SAM EC – Silesian Autonomy Movement Electoral Committee

Sources: Wyniki [2], 2010. Obwieszczenie, 2010. Wybrani, 2010.

But the highest number of seats for municipality and district councils was won by in-dependent candidates, who were neither members nor regular activists of any particular political party. Higher politicisation of the elected councillors can be seen in the composition of the councils in the largest cities. Yet the highest politicisation is to be observed in regional parliaments (see Tables 8-12). Out of the three voivodeships under consideration, it was the highest in the election to the Sub-Carpathian regional parliament, where only 6% valid votes were cast for candidates unsupported by any parliamentary party. The smallest volume of political association was to be noticed in the Silesian regional parliament. In the election to this regional parliament, over 22% valid votes were cast for candidates unrelated to parliamentary parties. As a result of the 2010 election, the Silesian regional parliament was entered by the candidates from all parliamentary parties. Yet apart from them, three seats in this parliament were taken by representatives of the Silesian Autonomy Movement Electoral Committee. In the Silesian regional parliament, the latter became the fourth political power, after the Civic Platform, the Law and Justice and the Democratic Left Alliance, and before the Polish People's Party, which only obtained two seats (see Table 12).

Table 8.: Percentage of valid votes cast for members of regional parliaments in voivodeships which border with Slovakia in 2010, by electoral committee of Poland's parliamentary parties

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Voivodeship			Average
		Lesser Poland	Sub-Carpathian	Silesian	
1	Law and Justice EC	31.69	38.54	20.76	30.33
2	Civic Platform EC	33.82	21.71	33.66	29.73
3	Polish People's Party EC	10.33	21.53	7.11	12.99
4	Democratic Left Alliance EC	9.46	12.32	16.42	12.73
5	Other	14.70	5.90	22.05	14.21

Source: Wyniki, 2010.

Table 9.: Percentage of valid votes cast for members of regional parliaments in voivodships which border with Slovakia in 2010, by electoral committee

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Voivodship			Poland's total
		Lesser Po-land	Sub-Carpathian	Silesian	
1	Law and Justice EC	31.69	38.54	20.76	23,05
		30.33			
2	Civic Platform EC	33.82	21.71	33.66	30,89
		29.73			
3	Polish People's Party EC	10.33	21.53	7.11	16,30
		12.99			
4	Democratic Left Alliance EC	9.46	12.32	16.42	15,20
		12.73			
5	Silesian Autonomy Movement EC	-	-	8.49	0,97
		2.83			
6	Marek Nawara's Lesser Poland Community EC	6.13	-	-	0,54
		2.04			
7	National Party of Retirees and Pensioners EC	-	2.28	2.85	1,82
		1.71			
8	Janusz Korwin-Mikke's Supporters EC	2.69	0.30	1.53	1,22
		1.50			
9	Polish Labour Party – August 80 EC	1.07	0.92	1.21	1.18
		1.06			
10	Right Wing of the Republic EC	1.63	-	1.18	0.62
		0.93			
11	Election Platform EC	-	-	2.19	0.25
		0.73			
12	League of Polish Families EC	0.33	0.27	1.04	0.69
		0.54			
13	Left Coalition EC	1.11	-	0.48	0.72
		0.53			
14	Our Home Poland – Andrzej Lepper's Self-Defence EC	-	0.97	0.57	1.05
		0.51			
15	Polish Nation's Alliance EC	-	0.97	-	0.10
		0.32			
16	Poland's National Revival EC	0.48	-	0.46	0.24
		0.31			
17	Krakow Justice EC	0.79	-	-	0.07
		0.26			
18	National Self-Government Community EC	0.10	0.18	0.41	0.71
		0.23			
19	Real Politics Union EC	-	-	0.67	0.44
		0.22			

20	Human Rights Defenders EC	0.35	-	-	0.03
		0.11			
21	The Young as Guarantee of Change EC	-	-	0.33	0.08
		0.11			
22	Tarnogóra District Civic Initiative EC	-	-	0.33	0.04
		0.11			
23	Poland's Direction EC	-	-	0.07	0.12
		0.02			
24	Free Thinkers EC	-	-	0.07	0.01
		0.02			
25	Protect Nature EC	-	-	0.05	0.01
		0.01			
26	Bunch of Scoffers EC	-	-	0.05	0.01
		0.01			
27	Centre-Behavioural-Socialist Agreement EC	-	-	0.05	0.01
		0.01			

Source: Wyniki. 2010.

Table 10.: Seat distribution in Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship's regional parliament among electoral committee lists in 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Valid votes cast for list		Quantity of candidates	Quantity of seats
		Quantity	%		
1	Law and Justice EC	293,637	38.5	66	15
2	Civic Platform EC	165,435	21.7	66	7
3	Polish People's Party EC	164,062	21.5	66	7
4	Democratic Left Alliance EC	93,847	12.3	66	4
5	National Party of Retirees and Pensioners EC	17,368	2.3	66	0
6	Our Home Poland – Andrzej Lepper's Self-Defence EC	7,369	1.00	39	0
7	Polish Nation's Alliance EC	7,407	1.00	34	0
8	Polish Labour Party – August 80 EC	7,043	0.9	33	0
9	League of Polish Families EC	2,083	0.30	12	0
10	Janusz Korwin-Mikke's Supporters EC	2,298	0.30	6	0
11	National Self-Government Community EC	1,396	0.20	5	0
Total	761,945	100,00	459	33	

Source: Podział, 2010.

Table 11.: Seat distribution in Lesser Poland Voivodeship's regional parliament among electoral committee lists in 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Valid votes cast for list		Quantity of candidates	Quantity of seats
		Quantity	%		
1	Civic Platform EC	378,798	33.82	78	17
2	Law and Justice EC	354,898	31.69	77	16
3	Polish People's Party EC	115,646	10.33	78	4
4	Democratic Left Alliance EC	106,000	9.46	71	2
5	Marek Nawara's Lesser Poland Community EC	68,600	6.13	73	0
6	Janusz Korwin-Mikke's Supporters EC	30,134	2.69	55	0
7	Right Wing of the Republic EC	18,308	1.63	62	0
8	Left Coalition EC	12,487	1.11	46	0
9	Polish Labour Party – August 80 EC	12,004	1.07	46	0
10	Krakow Justice EC	8,796	0.79	37	0
11	Poland's National Revival EC	5,388	0.48	25	0
12	Human Rights Defenders EC	3,972	0.35	9	0
13	League of Polish Families EC	3,745	0.33	6	0
14	National Self-Government Community EC	1,147	0.1	6	0
Total	1,119,923		669	39	

Source: Podział [2], 2010.

Table 12.: Seat distribution in Silesian Voivodeship's regional parliament among electoral committee lists in 2010

No.	Electoral Committee (EC)	Valid votes cast for list		Quantity of candidates	Quantity of seats
		Quantity	%		
1	Civic Platform EC	486,638	33.66	94	22
2	Law and Justice EC	300,147	20.76	94	11
3	KW Democratic Left Alliance	237,478	16.42	83	10
4	Silesian Autonomy Movement EC	122,781	8.49	84	3
5	Polish People's Party EC	102,745	7.11	95	2
6	National Party of Retirees and Pensioners EC	41,250	2.85	68	0
7	Election Platform EC	31,710	2.19	70	0
8	Janusz Korwin-Mikke's Supporters EC	22,145	1.53	48	0
9	Polish Labour Party – August 80 EC	17,560	1.21	69	0
10	Right Wing of the Republic EC	17,028	1.18	67	0
11	League of Polish Families EC	15,039	1.04	53	0

12	Real Politics Union EC	9,698	0.67	47	0
13	Our Home Poland – Andrzej Lepper’s Self-Defence EC	8,285	0.57	42	0
14	Left Coalition EC	6,909	0.48	27	0
15	Poland’s National Revival EC	6,711	0.46	35	0
16	National Self-Government Community EC	5,953	0.41	17	0
17	The Young as Guarantee of Change EC	4,805	0.33	7	0
18	Tarnogóra District Civic Initiative EC	4,764	0.33	14	0
19	Poland’s Direction EC	999	0.07	7	0
20	Free Thinkers EC	979	0.07	8	0
21	Protect Nature EC	769	0.05	7	0
22	Bunch of Scoffers EC	767	0.05	6	0
23	Centre-Behavioural-Socialist Agreement EC	680	0.05	6	0
Total	1,445,840		1,048	48	

Source: Podział [3], 2010.

Following the regional parliament election, marshals of the voivodeships were elected. The Lesser Poland regional parliament elected Marek Sowa of the Civic Platform to be Marshal. The Silesian Voivodeship’s regional parliament elected Adam Matusiewicz of the Civic Platform to be Marshal. But in January 2013 a new marshal had to be elected: it was the Civic Platform’s Mirosław Sekuła. The reason for Adam Matusiewicz’s earlier resignation from office was the chaos resulting from the takeover of passenger railway transport in the Silesian Voivodeship by the Silesian Railway Company, subordinated to the voivodeship’s authorities. In the Podlasie voivodeship, after the 2010 regional parliament election, Mirosław Karapyta of the Polish People’s Party was elected Marshal. He was, however, recalled from office by the regional parliament on May 27, 2013, and Władysław Ortyl of the Law and Justice became the new marshal. Mirosław Karapyta was recalled from the office of the Marshal of the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship in connection with his detention and prosecution charges of corruption and abuse of office in the form of personal benefit from sexual harassment (Zawadka, 2013, p. A4).

As for the elections for heads of municipalities, town mayors and city presidents, the binding electoral law stipulates that if no candidate obtains over 50% support, a runoff election must be held. It is to be a choice between two candidates only – those who have obtained the highest number of votes in the first round. The 2010 local government election saw some candidates winning in the first round: for example, in the capital of the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship – Rzeszów, and in the capital of the Silesian Voivodeship – Katowice. Tadeusz Ferenc of the Democratic Left Alliance, who received over 53% of votes in the first round (see Table 13), became President of Rzeszów. He has continued in office since 2002, when first elected. Similarly, the person who had held the office before was elected: Piotr Uszok (see Table 14), President of Katowice, has been in office

since 1998. As was the case with Rzeszów and Katowice, in Lesser Poland's capital – Krakow, the previous President – Prof. Jacek Majchrowski was re-elected. He had been first elected President of Krakow in 2002, and was re-elected in 2006. But in 2010 he was elected President only in the second round (see Table 15). Although Jacek Majchrowski entered in the election as an independent and nonpartisan candidate, the Polish People's Party gave him their support (Kubicki, 2013, pp. 115, 120).

Table 13.: Results of election for President of Rzeszów of November 21, 2010

No.	Name and surname	Political affiliation	Number of votes	
			Quantity	%
1	Tadeusz Ferenc	member of Democratic Left Alliance	36,190	53.25
2	Jerzy Cypriś	member of Law and Justice	23,695	34.86
3	Andrzej Dec	member of Civic Platform	5,157	7.59
4	Wiesław Walat	independent	1,880	2.77
5	Jerzy Maślanka	independent	1,043	1.53

Source: Zbiorcze, 2010.

Table 14.: Results of election for President of Katowice of November 21, 2010

No.	Name and surname	Political affiliation	Number of votes	
			Quantity	%
1	Piotr Uszok	independent	50,527	51.61
2	Arkadiusz Godlewski	member of Civic Platform	33,754	34.47
3	Marek Szczerbowski	member of Democratic Left Alliance	11,212	11.45
4	Adam Stach	member of Polish People's Party	2,418	2.47

Source: Zbiorcze [2], 2010.

Table 15.: Results of election for President of Krakow of November 21, 2010

No.	Name and surname	Political affiliation	Number of votes			
			First round		Runoff	
			Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1	Jacek Majchrowski	independent	102,594	40.78	122,130	59.55
2	Stanisław Kracik	independent	84,748	33.69	82,951	40.45
3	Andrzej Duda	member of Law and Justice	56,302	22.38	-	-
4	Stanisław Żółtek	member of Real Politics Union	3,920	1.56	-	-
5	Piotr Boroń	independent	2,966	1.18	-	-
6	Stanisław Gniadek	independent	1,033	0.41	-	-

Source: own research

### 3 CONCLUSION

Through the prism of the local government election in three Polish voivodeships which border with Slovakia, a full range of Poland's political divisions can be seen. The Silesian Voivodeship shows a strong influence of the largest parliamentary party, i.e. the Civic Platform. The influence of the Silesian Autonomy Movement is also visible. In the Sub-Carpathian Voivodeship, it is the influence of the largest opposition party of Poland's Parliament, i.e. the Law and Justice, that predominates. A major power base of the Democratic Left Alliance is, traditionally, Silesia. The Polish People's Party is the leader in the smallest municipalities, of rural and small town types, which can be observed in all the studied voivodeships. In the middle of all these influences stands Lesser Poland, with its traditional preference for rightist views (see for example Wolek, 2008, pp. 38-45). Yet in 2010 the largest number of seats in municipality and district councils were won by independent candidates, i.e. ones unrelated with any political party. This provides the best evidence in favour of the apolitical nature of Poland's local government elections.

It can also be observed that the Polish local government naturally maintains contact and initiates a variety of events with the participation of Slovakian authorities. Recently, much has been said about the joint organisation by Poland and Slovakia of the 2022 winter Olympics. At the very beginning, this initiative received strong support from the President of Krakow, Jacek Majchrowski, and Marshal of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Marek Sowa. At present, however, on the Polish side, more and more doubts are being voiced, which may – at least to some extent – be clarified by the planned referendum on this issue.

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