

SOCIAL SECURITY DETERMINANTS

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Abstract: *The article contains a description of the national security system of the Republic of Poland, in accordance with the division written in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2014. Particular attention was focused on the subsystem of support, including social entities. The second part presents the selected determinants of social security.*

Keywords: NATIONAL SECURITY, SOCIAL SECURITY, SOCIAL SECURITY CONDITIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, MIGRATION, POVERTY.

Introduction

Security is one of the basic values and human needs, [security (survival) and development is the main goal of each entity in the long-term]¹. American psychologist, Abraham Maslow, the author of the hierarchy of needs, identified five human needs: physiological, security, belonging, recognition and self-fulfilment. According to him, security is already placed in the second position just after the psychological needs of humans, such as food, housing, clothing and procreation². Because this is one of the most-awaited needs of a human, citizen, it is also the basis for the proper functioning of the country, therefore the priority of each state is to care for security. Nowadays, this task is particularly difficult due to the variety of security threats, their unpredictability, and therefore security should be perceived as a continuous process.

So what is security, in the literature of the subject one can find many definitions of this concept, the most concise is given by the Dictionary of Polish language, where security is: [a state of non-threat]³, while the Dictionary of terms in the field of national security defines safety as: [a state that gives you confidence and guarantees its maintenance and chances for its improvement. One of the basic human needs is a situation characterized by a lack of risk of losing something that a person particularly values, e.g., health, work, respect, feelings, material goods]⁴, according to J. Stańczyk [security is the main need of a man and social groups, and at the same time the most important goal]⁵ the definitions quoted indicate that security is extremely important for a man, social groups, countries, it creates opportunities for development, ensures a peaceful existence, so it is necessary to create opportunities for its effective assurance.

The nature of security manifests itself in various dimensions due to the objects, which is why in the literature on the subject we distinguish military, political, economic, cultural, ecological, information and social security⁶. Individual types of security have an impact on each other, therefore, in order to ensure it, it is necessary to maintain care for the others.

The aim of this article is to illustrate the concepts regarding security, the structure of the national security system of the Republic of Poland with particular emphasis on social security, its conditions and the impact on the security of an individual, a citizen.

1. The location of the social security system in the National Security System of the Republic of Poland

When beginning this chapter, the definitions of national security, state security and social security should be clarified, but before this happens it is advisable to illustrate the differences in the concept of nation and state. According to W. Kitler, the nation is [... a multicultural (multi-ethnic) civil society, inhabiting a territory (always identified with the territory of the state), connected with material and moral values, the implementation of which can be ensured only within the state]⁷, the state according to the definition of the Dictionary in the scope of national security is: [a political organization of a social group recognized by the international society including a specified territory, in which its authority applies along with the laws it creates]⁸. In the same dictionary, we can find definitions of state security, namely: it is a [real state of internal stability and sovereignty of the state, which reflects the lack or occurrence of any threats (in the sense of satisfying basic existential and behavioural needs of society and treating the state as a sovereign entity in international relations) and state security defined as [the state obtained as a result of the properly organized defense and protection against the external and internal threats defined by the relation of the defense potential to the scale of threats]⁹.

Nowadays, many various internal factors influence security [they are related to what is happening inside the national security, and these are factors of the material-energetic, social and cultural nature]¹⁰ and external [they include the same factors, but constituting the property of the national security environment and affecting them both directly and indirectly]¹¹, other security conditions include: variability, unpredictability and surprise¹², as distinguished by researchers, they cause that security is not a permanent, certain phenomenon established on a fixed basis. Due to the impact of all these factors, the conditions of state security are constantly striving to improve their ways, means to provide it, by implementing new strategic documents, operating procedures and organizational structures.

In the Republic of Poland, the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2014 is the strategic document covering the issues of national security. It is a document prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act of November 21, 1967 on the general obligation to defend the

¹ S.Koziej, *National Security Strategy (of a State)*, in: *Fundamentals of security of the contemporary state (entity), implications*, ed. J. Pawłowski, AON, Warsaw 2015, p. 493.

² See Maslow A. *Motivation and personality*, PWN, Warsaw 2016, p. 115-119.

³ www.sjp.pwn.pl/slowniki/bezpiecze%C5%84stwo.html (access 22.10.2018).

⁴ Ed. J. Pawłowski, *Dictionary of terms in the field of national security*, AON, Warsaw 2009, p. 13.

⁵ J.Stańczyk, *Contemporary understanding of security*, ISP PAN, Warsaw 1996, p. 18

⁶ Cf. ed. M. Leszczyński, *Security in the local dimension*, Difin, Warsaw 2013, p.11; A. Skrabacz, S Sulowski, *Social security. Concepts, conditions, challenges*. Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p.12.

⁷ W.Kitler, *National Security of the Republic of Poland, Basic categories, conditions, system*, AON, Warsaw 2011, p. 21.

⁸ Ed. J. Pawłowski, *Dictionary of terms in the field of national security*, AON, Warsaw 2009, p. 95.

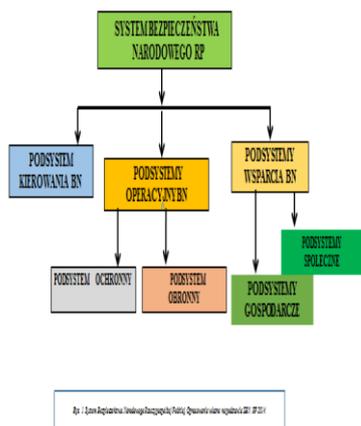
⁹ Ibidem, p.16.

¹⁰ W.Kitler, *National Security of the Republic of Poland, Basic categories, conditions, system*, AON, Warsaw 2011, p. 101.

¹¹ Ibidem, pp.101.

¹² See J. Pawłowski, J. Marczak, K. Gąsiorek *The concept, character and determinants of national (state) security*, in: *Fundamentals of security of the contemporary state (entity) implications*, ed. J. Pawłowski, AON Warsaw 2015, p. 20.

Republic of Poland¹³, including in its content the general problems related to security and ways of using available entities that are owned by the state. This document systematizes the strategic potential of the national security of the Republic of Poland, defines its objectives¹⁴, defines the national security system as: [strengths, means and resources designated by the state to carry out tasks in this area, properly organized, maintained and prepared]¹⁵ and performs the division into subsystems of management and execution, including the operational subsystems, which include the defense and security subsystem and the support subsystems including the economic and social subsystem¹⁶.



The management subsystem is the overriding link of the national security system, which consists of the public authorities and managers of organizational units that perform tasks aimed at ensuring and maintaining the national security. As part of the management subsystem, a special main role was attributed to the Parliament, the President of the Republic of Poland and the Council of Ministers.

The executive subsystems constitute the forces and means to secure the security through the implementation of various tasks. The structure of executive subsystems is formed by the operational and support subsystems, the tasks of the operational subsystems (defense and protection) include the prevention of threats that may adversely affect the functioning of the state, citizens and the associated national security threat. The entities of the defense subsystem are:

- Polish Armed Forces, whose task is to maintain readiness to act in the event of a threat to state security and implementation of the mission: [guaranteeing defense of the state and opposition to armed aggression, supporting protection subsystems in the field of internal security and assistance to the public, participation in the process of stabilizing the international situation]¹⁷;

- diplomacy, which is supposed to create a positive image of our country, to resolve conflicts, disputes through diplomatic actions;

- military special services¹⁸ aimed to collect, process information significant to state security, identification and counteracting the external and internal threats to the defense of the country;

- industrial defense potential, whose overriding goal is to provide equipment for armed forces and other entities taking care of the security of the Republic of Poland.

The structure of the protective subsystem includes: justice, anti-terrorism institutions, law enforcement and public order services, civil protection and rescue services, border services, security services for public authorities and administration, institutions for cyber security, institutions for protection of classified information and other bodies. [The main tasks in protection subsystems include ensuring conditions for maintaining the constitutional order, internal stability of the state and civil security]¹⁹, i.e. the broadly understood protection against non-military threats²⁰, created by human actions or forces of nature.

The support subsystems (social and economic), as the name of "support" indicates, are designed to support, power the remaining subsystems. The tasks that the social subsystem has to face concern the broadly understood social security, they consist of: protection of national heritage, education for security, social security, demography, social potential, media in the social security system. In the second issue of this article, the tasks carried out under this subsystem will be discussed in detail.

The mission of the economic subsystems is to protect the country's economic potential against all activities that accompany the crisis situations or war actions and the support of operational subsystems. As part of the economic subsystem, we distinguish: financial, energy, food, ecological, infrastructural security, and maintaining strategic reserves.²¹

2. Social security structure²²

Social security in the literature of the subject is defined as: [... the entirety of legal and organizational activities performed by government entities (national and international), non-governmental organizations and citizens themselves, which aim at providing a certain standard of living to individuals, families and social groups, and preventing their marginalization and social exclusion]²³. A. Skrabacz specifies that social security [means the protection of existential foundations of the life of

¹⁸ See the Act of June 9, 2006 on the Military Counterintelligence Service and the Military Intelligence Service, Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1978, 2405, of 2018, item 650, 1544, 1669.

¹⁹ *The White Book of National Security of the Republic of Poland*, BBN, Warsaw 2014, p.169.

²⁰ [Non-military threats – a type of threat involving such a combination of events in international relations, in which it is likely that there will be a limitation or loss of conditions for undisturbed existence and development of the state, or its sovereignty as a result of non-armed violence against it], ²⁰ Ed. J. Pawłowski, *Dictionary of terms in the field of national security*, AON, Warsaw 2009, p. 95.

²¹ See *The White Book of National Security of the Republic of Poland*, BBN, Warsaw 2014, p.184-190, *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, Warsaw 2014, p.40-42.

²² The content of this chapter is based on: the Research Grant of the Institute of Security and Defense Systems of the Faculty of Logistics of WAT no. 997/2018 entitled *The logistics system as the determinant of the defense capabilities of the Republic of Poland*, and in it: *Migration of the population as a threat to social security in Poland* – by S. Wojnarowska-Szpuca.

²³ M. Leszczyński, *Social security and state security*, Pub. Of the Jan Kochanowski University of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Kielce 2009, p. 37.

¹³ See the Act of November 21, 1967 on the general obligation to defend the Republic of Poland, Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1459, 1669, art. 6, par. 1 and art. 4a, par 1.

¹⁴ [The potential of national security serves the implementation of national interests and the achievement of strategic goals], *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, Warsaw 2014, p. 13.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 13.

¹⁶ See. *Ibidem*, p. 13.

¹⁷ *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, Warsaw 2014, p. 31.

people, ensuring the possibility of satisfying individual needs (material and spiritual) and the implementation of life aspirations through the creation of conditions for work and study, health protection and pension guarantees]²⁴. J. Gierszewski defined the essence of social security as: [counteracting social threats and ensuring the possibility of survival and free development of individuals and social groups under specific conditions with the use of available means]²⁵. In fact, all this means that social security should constitute the subject of interest for all entities: citizens, non-governmental and other institutions and the state, because only with the involvement and cooperation of all of them it is probable to entirely guarantee it.

The components of the social security subsystem based on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland and the White Book of National Security of the Republic of Poland constitute (see fig. 2): the management of social security development, social potential of Poland, counteracting demographic threats, social security, education for security, protection of national heritage and the role of media in guaranteeing social security.

Social security management includes state bodies and various self-government institutions (social welfare centres, support centres, social welfare homes, counselling centres and other) public service organizations²⁶, whose activities are socially useful.

The social potential of the state is formed by the human capital, the development of which increases the possibilities of an active social life of an individual, which is an important determinant of the activity of the civil society, as well as the improvement of the quality of life of citizens. With the development of human capital, it is possible to increase employment, prolong professional activity, improve the quality of life, the situation of older people and people at risk of social exclusion, improve health and improve the qualifications of citizens²⁷.

The contemporary education system aims to educate an active and mobile society, aware of the importance of security. The aim of education of social security subsystems is to prepare them for functioning in the event of threat and war, and to implement social support tasks for operational subsystems.

Counteracting demographic threats is an important task for the Polish state, it is necessary to counteract unfavourable demographic changes. The implementation of this objective includes: an appropriate family-friendly policy (encouraging the possession of offspring, supporting families with children), proper migration policy (motivating to return to Poland, offering support after returning, improvement of offers on the labour market) and immigration policy adequate to our country (satisfying the needs of immigrants in the field of work and care).

Social security requires many activities aimed at increasing the sense of social security, including preventing social exclusion and reducing poverty. These activities will be implemented through: creating an effective system of benefits and social benefits, access of citizens to all goods (equal access to education, health care), activation of the excluded people,

building good relations between the state and the citizen, and cooperation of all social assistance institutions.

Education for security due to changing threats, their unpredictability, it is necessary to educate the society, raising its knowledge, awareness concerning the contemporary security threats and the possibilities of reacting to them. Education for security should include teaching in the general education system, higher education, improving the qualifications and skills of services responsible for maintaining security as well as employees of government and self-government administration.

The system of protection of national heritage is an important element of Polish identity, therefore its protection and security is one of the tasks of the state, which will be implemented by: [ensuring universal and equal access to culture, activation of social capital, and strengthening patriotic attitude, as well as active and conscious citizenship]²⁸. The promotion of area related to our tradition and heritage is also of particular importance.

The role of the media in the national security system – mass media were and will be the basic tool for transmitting information, both daily and of importance to the security of the state and citizens. In the situation of threats to national security or the outbreak of war, media cooperation with state institutions is extremely important. As part of this cooperation, the media are obliged to provide information about: the scale of threats, behaviour of the society in emergency situations, the possibility of obtaining assistance, and raising public awareness of the identification of threats and effective response to them.

Struktura bezpieczeństwa społecznego

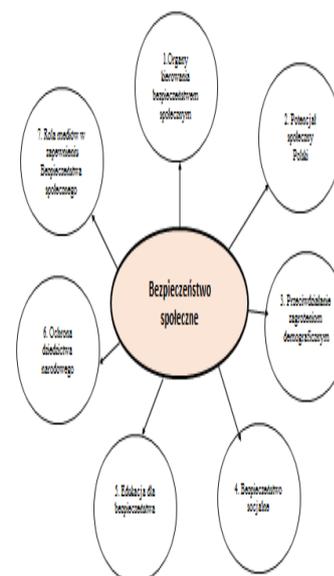


Fig. 1. Opracowanie na podstawie Strategii Bezpieczeństwa narodowego 2014 i Białej Księgi Bezpieczeństwa 2011-2013.

All entities forming a social security subsystem fulfil a very important role in its creation, cooperation between them is extremely crucial since they often complement each other, without the assistance, the other entity is unable to fulfil its mission in creating social security. The maintenance and development of social security has an impact on the overall functioning of national security, because it is its element, which is why its provision is one of the elements of state policy.

²⁴ A.Skrabacz, *Social security, Theoretical and practical basics*, Publishing house Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p.38.

²⁵ J.Gierszewski, *Organization of the national security system*, Pub. Difin, Warsaw 2013, p. 77.

²⁶ See the Act of April 24, 2003 on public benefit and voluntary work, Journal of Laws of 2018, item 450, 650, 723, 1365.

²⁷ See the Resolution no. 104 of the Council of Ministers of June 18, 2013 regarding the adoption of the Human Capital Development Strategy 2020, M.P. 2013 item 640.

²⁸ *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, Warsaw 2014, p.38.

3. Conditions of social security

In the current situation of our country, many factors affect the social security, the main being: unemployment and related labour migration, poverty, as well as social exclusion causing them. The task of the state is to ensure social security, because its low level may lead to the development of pathology, lack of trust in the state and its institutions.

In order to approximate the phenomenon of unemployment, it is necessary to determine who the unemployed is, it is more reasonable to use the definition contained in the Act of April 20, 2004 on the promotion of employment and labour market institutions, where: [the unemployed is a person that is not employed and does not perform other gainful employment, able and willing to take full-time employment in a given profession or in a given service or other paid work]²⁹, from this definition it can be inferred what unemployment itself is, it is a situation in which the state cannot provide work for people with the ability to take it.

Unemployment constitutes a negative determinant of social security because its effects have an impact on the individual, his family, society, as well as the state economy. The authors: J. Auleytner, K. Głębicka divide them into³⁰:

- individual effects of unemployment;
- social effects of unemployment;
- economic and financial effects.

Individual effects of unemployment are felt directly by the unemployed and indirectly its consequences also affect his family. The symptoms of unemployment depend on its duration, the longer it lasts the deeper its effects are. At first, the unemployed person may lose faith in own abilities, have a problem with too much free time, and assess himself worse and worse. Over time, the situation deteriorates, it is related to financial difficulties causing a reduction in the standard of living, the lack of ability to meet own basic needs and those of his family, uncertainty about the future, consequently all this leads to states of depression, withdrawal of the citizen from public and cultural life of the country, which is followed by social isolation.

Social consequences of unemployment are related to the costs which apply to the increased social benefits, public dissatisfaction, fear of losing one's own job, an increase in the phenomena of social pathology, crime.

The economic and financial consequences concern the state, which incurs costs related to:

- expenditure on benefits and training for the unemployed;
- counteracting unemployment;
- employment of officials in labour offices.

In addition to the costs, state revenues are reduced due to the lack of tax and social insurance contributions.

In the case of young, educated people who know foreign languages, wanting to ensure a good start in life, or wanting to improve the material situation of the family, unemployment often affects the decision of labour migration. Due to the closeness, easier procedures of taking up work, the European Union member states have been the main direction of labour migration of the Poles for years. According to data of the Central Statistical Office, since 2009, the phenomenon of growth of persons emigrating abroad in order to make a living is visible³¹. The intensification of this phenomenon on a larger scale

causes the intellectual and economic impoverishment of the nation.

When analysing the unemployment rates in Poland from 2014 to 2017, its decline can be observed³², however despite the improvement, this phenomenon should not be underestimated, because, as mentioned above, it affects the citizen, society and the state.

Poverty is closely related to the unemployment discussed above, it is its inevitable consequence. In literature, one can find different definitions of poverty, generally defining it as a lack of necessary resources, insufficient for human life, it is a state of scarcity, lack of possibility to satisfy basic needs of a person and his family. A more detailed definition is given by J.Gierszewski [poverty is a state of various kinds of lack of needs in such dimensions that a man cannot overcome them himself. The poor are characterized by cumulative deprivation, which causes their distinct separation and marginal position in relation to the reference groups through the level of material position]³³.

The scale and importance of the phenomenon is emphasized by A. Skrabacz stating: [... poverty is considered today as one of the most important and most dangerous social phenomena, affecting both poor and rich states. Poverty results in significant social consequences, ranging from the lack of demand for goods, through difficulties in obtaining education, maintaining good health, to worsening of pathological phenomena, such as: crime, drug abuse, homelessness]³⁴, this is undoubtedly a phenomenon which, like unemployment, will affect the citizen, his relatives and the state.

It seems quite difficult to determine the determinants of poverty, in the opinion of the Poles surveyed by the Centre for Public Opinion Survey, the main criterion includes income and more precisely its amount³⁵, the Central Statistical Office CSO measures poverty using data from household budgets taking into account three boundaries: extreme poverty (minimum of the existence, threat for biological human development), relative poverty (the level of consumption is lower than the level of the majority of people in Poland) and statutory poverty (people who, according to the regulations, are granted cash benefits from social assistance).

In the case of extreme poverty, since 2015 an annual decline was recorded, relative poverty is also a declining level and statutory poverty, which has been falling since 2013³⁶. In the

[_polski_w_latach_2004_2011.pdf](#) (access 27.10.2018) and [www.stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ludnosc/migracje-zagraniczne-ludnosc/informacja-o-rozmiarach-i-kierunkach-emigracji-z-polski-w-latach-20042016,2,10.html?pdf=1](#) (access 27.10.2018).

³²At the end of December 2013, unemployment in Poland amounted to 13.4 %, in December 2014 to 11.4 % and in December 2017 to 6.6 %, source: [https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/rynek-pracy/bezrobocie-rejestrowane/stopa-bezrobocia-rejestrowanego-w-latach-1990-2018,4,1.html](#) (access 27.10..2018).

³³J. Gierszewski, *Organization of the social security system*, Pub. Difin, Warsaw 2013, p. 148.

³⁴A.Skrabacz, *Social security, Theoretical and practical basics*, Publishing house Elipsa, Warsaw 2012 , p.128.

³⁵The largest number of respondents (24 %) determined that the income of PLN 1000 net per person in the family means poverty, 14% found that it is PLN 500, 9% claimed that PLN 800, 7% listed the amount of PLN 1500, while others provided different amounts. Source: Announcement from the CBOS research, *Social perception of the poverty problem*, no. 83/2017, Warsaw 2017; [https://cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2017/K_083_17.PDF](#) (access 27.10.2018)

³⁶Extreme poverty: 2008-2014 is an increase (from 5.6 to 7.4%), from 2015 the decrease in 2016 reaching 4.9%, and in 2017 – 4.3 %; Relative poverty: 2008 – 17.6% drop, decrease to 13.9 in 2016 and 13.4% in 2017; Statutory poverty: 2008 is 10.6 % and a decrease to 2011, in 2012-2013 an increase to 12.8 % in 2013, the next years a decrease to 10.7 % in 2017. Source:

[www.stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/5487/](#)

²⁹ The Act of April 20, 2004 on the promotion of employment and labour market institutions, Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1265, art. 2, point 1.

³⁰ See J. Auleytner, K. Głębicka, *Social policy – between protection and subsidiarity*, Higher Pedagogical School in Warsaw, Warsaw 2000, p. 17-18.

³¹ See [www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/gus/LU_infor_o_rozm_i_kierunk_emigra_z](#)

literature on the problem of poverty, two types of poverty are mentioned most often: absolute, which means [the state of living conditions that prevent or significantly impede the implementation of basic life functions]³⁷ and relative [determined by reference to a specific life situation of the individual and family in comparison with the level available to others]³⁸, so it depends on who we compare with whom.

In order to prevent the phenomenon of poverty and improve the situation regarding this issue in Poland, it is necessary to:

-increase the education opportunities for the poorest families;

-support the activity of people affected by poverty through their participation in social life;

-implement tasks within the social assistance system through cash benefits (permanent, periodic, purposeful, special benefits, loans and others), other benefits (e.g. social work, material assistance, specialist counselling and others).

Social exclusion is often the result of the above-mentioned unemployment and poverty, but it can also be caused by other factors, old age, place of residence (rural areas), lack of education or addiction to alcohol, drugs, exclusions cause lack of full participation in social life, activities of a given community. The authors J. Czapiński and T. Panek distinguish three categories of exclusion³⁹:

- structural (defined by the place of residence – village, low education and income per person below the poverty line);

- physical (related to the old age or disability);

- normative (created through alcohol abuse, drug use, conflicts with the law, being a victim of discrimination on the grounds of nationality, appearance, beliefs or other reasons).

In Poland, the main cause of social exclusion include⁴⁰: poverty, drug addiction, mental illness, alcohol addiction, unemployment as well as homosexuality, bisexuality or transsexuality.

Summary

The problem of human security is a current and important issue, and a sense of security is one of the basic human rights, it is a state consistent with the life of a human being as a man. The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Constitution of the Republic of Poland guarantee them to the citizens. The security of individuals and social groups is one of the essential and fundamental values of every society and state structures. It is the satisfaction of one of the fundamental human needs, i.e. a sense of security that occurs immediately after basic needs, such as: satisfying hunger, housing, procreation, but at the same time is more important than the need for love or the desire to belong to a group. Social

security can be guaranteed by friendly interpersonal relations, a sense of value and satisfaction with achieving goals and life plans of a person. The sense of security occupies a special rank in the life of every man, family, local community, as well as entire nations, because it concerns such basic values as life, health, individual development and national heritage.

The goal of the activities of the state should be to ensure social security, which is an integral part of national security. In the process of caring for social and national security, cooperation and collaboration of all entities and their resources is extremely important, because only a joint effort of the state, organization, citizens can bring the desired effect which is a guarantee of security. However, it should be kept in mind to treat security as a process that is subject to constant changes under the influence of variable factors of the surrounding reality.

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³⁷ A.Skrabacz, *Social security, Theoretical and practical basics*, Publishing house Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p.127.

³⁸ J. Gierszewski, *Organization of the social security system*, Pub. Difin, Warsaw 2013, p. 151.

³⁹ See J. Czapiński, T. Panek (ed.), *Social diagnosis. Conditions and quality of life of the Poles*, The Social Monitoring Council, Warsaw 2007, p. 316, http://www.diagnoza.com/pliki/raporty/Diagnoza_raport_2007.pdf (access 27.10.2018).

⁴⁰ See CSO, *Quality of life in Poland in 2015. Results of the social cohesion survey*, Warsaw 2017; www.stat.gov.pl/...zycia/...zycia.../jakosc-zycia-w-polsce-w-2015-roku-wyniki-badan (access 27.10.2018)