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CONFERENCE REPORT FROM THE 3RD NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS ON THE TOPIC OF “SELECTED PROBLEMS OF SECURITY RESEARCH”

At the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century, the security environment at national, regional and global levels is becoming increasingly unpredictable and unstable. The SARS-COV-2 coronavirus pandemic, military conflicts in various parts of the world, climate change-related disasters, migration crises, growing rivalry among superpowers, the global economic crisis and information warfare in cyberspace are unsettling the foundations of the global and European post-Cold War order. They strike at one of humanity's most treasured values – security. In the light of these challenges and threats, the international community is confronted with the necessity of ensuring security

of an increasing number of people on military, economic, social, health, etc. levels.

Aware of the unprecedented changes taking place in the international security system and the need to seek comprehensive solutions, the students of the Doctoral Seminar in the discipline of security sciences decided to organise the 3rd National Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students on the topic of “Selected Problems of Security Research”. It continues the tradition, initiated in 2021, of organising conferences devoted to the comprehensive analysis of aspects related to security.

The conference, organised thanks to the efforts of the Seminar's students

who formed the Organising Committee, took place on 2 June 2023 at the WSB University premises. The event was held under the honorary patronage of Her Magnificence Rector of the WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Professor Zdzisława Dacko-Pikiewicz¹.

The main objective of the 3rd Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students was to enable young researchers to present the results of the scientific research they were working on in the last academic year – 2022/2023 and to discuss strategically important aspects in the field of security. The event also provided an excellent opportunity to integrate the academic community, exchange insights, reflections, and establish new contacts in the scientific field, which may provide an excellent foundation for future cooperation and realisation of joint projects.

The conference was opened with a speech by the Head of the Doctoral Seminar in the discipline of security sciences, dr hab. Ryszard Szynowski, who also acted as the Chairman of the Organising Committee. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of implementing initiatives in the field of security aimed at broadening knowledge of its various aspects, in particular civil defence and the fight against hybrid threats on Polish territory. The professor also drew attention to the necessity of organising scientific events that provide opportunities for scientific development of young scientists, as well as deepening cooperation between experts representing the discipline of security sciences.

The event was honoured with speeches by two distinguished guests and outstanding specialists in their respective fields. Professor Jarosław Wolejszo from the Calisia University gave a lecture entitled 'Praxeology in security sciences' and Professor Monika Gabriela Bartoszewicz from the Arctic University of Norway gave a lecture entitled 'The Weaponisation of migration'.

In accordance with the decision of the Organising Committee, the proceedings took place in three discussion panels. The first, devoted to international security issues, was led by Professor Ryszard Szynowski and Professor Jarosław Wolejszo. The second, headed by Paulina Polko PhD and Professor Szynowski, concerned national security. The third, coordinated by Professor Robert Socha and Cezary Tomiczek PhD, focused on non-military aspects of security. 15 students of the Doctoral Seminar in Security Sciences at the WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza presented their research results.

The first discussion panel was initiated by Janusz Sowa MA, whose paper analysed the hybrid actions of the Russian Federation on the eastern flank of the European Union and NATO on the example of the migration crisis on the Belarusian border. The presentation discussed the course and stages of development of the migration crisis on the Belarusian border with the three eastern flank states and its impact on the other EU and NATO states. The notion of the eastern flank was specified, concepts such as hybrid threats and hybrid

1 R. Szynowski, *Conference report from the 1st National Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students on the topic of „Selected problems of security research”*, "Security Forum" 2021, No 1, p. 119–124.

actions were discussed and the specificity of these acts was pointed out in political, economic and military terms, as well as their impact on selected EU and NATO states. Disinformation and its social impact on Western European Countries was also pointed out as an important form of hybrid actions used by the Russian Federation.

The second lecture was devoted to the Russian Federation's attacks on Ukraine's electrical power infrastructure and the role of alternative energy sources in compensating for the losses incurred by the attacked state. Its author, Piotr Anklewicz, focused in his speech on the consequences of the Russian Federation's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, which have been ongoing since the beginning of the war and reached their peak in the autumn months of 2022. He stressed that a significant impact on the survival of the extremely cold months by the inhabitants of the areas affected by the loss of energy had relatively effective and prompt repair of the damages, use of alternative energy sources, photovoltaic panels and generators and reduction of consumption.

The next lecture delivered by Karolina Zub-Lewińska concerned climate change in the Arctic and its consequences for the Russian Federation's pursuit of its interests in the region. The PhD student analysed the unprecedented climate change processes observed in the High North, as well as the Russian Federation's security and economic interests. She examined whether climate change represents more of an opportunity or a threat to the ambitious goals

and projects of the world's largest state in the Arctic.

The fourth panellist, Monika Banach-Kokoszka, characterised in her presentation the impact of one of the significant events in Georgia's modern history on the formation of the country's contemporary national security strategy. She spoke about the Treaty of Georgievsk, which resulted in the dependence of Georgian territory on Russia. An attempt was made to situate the Kakheti events of 1783 within the ontology of history and ontological security, taking into account practical realism. The aim of the paper was to enrich the scientific workshop of international security research, as historical experiences exert an influence on the formation of a given state's security policy.

In the final, fifth paper dedicated to international security, Marcin Winiarski focused on the issue of radicalisation and recruitment into Islamist terrorist organisations. This is a serious problem that causes an increase in the number of militants, which may translate into an increase in terrorist events and incidents. In his presentation, the author characterised the aforementioned process and also showed the methods used by such groups.

The second panel concerning national security was opened by Krzysztof Bogusiewicz with a lecture in which he analysed the management of national security of the Republic of Poland.

This was followed by a presentation by Alina Wołoch. The speaker focused on the phenomenon of corruption, which constitutes the second – after unemployment – challenge

for the contemporary system of social security. The notion of corruption was characterised, the spheres where the phenomenon occurs were defined, and its consequences for social security were analysed, i.e. wasting public funds, violating the principle of free competition, allowing individual or group goals to be realised against the law and the common good, limiting investments, and impeding the economic development of the state.

The third lecture was given by Konrad Grybel, who analysed the impact of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau on the economic security of Poland. Economic security is listed as one of the three most important pillars of state security, alongside military security and political security. Assurance of economic security by the state is an essential condition for an effective state policy, guaranteeing the fulfilment of all its goals, tasks and functions. The Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA), established in 2006, aims, among other things, to combat corruption in public life. Over the course of 17 years, CBA has demonstrated its effectiveness as well as caused much controversy with its activities. The speech aimed to show the results of a survey conducted in 2020 and compare them to the results of a survey conducted currently on a sample of professionals associated with the special services, specifying the departments directly involved in combating crime against the economic interests of the state.

In her speech, Iwona Paszyńska-Wesołowska analysed the importance of Teams of the Military Center of Preventive Medicine of the Polish

Armed Forces in ensuring food security and fighting bioterrorism. Detection of a biological weapons attack is extremely difficult. The only effective method is prior recognition of the intention to use such weapons, thwarting the action and eliminating the perpetrators and the source of contamination. If this element fails, there is no way to completely and effectively protect larger communities of people from the effects of these weapons. Bioterrorism is currently one of the greatest threats posing a challenge to the civilian environment as well as to the army. She presented the level of threat of biological terrorism using food as a transmitter of biological weapons and introduced the principles of functioning of the Military Center of Preventive Medicine Team during a crisis caused by bioterrorist actions.

The second panel was closed by Daniel Walczak with a lecture on public trust in the State Protection Service. The activity of the State Protection Service as a formation having a significant impact on the security of Poland was outlined. The tasks faced by the formation were presented, and the tools and techniques it uses in its daily work were analysed. The successes and failures of the State Protection Service over the past years were also indicated.

The third panel was inaugurated by a presentation by Katarzyna Furman, in which she discussed a multi-layered model of governance in cyberspace. She presented the adopted models of security in cyberspace in the state of peace, in the area of cyber defence and the security model in the state of war on the example of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The second part of the presentation was devoted to cyber security models covering entities whose activities were based on the commercialisation of security engineering services, according to the current legal status at the level of Poland and the European Union.

The second lecture, given by Grzegorz Data, was devoted to the detection of disinformation content in news using artificial intelligence based on emotion analysis. Concepts related to the phenomenon of disinformation and its propagation were introduced. The author presented a mechanism for sampling information identified as disinformation to create a linguistic corpus for further research on the disinformation phenomenon. The process of automatic text analysis with artificial intelligence support was discussed. He also presented a tool comparing news identified as disinformation with news services downloaded from web portals by examining the emotions contained in both sources, with the aim of making an automatic detection of manipulative and disinformative content in the media space.

Filip Gregg's speech was focused on the issue of traffic management in Poland in the context of the safety of its participants.

Bartłomiej Folta was the fourth speaker. He discussed the involvement of an entrepreneur who obtained a concession to provide personal and property protection services in situations of a mass outbreak of a human infectious disease. One of the changes forced by the Covid-19 pandemic was the involvement of personal and property protection personnel in activities to prevent

the spread of a human infectious disease, primarily within protected premises. However, the problem is the lack of a legal basis regulating the participation of the private sector of personal and property protection in Poland to carry out tasks in conditions of a threat to public safety, including during mass outbreaks of infectious human diseases.

The third panel, and thus the conference proceedings, were closed with a lecture by Marek Kania, who analysed the possibility of creating a tendering platform in the area of public procurement based on modern technological solutions.

As part of the 3rd Scientific Conference for Doctoral Students at the WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza, a panel devoted to problems associated with writing a doctoral dissertation was also held. Young academics who have already defended their dissertations, i.e. Patryk Błasik PhD and Jarosław Gorzawski PhD, shared their insights and reflections on the process of working on the dissertation with their younger colleagues. They discussed the challenges they faced at each stage of their work, from developing the concept for the dissertation, through conducting research, analysing and compiling it to writing the dissertation and defending it.

The presentations given by the conference participants are an important contribution to a better understanding of the dynamic changes taking place in all spheres of security. The contacts made during the event will undoubtedly result in future joint activities on scientific research projects in the field of security sciences.