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Local government as an architect of the coalitions for local development
Paper proposal

The proposed paper addresses several issues referred to in the Conference's announcement.

Firstly, it directly relates to the question of participation of citizens. The title "coalitions for local development" are presented on the example of the area-based partnerships. They constitute the networks of various stakeholders, to the considerable extent influenced by local authorities, which are usual architects of their creation.

Secondly, studied coalitions were established in the framework of EU LEADER Programme. Currently they have a chance to be an important actor in the community-led local development (CLLD) - an instrument of Community policy addressed to the increase of the citizens' participation in local development. Hereby, the paper refers to the role of EU in local development.

Thirdly, similarly to other EU states, Poland faces the problem of numerous depopulating municipalities, which are not strong enough to manage local services. Still, central authorities are reluctant to undertake steps towards their amalgamation. In those circumstances, coalitions for local development, gathering several municipalities, and joining community resources might support local authorities in delivering public services.