



IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE, Warsaw 2017  
Library and Research Services for Parliaments



INFORMATION AS THE FOUNDATION  
FOR SOCIAL SOLIDARITY  
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES  
AND RESEARCH SERVICES

16 August 2017



## SESSION II

Access to developed parliamentary information  
– basis for citizens' involvement in public affairs

# The role of research services and sharing their work with the public

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## Introductory remarks

### The Bureau of Research:

- Mission → **scientific advisory services for the Sejm („accurate information in accessible form“)**
- Team → **89 persons (incl. 16 professors & 35 doctors)**
- Structure → **one of the organisational units of the Chancellery of the Sejm, divided into 5 departments**
- Tasks → **research (legal, social, economic & political), expert assistance for the committees and MPs, evaluation of draft acts, comparative and inter-disciplinary analyses, publications**



## The structure of presentation

- The position of parliamentary research services in the legislative process → the position of the expert in the decision-making process
- The general principles of sharing results of work by parliamentary research services
- Making opinions and other studies available to the public by the Bureau of Research



## The status of expert - Two roles played by expert -

### I. „Expert-scientist“

- neutral stance;
- profound knowledge; authority of science;

### II. „Expert-advisor“

- opinion usually disputable in scientific terms;
- future consequences of the proposed solutions;

H. G. Gadamer: *„An expert occupies a special place between science and political decision which may not be safe or unambiguous.“*



## General principles of sharing results of work by parliamentary research services

- The tension between the transparency and confidentiality of decision-making process
- Two abstract models of regulation on sharing the results of work of the parliamentary research services:
  - the research results are subject to the full right of access to public information;
  - the research results may be disclosed to third parties upon the consent of the ordering party (i.e. the parliamentarian who requested the preparation of the opinion);



## **Making research results available to the general public by the Bureau of Research**

- Rules on expert activities in the Sejm
- Rules on the transparency of the expert activities in the Sejm
- Sharing the results of work by the Bureau of Research – practicalities:
  - BAS publications;
  - Sejm website;
  - access upon request;



## **Legal basis for the activities of the Bureau of Research**

- The Act on the Exercise of the Mandate of a Deputy or Senator, Article 46(2):

*The Chancellery of the Sejm and the Chancellery of the Senate ... shall ensure and organise services for Deputies and Senators necessary for the performance of their duties as well as provide professional support, particularly access to specialised studies, literature and expert reports.*

- The Standing Orders of the Sejm , Article 12(6)

*The Presidium of the Sejm shall formulate the principles of organising scholarly consultation for the benefit of the Sejm and its organs, of appointing consultants to the Sejm and utilisation of the opinions and reports of experts.*

- The Resolution of the Presidium of the Sejm on organising scientific consultancy for the Sejm and its bodies, *passim*



## *The role of research services and sharing their work with the public*

Thank you for your attention !

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