

Marcin Anaszewicz (2015). *Komunikowanie rządowe w Polsce. Perspektywa instytucjonalna* [Government Communication in Poland. An Institutional Perspective]. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, pp. 272, ISBN: 978-83-229-3471-5.

In his book, M. Anaszewicz took up the subject that has not been more broadly described in the Polish literature before. The author presents in his research a new term — namely *government communication*. It is an innovative approach to the subject of communication. The author attempts to locate government communication in a reference to political communication and public communication — especially that the government (the ministers and the Prime Minister) perform the dual functions: decision-makers in public affairs and political actors.

The scientific work consists of four chapters: the essence of government communication; legal regulations in government communication in Poland; organization of government communication; government communication practice. The author moves from theoretical considerations in reference to the specifics of government communication with regard to public communication and political analysis of the legal regulations (both on an international and Polish level). Anaszewicz bases the results on the research which was conducted from 2010 to 2013. The data has been gathered by sending requests for public information addressed to individual ministries and the Prime Minister's Office. Importantly, at the end of the book there are recommendations (based on the conducted studies) that should be implemented in order to improve the efficiency of government communication, minimize costs and improve consistency of communication.

The advantage of this book lies in its innovative character and that it covers a research area which has rarely been analysed in Polish science before. The author himself tried to answer the following question:

Why government communication? Because the discussion about the process of government communication with the co-rulers (citizens) seems to be a discussion about the essence of democracy and such a discussion should be conducted always and as often as possible, because the work over the quality of democracy is a continuous process — continuous change. (p. 14)

The research hypothesis was that government communication is dispersed and is ministerial rather than centralized. This assertion is developed at the end of the conclusions of the *de lege ferenda* character, where the author tries to direct attention to common problems and possible ways of solving them. This pragmatic outcome of the research is relevant to the assessment of the whole work. It is located in the realities and fulfils the most important goal of science — it may cause positive changes in the studied area.

The interdisciplinary approach of the study of communication was also very interesting. The analysis of legal regulations showed the number of documents

where the references to the process of communication could be found (pp. 75–124). This indicates that the government administration has a legal obligation to provide information not only in relation to the external environment, but also to other constitutional bodies. This means that all actions must be transparent. However, analysis conducted by Anaszewicz showed that the institutions treat the right the access to public information in very different ways. This is also the reason that some of the results are incomplete. The same data collection showed that there is no single policy for the management of information, especially that at the author's requests the offices respond in very different ways.

An interesting element of the study was the comparison of the sample models (the author presented them as examples), namely the UK and Sweden. Thereby, Anaszewicz presented differences between these systems and the Polish system and expands the research to other European countries with a long democratic history. It makes it possible to use already proven solutions and transfer them to the Polish ground.

Anaszewicz's monograph is worth recommending, not only for media experts, but also for political scientists and researchers dealing with the issue of public administration. As the author states, this work is not exhaustive, but represents the multi-dimensional context of legal, organizational, and financial government communication (p. 234). It is worth noting, that the future study will be supplemented by research in regional government or broadly speaking — in public administration. The field of the analysis would also be the effectiveness of performed communication and used tools. The book *Government communication in Poland. An institutional perspective* certainly can be considered as a position that is worth reading, especially that it draws attention to new fields of study which have not been analyzed in Polish science before. Moreover, the added value of the publication is its pragmatic character. The author is trying to propose a solution that would aim to improve the process of government communication. Therefore, the monograph should be interesting for political actors, civil servants, and everyone holding positions in the government apparatus who is engaged with the process of internal and external communication.

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Kaarle Nordenstreng, Ulf Jonas Björk, Frank Beyersdorf, Svennik Høyer and Epp Lauk (2016). *A History of the International Movement of Journalists. Professionalism Versus Politics*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 274, ISBN 978-1-137-53054-7.

This book is the historical account of international journalists' organizations roughly between the 1890s and 1990s. The story is accompanied by a discussion of the