

**Abstract**

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## **Public or National? Polish Political Parties' Views on the Role of Public Service Media**

Media in Poland have experienced significant changes in the aftermath of 2015 parliamentary elections which led to the creation of majority government by conservative Law and Justice party. This changes include deep reforms of Polish Public Service Media (PSM).

While the previous Government, led by Platforma Obywatelska (currently biggest oppositional party) was reluctant to introduce changes in governance and financing processes of PSM, the Law and Justice has made successful attempt to reform PSM in the first three months of its Government. Regulations from December 2015 gave the Treasury Ministry the right to nominate Director General of TVP and PR. Then, in June 2016 Act on the National Media Council was enacted, forming a completely new body for PSM matters – the National Media Council, regarded as being opposed to Polish Constitution as it might have underlined tasks and competencies of the already existing National Broadcasting Council. Changes in PSM governance have further resulted in over hundred PSM employees being replaced by right-wing oriented journalists.

As a consequence, discussions about PSM and their activities became one of the most important topic in political agenda, also gathering people on the streets either to provide support or to protest against the government's policy.

Our paper aims to present and discuss positions of biggest Polish political parties towards the role and importance of PSM. All these discussions are put in context of current regulatory changes and political agenda.