

## 5. SECURITY STUDIES

# PREVENTION AS AN INTERNAL SECURITY FACTOR AT ZAWIERCIE POWIAT

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to show how the preventive actions of the Police forces affect the results of its work at the micro scale. The research was carried out in Zawiercie powiat. In the theoretical part, the article presents the considerations on the definition of internal security of the country and the role of preventive actions in ensuring public order. The article consists of an introduction, three subchapters and a summary.

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Community, order, police, prevention, security.

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## Introduction

Internal security, as part of national security, is an extremely important factor, influencing the needs of security in civil society. Police as a uniformed and armed formation, provided with legal regulations, such as the Police Act of April 6, 1990 in an effective and sufficient manner have the possibilities to ensure the security for the citizens of the country. The aim of the study is to examine how the preventive actions of the Police convert into its results at a micro scale. The study used statistical data analysis, the interviews with police officers and author's own observations. The study was conducted in the Zawiercie powiat as a representative of a medium-sized powiat in Poland.

### Internal security – an attempt of definition

The internal security of the state is a component of the broader concept of national

security. According to Stanisław Sulkowski, internal security can be defined on the basis of a dichotomous division resulting from the external and internal structure of the state's activity [Sulkowski, 2009, p. 14]. It follows that the structures of the state are obliged to guarantee, with the use of legal tools and institutions set up for that purpose, the order and security on the territory of the country. In this sense, internal security covers the entire sphere related to the stability and ensuring public order. It should be noted here that internal and external security cannot be treated as a dichotomy, because these concepts do not stand in opposition, but complement each other. This definition view is formulated in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2007, which specifies that national security consists of the following types of security: external, military, internal, civic, social, economic, ecological and informative.

Internal security is defined in this document as a state activity, which aim is to maintain the ability to respond in the event of threats to public safety and general security related to the protection of law, life and health of citizens and national property against unlawful activities and consequences of natural disasters, natural disasters and technical failures [National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, 2007, p. 15]. The definition adopted in the document links internal security with the occurrence of a threat or crisis situation. Internal security, after all, also includes the constitutional order, public safety and general security. Its purpose is to protect the life and health of citizens, to protect their property, but also to protect national assets, both against illegal activities, as well as natural disasters or the effects of technical failures.

Cezary Rutkowski defines internal security as a *subjective state and process of individual, organizational or collective consciousness (community) in real or hypothetical adverse (hostile) action (impact) of internal or external entities (forces, processes) or objects on objects of protection (defense, shaping) located (located) in whole or in part within the territory of the entity, conducted (overlapping) in whole or in part in this territory, covering all issues of preparation, implementation and development of security, solved by own or joint activity, carried out exclusively or mainly based on its own decision, under its own political leadership, in which, thanks to faith (rational conviction) about the effectiveness of implemented and planned own actions and other entities for creating and using opportunities for safe existence and development, as well as due to the possessed protective and defense capabilities, the existing or forecasted level of threats does not cause fear, fear, preservation of (achieved) recognized values, implementation of subjectively important inter-*

*ests and goals (ideas, vision) or falls within the limits of the risk accepted by the entity (reality). It is implemented (can be) by any means of all entities, using all resources in various forms, scale and scope, usually under the direction of civil (non-military) persons (institutions)* [Rutkowski, 2010, p. 107]. Due to the complexity of the structure, general terminology and the volume of definitions, it is difficult to use it.

For the purpose of this study, a universal definition was adopted, defining internal security as a state of undisturbed functioning of the country, related to the security of its organs and stability of life of its citizens as a result of personal security and the security of existence.

## Police role in the local security system

The need for security according to Abraham Maslow is the second most important human need after physiological needs<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, it is the basic tasks of the state to provide the basic social needs of citizens with a sense of security. The local community is an important social link that creates the foundations of social unity in a specific territory. Local security can be defined as a state within a poviát or commune, regulated by a system of legal and non-legal norms, compliance with which enables normal human coexistence in this area at a specific place and time [Plowucha, 1995, p. 32].

For the local community to feel safe it is necessary to ensure public order. This term can be defined as the state of no threat to the state organization and the pursuit of its interests, enabling its normal, free development [Misiuk, 2013, p. 13]. The organs of

<sup>1</sup> Bronistaw Malinowski places the need for security in the fourth place after metabolism, reproduction, and appropriate physical conditions. The need for security corresponds to the cultural imperative of defense and protection

legislative, judiciary and executive power are responsible for the protection of public safety. Direct protection of public security is provided by the institutions specifically appointed for this purpose, i.e. the Police. Prevention of crime is both preventive and preventative. The term "prevention", as indicated by its Latin roots, means prevention, anticipating actions (Latin *praeventio* – prevention), and prevention is combined with prevention (Greek *prophylaktikos* – preventative) [Polish Dictionary of the PWN]. As is evident from the etymology, the two terms overlap to some extent. According to Zbigniew Zarara, *if we mean preventing the creation of a prohibited act – we often say "prophylaxis", while if we think about preventing, or rather limiting further development of an already existing threat, we say "prevention"* [Żaroń, 2003, p. 34].

The police should actively participate in prevention activities to prevent dysfunctions and threats to the local community. For preventive actions to be effective, they require real commitment and cooperation on both sides, i.e. the police, and the community living in the given territory. In fact, the police must gain the trust of their potential partners in carrying out preventive actions. Cooperation with local government is equally important – it is the cooperation, not the police on its own, to protect the law and social order; such cooperation is shown by some local governments, when they transfer some of the competences to the City or Municipal Guards they have set up. However, it should not be forgotten that with the establishment of new local government structures in 1999, the tasks carried out by the administration of a municipality, poviát and voivodship, concern local government as well, by virtue of law, as the tasks to ensure public order and the security of citizens. Local governments, however, should concentrate their actions on social,

educational, economic, health, ecological policies, and those areas that have significant impact on the existential security of citizens.

Police tasks are regulated by the Police Act of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1990. These are as follows:

- 1) the protection of property and of life and health of people against unlawful acts violating these notions;
- 2) the protection of public safety and order, including ensuring peace in public places and in the means of public transport and in road traffic;
- 3) initiating and organizing activities aimed at preventing crimes and misdemeanors and criminogenic phenomena and cooperating with the interested state bodies, such as local governments and social organizations, in this respect;
- 4) the detection of crimes and offenses and prosecuting their perpetrators;
- 5) the supervision of municipal guards appointed by regional self-government bodies, as well as the supervision over other specialized, armed protective formations, in the scope specified in separate regulations;
- 6) the control of observance of order and administrative provisions related to public activity or in force in public places;
- 7) the cooperation with the police of other countries and their international organizations on the basis of international agreements and arrangements and separate regulations.

The legislator put in place preventive measures implemented by the Police in third place, which underlines the role of measures to prevent threats in the daily work of police officers.

## The impact of preventive measures on the results of the work of the Police in the Zawiercie poviát in 2016-2017

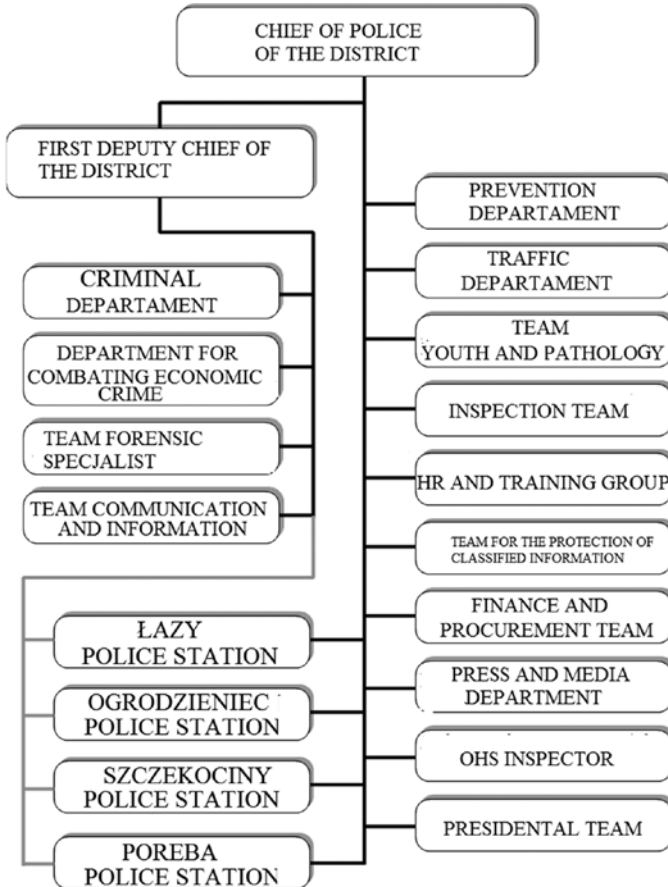
The Zawiercie Poviát is located in southern Poland, in the north-eastern part of the Silesian Voivodeship. The poviát consists

of 10 communes:

- municipalities: Zawiercie, Poręba,
- urban-rural communes: Łazy, Ogrodzieniec, Pilica, Szczekociny,
- ruralcommunes: Kroczyce, Żarnowiec, Włodowice, Irządze.

Poviát covers the area of 1003, 27 km<sup>2</sup> and has 119 348 inhabitants (as of 13/10/2017)<sup>2</sup>

Fig. Organizational structure of the Poviát Headquarters in Zawiercie



Source: <http://bip.zawiercie.kpp.policja.gov.pl>

In 2016, the preventive activities of Zawiercie Police concentrated on the youth and senior communities of the poviát. There were 168 meetings organized, attended by

about 12,000. people. The following programs were prepared and implemented for young community members:

<sup>2</sup> Data of the District Authority Office in Zawiercie.

- 1) "Jura without addictions" – a meeting of the juveniles of the Care and Educational Services Center in Zawiercie and the Family Assistance Center in Góra Włodowska with policemen and lifeguards of the Jurassic GOPR Group. The meeting was organized as part of the nationwide program of the Police Headquarters "Prevention and You". It promoted pro-ecological behavior, active and safe rest in the Jurassic areas as an alternative to reaching for all kinds of stimulants.
  - 2) "Safe holidays with coloring book Sznupek" – the program implemented in cooperation with, inter alia, local association of the Local Development Center, the GOPR Group in Gdynia, and the Water Voluntary Rescue Service. The action addressed to the youngest residents of the region - kindergarten and primary school pupils; it consisted of creating and distributing a coloring book educating the habits of safe recreation, combined with meetings in educational institutions.
  - 3) "On safety and first aid with children" – meetings with representatives of the Police, WOPR and JOPR with pupils of kindergartens in Łazy. The meeting discussed the principles of safe rest and the principles of first aid.
  - 4) "Safe holidays" – an information campaign promoting the principles of safe rest. The information was posted on the Zawiercie police website and distributed in the form of leaflets.
  - 5) "Starry bicycle rally" – cyclically organized cycling competition for children and young people, promoting active rest and attitudes to counter addictions.
- 1) "Safe senior" – a series of lectures at the University of the Third Age in Zawiercie. The topic of the lecture was the safety of older people. The listeners learned how to avoid threats in public places and means of public transport, how to protect your personal data, how to protect yourself from cheaters. The attention was drawn to seniors exposed to the cybercrime.
  - 2) "Internet Week in Poręba" – the meetings were the part of a pan-European campaign. The leitmotif was the security of purchases and transactions in the network.
  - 3) "Preventive picnic" in Łazy – the action promoting healthy lifestyle, active rest and pro-ecological behavior, addressed mainly to adult inhabitants of the powiat.
  - 4) "Woman (not) defenseless – self-defense course for women" – the course for women organized in cooperation with the International Police Association IPA.
  - 5) "Commencement of the motorcycle season" – an event promoting the principles of road safety. The programs implemented by the Powiat Command in Zawiercie focused on matters related to security in many areas of life and promotion of appropriate civic attitudes. At the same time, in 2016, the District Police officers in Zawiercie identified 51,518 people, conducted 7 739 interviews and arrangements, 702 people were brought to the sobering-up center and they held 424 meetings with the local community.

The following programs have been prepared and implemented for the senior community of the powiat:

In cases concerning domestic violence, 2142 interventions were carried out, 205 blue cards were made, 206 perpetrators of violence were detained and 141 people were sobered up. The district subordinate to the Powiat Headquarters in Zawiercie, as

part of the "Blue Card" procedure, together with the employees of social assistance centers, controlled the families affected by violence and helped in solving problems. They sent 88 speeches to municipal commissions for solving alcohol-related problems.

The traffic police officers carried out preventive actions on road traffic on an ongoing basis. They participated in the following actions: measuring the sobriety of drivers, measuring speed, testing the technical condition of vehicles. 283 drunk drivers were disclosed, 9186 traffic offenses caused by drivers and 998 pedestrian offenses revealed.

Preventive programs implemented by the Poviát Command in Zawiercie mainly focused on improving the security situation in the poviát. Attention was paid to the safety of children during their leisure and on the road, the senior environment was acquainted with the digital threat and the methods of cheaters, using the confidence and naivety of older people. During everyday activities attention was paid to road safety and problems related to domestic violence.

The comparison of crime in 2017 in relation to 2016 is presented in the table below.

**Tab. No. 1. Crime in the Zawiercie county in 2016-2017**

Type of crime	2016	2017
Common offences	563	559
Criminal offences	21	15
Brawls and beatings	22	19
Personal injury	38	47
Burglary, theft	119	122
Carstealing	19	23
Stealing of property	260	236
Destruction of property	103	120
Drug offenses (proceedings initiated)	118	109
Economic crime	503	688
Road accidents	78	111
Road collisions	959	1194

Driving the vehicle in a state of intoxication and after using alcohol	297	310
Juvenile crime	133	155

**Source: own study based on data provided by the Poviát Police Headquarters in Zawiercie.**

In relation to 2016, the number of road accidents and collisions increased significantly. This may result from the increased road traffic and road works, as well as the difficulties on the poviát roads, but there is no preventive program devoted strictly to road safety and conducted on a cyclical basis, whether as an information campaign or as a series of lectures and discourses.

The number of crimes committed under the influence of alcohol also increased (personal injury, property damage, driving under the influence of alcohol). It follows that alcohol abused by perpetrators of prohibited acts is still the biggest problem. It seems reasonable to implement an anti-alcoholism program and conduct it on a permanent and / or cyclical basis. "Grass root work" conducted by the district, very needed and bringing tangible benefits, apparently is insufficient.

## Conclusion

The aim of the article was to examine the impact of preventive measures on the level of crime in the Zawiercie county. Optimism is favored by the reduction in number of drug offenses, which may be the result of preventive activities carried out in high-risk youth environments. The number of crimes committed under the influence of alcohol is worrying. Moreover, it is precisely on actions counteracting alcoholism in the future that it should concentrate its activities in the field of prevention on the Poviát Police Headquarters in Zawiercie. If we apply deductive reasoning from micro to macro scale – preventive actions of the entire Polish Police should pay more

attention to this problem and implement an effective program conducted over the next few years.

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