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REGIONAL AND LOCAL SECURITY CONDITIONS - COUNTERACTING THREATS AND SHAPING A SAFE PUBLIC SPACE

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The concept and constitutional basis of security

Security belongs to the basic categories of contemporary international relations, both theoretically and practically.¹ There are many definitions of this concept in the source literature. As Ł. Roman emphasises, *security is one of the most important needs of a human, and therefore also of the state, whose aim is to provide it.*² It is also worth quoting the definition given by A. Czupryński, according to which *security is the primary need of humans and the institutions they created, because it is connected with social and civilisation development.*³ A similar view is presented by W. Krztoń, who believes that *security can also be seen as a value to be sought and cared for.*⁴ E. Grigoreva and L. Garifova, on the other hand, speak in favour of an economic approach to safety. They call economic security *a complex social and economic category, which is influenced by the constantly changing environment of material production and external and internal threats to the economy.*⁵ Furthermore, Ch. Fjäder believes that *security is the primary responsibility of the nation state.* As the author goes on to say, *the task of the nation state is to ensure security through the creation of a professional security bureaucracy.*⁶ To sum up the above, it

¹ Ł. Roman, *Istota współczesnych wyzwań i zagrożeń bezpieczeństwa*, Journal of Modern Science, Vol. 4/27, 2015, p. 210.

² Ibidem, p. 211.

³ A. Czupryński, *Bezpieczeństwo w ujęciu teoretycznym*, [in:] A. Czupryński, B. Wiśniewski, J. Zboina (eds.), *Bezpieczeństwo. Teoria. Badania. Praktyka*, Wyd. CNBOP-PIB, Warszawa 2015, p. 9.

⁴ W. Krztoń, *Pojęcie i istota bezpieczeństwa jednostki*, Zeszyty Naukowe Wyższej Szkoły Informatyki, Zarządzania i Administracji w Warszawie, v. 15, book 3(40) 2017, p. 46.

⁵ E. Grigoreva, L. Garifova, *The economic security of the state: the institutional aspect*, Procedia Economics and Finance, No. 24, 2015, p. 266.

⁶ Ch. Fjäder, *The nation-state, national security and resilience in the age of globalisation*, Resilience International Policies, Practices and Discourses, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2014, p. 117.

can be concluded that security should be understood as a state in which there is no threat to any human good which is guaranteed by the Constitution or other legal regulations.⁷

Therefore, the scope of security issues appears in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997. The basic regulation is contained in Chapter I entitled *The Republic of Poland* in Article 5: *The Republic of Poland shall safeguard the independence and inviolability of its territory, ensure freedom and rights of man and citizen and the security of its citizens, safeguard its national heritage and ensure protection of the environment, guided by the principle of sustainable development.*⁸ Article 126 section 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland also includes security issues relating to the institution of the President: *The President of the Republic of Poland shall ensure that the Constitution is observed, shall safeguard the sovereignty and security of the state and the integrity and indivisibility of its territory.* Furthermore, Article 135 establishes an advisory body of the President of the Republic of Poland, i.e. the National Security Council. Pursuant to Article 146 section 4, security issues also apply to the Council of Ministers, whose task is to ensure the internal and external security of the state and public order.

In the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, regulations relating to security can also be found in other articles,⁹ which refer, among others, to: consumers, users and lessees (Article 76), ecology (Article 74 section 1), safe working conditions (Article 66 section 1) and citizens (Article 31 section 3; Article 53 section 5).¹⁰ To sum up the above considerations, it can be concluded that the concept of security is very broad and ambiguous and falls within the scope of basic needs and tasks of each country.¹¹ Therefore, in order to determine the conditions and possibilities of shaping security in the regional and local dimension, a survey was conducted among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

⁷ A. Misiuk, *Instytucjonalny system bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego*, Wyd. Difin, Warszawa, 2013, pp. 17-18.

⁸ Konstytucja *Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 r.*, Journal of Laws of 1997, No. 78, item 483, Article 5.

⁹ H. Zięba – Załucka, *Konstytucyjne aspekty bezpieczeństwa*, Studia Iuridica Lublinensia, No. 22, 2014, pp. 420-421.

¹⁰ A. Bień-Kacała, *Bezpieczeństwo w Konstytucji RP z 1997 r. – wstępna diagnoza*, Przegląd Prawa Konstytucyjnego, No.2 (24)/2015, p. 14.

¹¹ Z. Ciekankowski, *Rodzaje i źródła zagrożeń bezpieczeństwa*, Bezpieczeństwo i Technika Pożarnicza, No. 17(1). Kwartalnik Centrum Naukowo-Badawczego Ochrony Przeciwpożarowej – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy, Józefów, 2010, p. 27.

Methodological assumptions of the survey

The shape of questionnaires used in the survey and the issues included in the form caters for the problems of local community safety. The research tool in the form of a questionnaire was prepared by the author of the article and the Institute of Management of the Faculty of Management and Command of the War Studies University in Warsaw. The data from the questionnaires were subject to statistical and substantive analysis. During the verification of these questionnaires, the anonymity of all their respondents was ensured.

The main objective of the research project was to determine the future directions of local and regional initiatives in order to shape a safe public space and to counteract threats. The results of the study may have a significant cognitive significance.

The detailed objectives of the study are as follows:

- diagnosis of the current state and sense of security of local communities,
- identification of barriers to the shaping of national security,
- identification of actions to be taken to improve local and regional security.

The study involved 126 full-time and extramural students, which accounted for 53.39% of the total number of students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Research sample characteristics

On the basis of the conducted research it was found that in the group of 126 students 74.6% were women and 25.4% men (see Table 1).

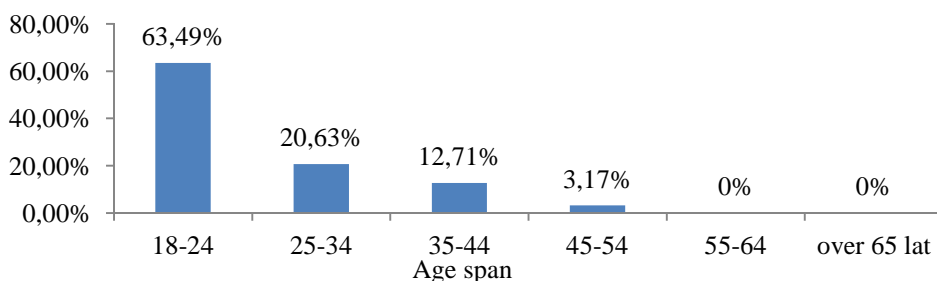
Table 1: Gender structure of respondents (in % of the total number of respondents of the Faculty of Economics of the Zielona Góra University in Sulechów, who took part in the survey)

Respondents gender	Percentage of indications
females	74.60
males	25.40
total	100.00

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The majority of the respondents were people aged between 18 and 24, who constituted 63.49% of all respondents to the survey. The second most numerous group were people between 25 and 34 years of age, constituting

20.63% of all the respondents, whereas the least numerous group among all the respondents were people in the 45-54 age group, whose share amounted to 3.17% of all the respondents. It is worth noting that there were no respondents aged 55-64 or over 64 (see Figure 1).



Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Figure 1: Age structure of respondents (in % of the total number of respondents from Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów who took part in the survey)

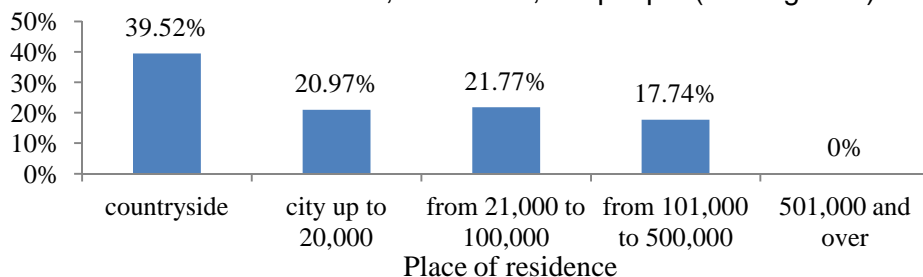
Accounting for the gender of the respondents, it can be noticed that in all the analysed age groups the women were dominant. The highest percentage was observed in the age group 18-24 (48.41% of the total number of respondents), and the lowest in the age group 45-54 (2.38%). The situation is similar among men, where the largest share of them was among young people aged 18-24 (15.08%), and the smallest among those aged 45-54 (0.79%) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Age structure of respondents by gender (in % of the total number of respondents from the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów who took part in the survey)

Age	Gender		
	females	males	Total
18 – 24	48.41	15.08	63.49
25 – 34	12.70	7.94	20.63
35 – 44	11.11	1.59	12.71
45 – 54	2.38	0.79	3.17
% of the total number	74.60	25.40	100.00

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The largest group (39.52%) were the students living in rural areas. Next, 21.77% of the surveyed students were the dwellers of the cities with 21,000 to 100,000 population, and a similar group (20.97%) was formed by the respondents from cities with up to 20,000 inhabitants. With regard to the least numerous group, it was the group of the respondents who lived in the cities from 101,000 to 500,000 people (see Figure 2).



Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Figure 2: Place of residence (in % of the total number of respondents from the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów who took part in the survey)

Local security conditions

When discussing the conditions of local security, it is worth stressing what role in the life of every person is played by his or her own sense of security. Undoubtedly, those entities that meet many human needs, allowing for survival and development, have their share in security.¹² Therefore, the respondents were asked to indicate a maximum of three answers that they mostly associate with the word safety. This term is most often associated with the lack of threats (66.67%), financial stability (65.15%) and living in peace conditions (59.85%) (see Table 3). Less than half of the respondents (48.48%) stated that security means ensuring an adequate standard of living for the family. The lowest number of the respondents indicated professional stability, as it was pointed out only by 28.79% of the students surveyed.

¹² E. Szweđa, *Bezpieczeństwo społeczności lokalnych najbliższej człowieka*, Wyd. Difin, Warszawa, 2016, p. 44.

Table 3: What do you associate safety with? (in % of the total number of respondents from the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów who answered this question)

I associate safety with:	Percentage of indications
no threats	66.67
financial stability	65.15
living in peace	59.85
providing the family with proper living standard	48.48
professional stability	28.79

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

In the next question, the surveyed students were to assess the threats (from 1 – no threat, to 5 – very high threat) which endanger their personal safety the most (see Table 4). The respondents believed that the greatest threat to their personal safety is the restriction of access to health care (3.83 out of 5 possible points). Apart from difficulties with access to a doctor, a significant threat to the students surveyed was also dangerous behaviour on the road (lack of driving culture) (3.62 points) and physical assault (beating) (3.52 points). Other more important threats included acts of vandalism and theft (3.41 points) and the influx of illegal immigrants (3.40 points). Next, the surveyed students mentioned the deterioration of living conditions caused by the loss of a workplace (2.27 points), pollution of the natural environment resulting in the deterioration of health (3.23 points) and dangerous places (unlit squares, parks, streets, courtyards) (3.17 points). Other threats were not assessed as very important, but still remained significant. These threats concerned deterioration of living conditions caused by lower remuneration (2.98 points) and limited access to education (2.73 points).

Table 4: What contemporary threats to personal security are you mostly concerned about? (average score from 1 – no risk, to 5 – very high risk)

Threats to personal safety	average ranking
restricting access to healthcare	3.83
dangerous behaviour on the road (lack of driving culture)	3.62
physical assault (beatings)	3.52
acts of vandalism and theft	3.41

the influx of illegal immigrants	3.40
deterioration of living conditions caused by job losses	3.27
environmental pollution affecting the deterioration of health (pollution of water, air, soil)	3.23
dangerous places (unlit squares, parks, streets, courtyards)	3.17
deterioration in living conditions caused by a reduction in remuneration	2.98
limiting access to education	2.73

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

In the next question, the respondents were asked to assess which activities would contribute mostly to improving the safety of their towns (see Table 5). It turned out that the most frequent attention was paid to improving access to health care (4.18 points out of 5 possible points). Apart from activities related to the improvement of medical services, the respondents rated the activities related to the improvement of infrastructure (lighting of streets, parks, roads, construction of roundabouts and pedestrian crossings) quite highly (3.81 points). The respondents also consider improving their safety in activities related to the organisation of free time for children and youth after school classes (3.45 points), activation of the unemployed (3.40 points) and improvement of housing conditions (3.37 points). As it can be seen, activities concerning the functioning of the family and protection of living conditions are important for the students surveyed.

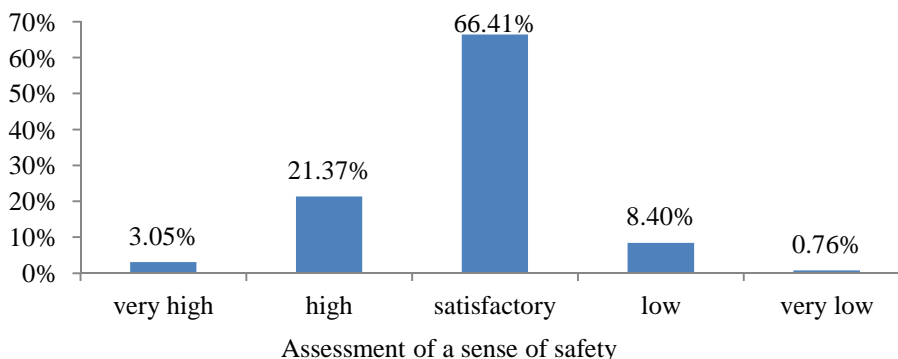
Other solutions also included measures concerning better access to social support for those in need (3.21 points), propagation of knowledge among residents about methods of protecting life, health and property against criminals (3.11 points) and more frequent police patrols, especially during night hours (3.10 points). To a much lesser extent, the students surveyed see the improvement of security in their towns in activities related to better equipment of the police (2.99 points) and the organisation of the neighbourhood assistance system (2.68 points).

Table 5: Actions perceived by respondents as improving the security of their towns (average score in points: 1 – very undesirable, 5 – very desirable)

Actions to improve the safety of a town	Average ranking
better access to health care	4.18
improving the condition of infrastructure (lighting of streets, parks, roads, construction of roundabouts and pedestrian crossings)	3.81
organising leisure time for children and young people after school	3.45
activation of the unemployed	3.40
improving housing conditions	3.37
access to social support for those in need	3.21
propagation of knowledge among inhabitants about methods of protecting life, health and property against criminals	3.11
more frequent police patrols, especially during night hours	3.10
better provision of equipment to the police	2.99
the organisation of a neighbourhood assistance system	2.68

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The respondents also answered a question about subjective feelings and opinions about the safety of the place where they live (see Figure 3). The vast majority, i.e. as much as 90.83% of the respondents, positively assessed their immediate surroundings (66.41% rated them as satisfactory, 21.37% as high and 3.05% as very high), whereas 8.40% of the respondents felt a low sense of security. Only a small percentage (0.76%) believe that they live in a dangerous place and rate this condition as very low.



Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Figure 3: Evaluation of the safety condition of the place where the respondents live (in % of the total number of the respondents who answered this question)

Regional and local security conditions counteracting threats and shaping...

The goal of the questionnaire was also to investigate whether the respondents would recommend the place where they live to other people for inhabiting (see Table 6). According to the answers received, the majority of students (72.86%) would recommend their place of residence to other persons, of which 15.50% were very decisive.

Table 6: Would you recommend the place where you live to other people for inhabiting? (in % of the total number of the respondents who answered this question)

Answers	Percentage of indications
definitely yes	15.50
preferably yes	57.36
hard to say	18.60
preferably not	7.75
definitely not	0.78
Total	100.00

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Contemporary threats to state security

In the next stage of the survey, a question was asked about the current situation regarding the country's security (see Table 7). According to 41.88% of respondents, Poland is a safe country. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that 41.40% of the students surveyed found it difficult to comment on this issue. Only 11.72% of the students surveyed stated that Poland is not a safe country.

Table 7: Is the country you live in a safe country? (in % of the total number of the respondents who answered this question)

Answers	Percentage of indications
yes	46.88
no	11.72
hard to say	41.40
Total	100.00

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The security of our country is one of the main tasks of the government. Therefore, the respondents were to assess the actions they expect mostly from the government in order to improve Poland's security (see Table 8). It turns out that the highest marks were given to activities related to increas-

ing research and development expenditures on the military industry and expenditures on the armed forces. Both of these actions received 3.35 points out of 5 possible points. An action ranked lower was the introduction of compulsory military service (3.26 points), whereas the lowest marks were given to activities concerning the participation of Polish troops in peacekeeping and stabilisation missions abroad (2.74 points).

Table 8: To what extent in your opinion do the following activities contribute to the improvement of the country's security? (the average score in points from 1 – contributes very little to the improvement of security, to 5 – contributes very much to the improvement of security)

Actions to improve the security of the country	average ranking
increasing research and development expenditure on the military industry (radars, drones, new generation armoured weapons, integrated system of personal equipment for soldiers)	3.35
an increase in expenditure on the armed forces	3.35
the introduction of compulsory military service	3.26
participation of Polish troops in peacekeeping and stabilisation missions abroad	2.74

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

In the next question, the respondents were asked to assess, on a scale from 1 (very low impact) to 5 (very high), the significance of elements influencing citizens' sense of security in the country (see Table 9). The students surveyed believed that the prospect of a decent life at retirement age (4.17 out of 5 points possible) had the greatest impact on their sense of security in the country. Other highly rated elements include a stable material situation (4.10 points) and well-functioning security services and authorities (4.09 points). International terrorism (3.73 points) and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (3.59 points) were also important for the respondents' sense of security. The respondents also pointed out that the country's energy security and the need to limit the independence of fuel imports is also an important element (3.50 points). The energy security policy is one of the strategic tasks of the state and is a determinant of the efficiency of its actions.¹³ In principle, each economic sector in the country or individual regions depends on the efficiency of the energy system.¹⁴

¹³ I. Jankowska, *Bezpieczeństwo energetyczne w polityce bezpieczeństwa państwa*, Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa w Sulechowie, Sulechów, 2015, Vol. XI, p. 151.

¹⁴ K. Kałużna, R. Rosicki, *Wymiary bezpieczeństwa energetycznego Unii Europejskiej*, Wyd. Wyższej Szkoły Bezpieczeństwa, Poznań, 2010, p. 14.

Regional and local security conditions counteracting threats and shaping...

Other elements indicated by the respondents were the strengthening of military potential (3.47 points) and membership in political and military organisations (EU, NATO) (3.45 points). On the other hand, such factors as limitation of political independence (3.31 points), limitation of sovereignty in making economic decisions (3.19 points) and loss of cultural identity (3.18 points) are of lesser importance for the sense of security. Finally, the demographic crisis was the least significant for respondents (2.98 points).

Table 9: To what extent do you think the following elements affect citizens' sense of security in the country? (the average score in points 1 – very low impact, up to 5 – very high impact)

Elements influencing the sense of security	average ranking
the prospect of a decent life at retirement age	4.17
stable material situation (e.g. permanent work, fair remuneration)	4.10
well-functioning security services and authorities (police, courts)	4.09
international terrorism	3.73
proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological)	3.59
reducing energy independence	3.50
the strengthening of military capabilities	3.47
membership in political-military organisations (EU, NATO)	3.45
limitation of political independence	3.31
limitation of sovereignty in economic decision-making	3.19
loss of cultural identity	3.18
demographic crisis	2.98

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Respondents in the questionnaire were also supposed to answer the question whether they would recommend Poland to other people as a place worth settling in. As Table 10 shows, more than half of the respondents (57.82%) would recommend Poland as a destination for other people (family, friends), whereas 19.54% of the respondents answered negatively and would not give such a recommendation. Almost every fourth respondent (22.66%) found it difficult to comment on this issue.

Table 10: Would you recommend Poland to other people as a place worth living in? (in % of the total number of respondents who answered this question)

Answers	Percentage of indications
definitely yes	10.94

preferably yes	46.88
hard to say	22.66
preferably not	16.41
definitely not	3.13
Total	100.00

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The subject of interest was also trust in the public sphere and the state, which function in the public space. Therefore, in the next question, the respondents were to rate, on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest rating, 5 the highest one, which of the listed public institutions they trust the most. The results of the conducted survey allow us to state that the institution which enjoys the greatest trust of the respondents is the fire brigade (4.34 points out of 5 possible points). Trust in public institutions was also the subject of Kantar Public (formerly the TNS Polska Social Research Team) in October 2016. According to the research carried out by Kantar Public, *the greatest trust of the society has been invariably enjoyed by fire brigade, ambulance services and the army for ten years*.¹⁵ The results of these studies correspond to the results obtained during the survey, where the ambulance service (3.75 points) and the army (3.48 points) also received a high score. It is worth noting that all the institutions that have been assessed above 3 points are responsible for protecting our security in emergencies and exceptional situations. On the other hand, in relation to the justice system, as one of the most important bodies in the state, the respondents were much more critical and distrustful (2.91 points out of 5 possible points). Finally, the respondents had lower trust in law enforcement agencies than in the judiciary (2.83 points).

What is more, as far as public authority is concerned, the trust of respondents varies. Among the authorities' institutions, those which are closer to the citizen, i.e. local authorities in the city and municipality, enjoy greater trust. Trust in local authorities was rated at 2.70 points, and in the case of the President of the Republic of Poland at 2.40 points. On the other hand, very low trust is aroused by the municipal police and the government. Each of these institutions was rated at 2.04 points. The respondents also included the Sejm and the Senate among the institutions generating an exceptionally low level of public trust, rating the work of both chambers

¹⁵ http://www.tnsglobal.pl/archiwumraportow/files/2016/11/K.068_Zaufanie_do_instytucji_O10a-16.pdf [accessed on: 25.09.2018]. The survey was conducted on 7-12 October 2016 on a sample represented by 1,052 inhabitants from Poland aged 15 and over.

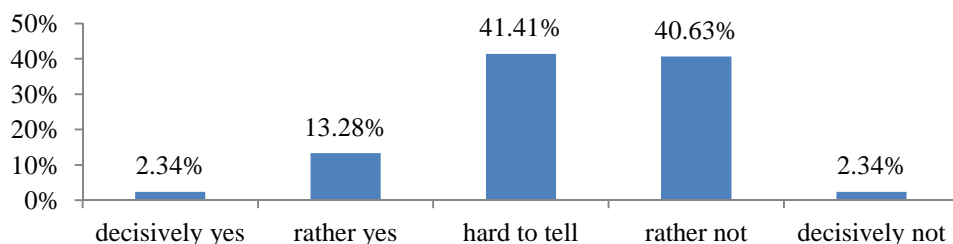
at only 1.98 points. It is worth noting, however, that opinions on the functioning of the Parliament depend, to a large extent, on the electoral and religious preferences of the respondents. On the basis of the data from Table 11, it can be concluded that the persons surveyed have confidence in institutions from which they can receive urgent help, but do not trust political parties and the Parliament.

Table 11: To what extent do you trust individual institutions of public life? (Average score from 1 – I definitely do not trust, to 5 – I definitely trust)

Public life institutions	average ranking
Fire brigade	4.34
Ambulance service	3.75
Military	3.48
Courts	2.91
Police	2.83
Local authorities of the city/municipality	2.70
President of the Republic of Poland	2.40
Municipal guards	2.04
Government	2.04
Parliament (Sejm, Senate)	1.98

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

The survey was also interested in whether the respondents believe that there is a threat of terrorism in Poland. According to the answers received, 41.41% of the students surveyed found it difficult to comment on this issue. Interestingly, a similar percentage of the respondents (40.63%) believed that such a threat does not exist. Furthermore, 13.28% of the respondents stated that there is rather a threat of terrorism in Poland. Finally, only 2.34% of the surveyed students were very determined about the existing threat. It is worth noting that the same percentage of students considered that there were no terrorist threats in the country (see Figure 4).



Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

Figure 4: Do you think that there is a terrorist threat in Poland? (in % of the total number of the respondents who answered this question)

Barriers to shaping state security

The shaping of state security is hampered by numerous barriers and threats, the identification of which may be used to build instruments supporting the country's security policy. Therefore, the questionnaire included a question about the main problems for shaping state security. The respondents were to assess, on a scale from 1 (no barrier) to 5 (very high barrier), the significance of the barriers that have the greatest impact on national security.

The respondents believed that the greatest obstacle in shaping state security is cyber-terrorism (attack on computers, networks or information systems) (3.77 points out of 5 possible points) and corruption of officials (3.75 points) (see Table 12). It is worth noting that cybercrime is a new and fast-growing form of crime. According to Ł. Bełza, "security in cyberspace should be assessed at different levels of threats: the interests of economic operators, individuals and the state (public institutions)." ¹⁶ One of the ways to overcome it is specialists who deal with combating crimes committed with the use of modern information and communication technologies. According to the students surveyed, a significant obstacle in the fight against cybercrime is a shortage of specialists who would be able to counteract crime in cyber space (3.70 points) and limited access to modern technologies for state security (3.64 points).

Financial outlays and the political situation in the country are also important for state security. Respondents drew attention to financial outlays on state security that are too low (3.59 points), which may undoubtedly result from Poland's economic situation and its debt. Among the threats

¹⁶ L. Bełza, *Główne zagrożenia w obecnym i przyszłym środowisku bezpieczeństwa pozamilitarnego*, *Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe*, 18/2011, p. 129.

presented, political threats also play a leading role (3.56 points), which can lead to other types of threats in the country. Other major problems include pollution of the environment (air, water and soil) (3.45 points). As M. Pietraś points out, ecological safety is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon and is an integral part of the broadly understood sense of the international safety.¹⁷ Moreover, two barriers received 3.42 to 3.40 points and concerned excessive imports of goods leading to unprofitable domestic production and reduced employment in the country, as well as fears of an influx of immigrants. A relatively low impact was attributed to economic crime (3.33 points), the inflow of foreign culture and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources (3.28 points each).

Table 12: What, in your opinion, are the biggest barriers to state security? (average score in points from 1 – no barrier, to 5 – very high barrier)

Barriers to shaping state security	average ranking
Cyber-terrorism (attacks on computers, networks or information systems)	3.77
corruption of officials	3.75
a shortage of specialists able to counteract crime in the computer space	3.70
limited access to modern technologies for national security	3.64
low financial outlays on state security	3.59
political instability	3.56
pollution of the environment (air, water and soil)	3.45
excessive imports of goods leading to unprofitable domestic production and reduced employment in the country.	3.42
fears of an influx of immigrants	3.40
dependence on the acquisition of raw materials and energy factors important for the functioning and development of the economy	3.38
economic crime and the development of the grey economy	3.33
influx of foreign culture	3.28
uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources	3.28
demographic crisis (ageing population)	3.20

Source: Author's own study on the basis of the results of the survey among the students of the Branch Faculty of the University of Zielona Góra in Sulechów.

According to the respondents, problems related to demography and population ageing are the least important for shaping state security (3.20 points). It is most likely that such a pattern of answers results from the young age of the students surveyed, who do not yet see demographic problems and their impact on state security. The respondents, despite the possibility of entering other barriers that were not included in the answer list, did not indicate any additional barriers.

¹⁷ M. Pietraś, *Bezpieczeństwo ekologiczne w Europie. Studium politologiczne*, Wyd. Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin, 2000, p. 351.

Conclusions

Summarizing the above considerations on the concept of safety and the results of the survey, it can be concluded that the issue of safety is important and relates to different spheres of human life. The security category is interdisciplinary and covers different fields of science. Therefore, security can be understood in social, political, economic, cultural and ecological dimensions. The analysis of survey results shows that the issue of security is an important aspect for the respondents and concerns a wide area of social and economic life. What is worth noting is the attitude of the surveyed students, who were not indifferent to the existing threats to national security. When discussing potential threats, the respondents clearly notice their impact on the state security system and the complexity of issues related to preventing them. Research into the barriers to shaping state security shows that it is necessary to take many actions aimed at improving the situation in the field of Poland's security policy. It is noteworthy that the respondents expect effective actions against cybercrime, not only in terms of organisation, but also, and above all, financial ones. They see a shortage of specialists in this area, and they are not indifferent to the state of the natural environment and the exploitation of natural resources.

The conclusions of the research may contribute to the improvement of the process of public consultations on security conditions in the national and local dimension. Consequently, in the future, it may be considered to conduct research not only among students of the University of Zielona Góra, but also among all inhabitants of the Lubuskie Voivodeship.

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REGIONALNE I LOKALNE UWARUNKOWANIA BEZPIECZEŃSTWA - PRZECIWDZIAŁANIE ZAGROŻENIOM I KSZTAŁTOWANIE BEZPIECZNEJ PRZESTRZENI PUBLICZNEJ

Poczucie bezpieczeństwa osobistego u mieszkańców danej jednostki terytorialnej jest ważnym elementem wpływającym na jej konkurencyjność oraz rozwój społeczny i gospodarczy. Brak spełnienia potrzeby bezpieczeństwa przez odpowiednie instytucje życia publicznego przyczynia się do pogorszenia warunków życia i wywołać może exodus obywateli. Autor przedstawia wyniki badania ankietowego dotyczącego bezpieczeństwa w wymiarze lokalnym. Badanie przeprowadzone zostało w maju i czerwcu 2018 wśród studentów Wydziału Zamiejscowego Uniwersytetu Zielonogór-

skiego w Sulechowie. Głównym celem badań było określenie przyszłych kierunków lokalnych i regionalnych inicjatyw mających na celu kształtowanie bezpiecznej przestrzeni publicznej i przeciwdziałanie zagrożeniom. Zakres badania zawierał następujące kwestie: poczucie bezpieczeństwa osobistego, bezpieczeństwo lokalne, współczesne zagrożenia bezpieczeństwa kraju oraz przeszkody w kształtowaniu bezpieczeństwa kraju. Badanie pokazało, między innymi, które instytucje życia publicznego wzbudzają największe zaufanie wśród Polaków, oraz które stanowią największe przeszkody w kształtowaniu bezpieczeństwa kraju. Co więcej, na podstawie wyników przeprowadzonego badania sformułowane zostały wnioski, które mogą okazać się użyteczne dla polepszenia bezpieczeństwa lokalnych społeczności w województwie lubuskim.

Słowa kluczowe: bezpieczeństwo lokalne i regionalne, zagrożenia bezpieczeństwa kraju