**ABSTRACT**

The aim of the paper was to enhance understanding of the specificity of culture within public organizations. The paper analyzed different typologies of public organization cultures. Then it proposes a new typology based on the main public management models and discusses chosen issues of ethics within public organizations. Provided investigations showed that the essence of the specific culture of public organizations can be explained well by analysing it in the context of various models of public management. Regardless of the specific characteristics of a given public organization, the contemporary culture of public organizations is distinguished by: the law as the primary basis of decision-making, a higher degree of formalization, greater stability-orientation, the presence of a certain degree of autonomy for internal purposes, and sensitivity to the ethical aspects of basic assumptions, norms, attitudes and organizational behavior.