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**State Ownership in Enterprises and Party Patronage:
An Investigation of State-Owned Enterprises in Poland in the 21st Century**

Abstract: This project investigates the role of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) as instruments of party patronage, focusing on Polish SOEs in the 21st century. It conceptualizes political parties as patrons and SOE board members who are party loyalists as their clients. A key component of the project is the development of a comprehensive dataset of SOEs in Poland from 2001 to 2024, which has been missing until now, utilizing multiple data sources. The first part of the project assesses the scale of SOE politicization by analyzing the representation of politicians on supervisory and management boards. The second part examines the financial support provided to political parties through individual donations made by SOE board members. Preliminary findings indicate that appointments of politicians to SOE boards have been significant throughout the 21st century, with a substantial increase in politicization after 2016. Similarly, donations from SOE board members to political parties have grown, becoming a substantial part of total party donations in recent years.