

Łukasz Szymankiewicz PhD
e-mail: lszymankiewicz@wsb.edu.pl
ORCID: 0000-0002-9859-9896
WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza
DOI: 10.26410/SF_2/21/11

WORKSHOPS REPORT “SAFE TRAVELLING BY AIR DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

The beginning of Covid-19 Pandemic dates back to the end of 2019, while in Poland the first negative effects of the pandemic were felt in the first quarter of 2020. One of the industry, which strongly feels the effects of the pandemic is civilian aviation, especially in the aspect of passenger traffic. The existing threats the aviation faces, i.e. natural disasters, such as volcanic eruption and dangerous dusts that prevent air operations in certain areas, or terrorism, faced the aviation industry in the position of the victim. However, in the case of the Coronavirus pandemic for the first time in the history of aviation, we have a situation in which the industry is both a victim and the one who contributed to the faster spread of the risk of pandemic. On the other hand, we also have a different factor, namely the human dimension. We, as individuals, passengers and the general public, we are all the time threatened the direct loss of life and health as a result of the disease and we feel limitations resulting from the lack of free travel. As social sensations show, people have the need to travel, both in the tourist aspect as well as professional. Taking into account the level of risk of spreading SARS COV-2 virus, the restrictions on minimizing the spread of the disease are reasonable and justified. However, as everyday life shows, the permanent suspension of passenger air traffic is impossible. So how to deal with the situations when you would like to or have to travel by air? The answer seems simple and obvious – you should travel safely. However, that is where another more difficult question arises – how can we travel safely without exposing ourselves and others? And this is why WSB Academy

organized a workshop on a safe travel by air during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The aim of organized workshops was to provide the participants of knowledge about current threats and practical skills, which they can use to safely plan and travel. This goal is driven by the need of part of society to spend the holiday abroad, where a frequent element is a journey of aircraft. Therefore, the date of the workshop was not random. The workshops took place on June 16, 2021, because the organizers wanted to perform training before the holiday period, taking into account the most important epidemiological restrictions. Workshops were carried out by three national experts from three different security areas. They were directed to four groups of listeners: high school students, students, students of Third Age University and teaching and academic staff.

The first speaker was Michał van der Cogen, a paramedic and physiotherapist, judicial expert in the field of emergency medicine, security of people staying in the mountains, security of rescue activities, safety of use of altitude and mountaineering techniques, safety on routes and ski slopes, employed in the MPL “Katowice” Pyrzowice in the emergency medical service department, since 2006, the academic lecturer. Michał van der Cogen is also authorized instructor of: mountain rescue, cave and high rescue in the Polish Specialist Rescue Institute, is an older mountain rescuer and a GOPR mountain rescue instructor. Since 2009, he has been acting as the International Director of the European / Polish Resuscitation Council in the BLS

/ AED. During his lecture "Counting on each other, helping others. Traveling in current difficult times, security in the medical aspect" The speaker discussed not only the current threat which is the SARS-COV-2 virus and the pandemic phenomenon, but also emphasized the most important rules for the first aid, dealing with stress during travel and planning how to secure medications, including the use of international medicine data substance names.

The second speaker was Przemysław Czaplą – the port operating duty in MPL "Katowice" in Pyrzowice. For 17 years, he has been associated with the aviation industry, conducts training in the field of aviation topics, among others "Training from the principles of moving in the operational zone", "Safety Management System (SMS)" and "Transport of dangerous materials DGR"; He holds IATA DGR CAT certificate. 6 and the certificate of training for the safety of the transport of dangerous goods of ADR, he is a teacher in Aviation High School in Katowice, where he runs professional objects in the field of airport technician operational services. During the workshops, he delivered a lecture entitled "Safe transport of hazardous materials by air". The listeners learned which objects and substances cannot be absolutely carried on board the aircraft, to which materials and substances, additional transport requirements should be used and where to look for relevant information on the adaptation of suitable materials and substances. During his presentation, he drew attention to the fact that during the pandemic disinfection liquids and a greater amount of electronic equip-

ment and power sources are now essential. Travelers are often worried that due to quickly changing restrictions they will have a difficult return to home, therefore they buy power banks and other types of power sources, take greater amounts of disinfection liquids with each other. Both categories may pose a threat during journey, disinfection liquids are flammable substances, while in the case of some types of batteries it may be self-ignition. Therefore, during the workshops, Przemysław Czaplą demonstrated how to properly and safely secure various types of materials so that they do not constitute a threat to aviation and do not get destroyed during the flight.

The last speaker, Artur Musiał, is a graduate of post-graduate studies in the field of security and hygiene management with the rights of the internal auditor of the safety and hygiene management system according to PN – N 18001 and OHSAS 180001; Fire-fighting techniques related to fire protection since 1998, specialty: aerodrome rescue. Artur Musiał held three specialist periodic training in the field of aerodrome rescue in a specialist training center in Great Britain, is also a PhD student at WSB University, and thanks to his many years of experience, he prepared a lecture entitled "In order for the flight to be a pleasure – not only about packing suitcases." During his speech, the PhD student drew the attention of listeners to often overlooked the fact that the holiday journey begins at home, and to avoid unforeseen threats, it is worth securing a flat/ house properly. In addition, the speaker has demonstrated how to behave during an accident and collision on the way to the

airport and for what infrastructure elements should we pay attention during the stay in the place of group accommodation to be able to respond accordingly in the event of a fire or other unforeseen situation.

Due to the restrictions in place workshops took place in the online formula. Due to the purpose, they became more practical classes, which also emphasizes the selection experienced experts as speakers who are practicing every day. All occurrence was characterized by the emphasis on the practical dimension of the knowledge, moreover, as well as professional experience speakers showed pedagogical experience, resulting in better contact with the listeners and gave knowledge in an accessible manner for all groups of listeners, which were students, high school students, listeners of

Third Age University and teaching staff. Workshops have entered with their form and topics not only in the current needs to meet new forms of threats, such as Covid-19 Pandemic, but also the need for social education in terms of safe practices related to traveling. This may in the future positively affect the level of civil aviation awareness, which is one of the foundations of effective aviation security systems, including airports, which constitute not only an important state economic element, but also critical infrastructure. In order to increase the range in transferring and promoting safe practices on travel by air during the pandemic, the organizers have placed recording from workshops on YouTube portal, which is available on WSB University Channel.