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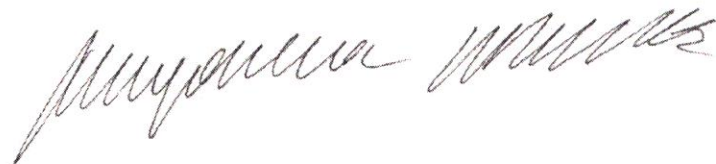
Abstract of the doctoral dissertation entitled Building a tool for monitoring and estimating the demand for services implemented as part of social policy at the regional and local levels

Conducting evidence-based social policy requires having extensive knowledge to make informed decisions about the lives of others. Unfortunately, in aid practice, decision-makers at both the local and regional levels do not have sufficient access to professional research and analysis to support their strategic decisions. Moreover, while they have many data sets at their disposal, in practice they do not have sufficient resources and tools to use them. Awareness of the needs of local governments to have knowledge of current demographic and social processes was the impetus for work aimed at developing a solution to systematically provide them with up-to-date information. As a result, the main objective of my work became the creation of a tool for inclusive social policy estimating the demand for services for children and adolescents and their families in the Łódź province and its counties, and the practical development of an IT tool, automatically reporting the results by territorial units of the Łódź province. Due to its applied nature, the work was created within the framework of the *Implementation Doctorate Program*, which aims to support cooperation between entities of the higher education and science system and the socio-economic environment. For my employer- a local government unit involved in the formation of social policy in the Lodz region, the purpose of the work proved useful and worth undertaking.

The prepared dissertation contains three chapters, the first of which presents the theoretical background for my considerations, constructed around the parallel: social problems- social policy- social services. In it, I discuss the development of theoretical perspectives including the changing ways of defining a social problem, models for practicing social policy, as well as the role of this policy in the process of shaping the living conditions of the population. I also characterize social services and discuss their systemic and legal conditions. In the second chapter, I make a detailed spatial-temporal analysis of services provided to children and young people and their families in 2012-2021 in the Lodz region. I divided these services into two

need to systematically increase the number of places in foster family while reducing the number in foster care institutions. They provide a much better educational and developing environment for children, with the added value that the cost of maintaining a child in an unrelated foster family is one-third lower than the cost of maintaining a child in an institution.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muyalwa MUSA', written in a cursive style.