

The dissertation describes the political, social and organizational aspects of the floods on the Oder basin in 1997 and 2010. The comparative approach to the consequences of the two biggest floods of the Odra river opens the possibility of a new look at the issues discussed. It made possible to look at the similarities and differences in the way politicians and citizens (especially local communities) reacted to the flood. The impact of the floods on the course and results of the election campaigns in 1997 and 2010 was analyzed. The time interval between the two floods made it possible to analyze the flood prevention strategy adopted for the Odra river basin after 1997.

The key areas of the analysis were reflected in the structure of the dissertation. The first chapter was largely devoted to formal, legal and conceptual issues. It presents a definition of the phenomenon that was the subject of the research. The chapter describes the concepts of natural disaster and the state of natural disaster in the institutional and legal system of the Republic of Poland. The concept of flood, its types and historical examples of this phenomenon in Poland were presented. The following part of the chapter describes the structure of the crisis management system in Poland, taking into account the scope of tasks of the authorities that are elements of this system. The provisions of the National Crisis Management Plan, which is the superior planning document, defining the strategy of actions in the field of crisis management, were also analyzed. Chapters two and three, based on a case study, were constructed in an analogous way, taking into account several research areas. The second chapter deals with the consequences of the flood of July 1997, while the third chapter deals with the flood that hit Poland in May and June 2010. Firstly, these chapters discuss the reactions of politicians in the context of public relations, as well as analyzed the potential impact of public sentiment caused by the flood on electoral preferences expressed in the parliamentary elections in 1997 and the presidential election in 2010. The organizational level covered primarily the analysis of the functioning of management entities and intervention and rescue units during floods. The implementation of the flood prevention strategy for the Oder basin, introduced after the flood in 1997, was also described. The last of the distinguished categories concerns the social aspect of floods, related to the role of the media and the attitude of the society in an emergency situation. The fragments of the dissertation, in which the social consequences of the floods in 1997 and 2010 were analyzed, were constructed on the basis of a case study, extracting the most interesting processes initiated in this area. The content of the fourth chapter is a comparative approach to both floods, emphasizing both similarities and differences identified in the categories presented above. In this part of the dissertation, the research hypotheses were verified and the author's conclusions were formulated.

Keywords: national safety, crisis management, natural disaster, public relations