

# Forschungsarbeit des Monats

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Thema der Dissertation:  
„The Third Sector in Poland. History and Presence.“

**Ewa  
Przeddecka**

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**Stand der Arbeit:** Erhebungsphase

## Abstract

The subject of my thesis are Polish third sector organizations (TSOs) facing the turbulent conditions of the post-communist transformation and the impact they have on welfare provision, democratization processes and community building.

The collapse of the communist regime in 1989 radically changed the political, economic and social realities and required simultaneous actions building foundations of a new social order. Authority relocation from the state to the citizenry was a meaningful element of the transformation ideology. A vivid civil society and its participatory legitimization were expected to build a new foundation for the emerging democracy. For social policy the transformation was supposed to mean departure from state monopoly on social service delivery. Third sector organizations were expected to organize at grass-root level, to participate in the welfare production as well as to strengthen local communities and enhance trust and social networks.

My work aims to address questions such as to what extent the Polish TSOs fulfill these expectations, what are the main obstacles they confront, how do they respond to turbulent environments and what recommendations could be formulated to foster their development.

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