

PREPARATION OF THE SOCIETY AGAINST CRISIS AND WAR – BASIC ASPECTS

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Abstract: *Social security is an essential element ensuring the proper functioning of the national security system in the state. In order to fulfil this task, the state adequately prepares the society through education for safety and provides training in the field of universal self-defence of the population in order to prepare citizens in the event of crisis and war. The article presents only issues concerning education for safety and universal self-defence of the population.*

Keywords: NATIONAL SECURITY, SOCIAL SECURITY, EDUCATION FOR SAFETY, TRAINING THE POPULATION IN SELF-DEFENCE.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the aspiration of every state is to provide broadly understood security¹, which is influenced by many interrelated factors, both internal and external. Current security conditions include variability, unpredictability and surprise², with which most of current security threats are connected, because they concern both internal threats (e.g. natural disasters are unpredictable) and external ones (e.g. all actions of terrorist groups characterize these three features). The whole security is affected by various factors, which is why we can speak about, among others, military, ecological, energy, economic, political, cultural, social and information security. The individual types of security depend on each other, therefore, when thinking about any security, all aspects should be taken into account³. When considering security-related issues, it should be remembered that security is not only a state obtained as a result of the activities of various entities, but also a continuous process due to the changing threats of the modern world, the situation on the international arena.

The issue of this article is related to social security and precisely to the preparation of society for functioning in conditions of danger, crisis and war.

In conclusion, the essence of national security⁴ is persistence, survival of the society in crisis conditions and development in favourable conditions, as well as risk taking in situations of all threats.

Social security⁵ being an element of national security, is to ensure the conditions for a dignified life of citizens and the development of the entire nation (spiritual and material), as well as

ensure the protection of national heritage. It includes:⁶ protection and strengthening of national identity, operation of the media for security, counteracting threats to demography, ensuring social security and education for safety (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Structure of the Social Security System. Own study based on: National Security Strategy of the RP 2014.

1. Education for safety⁷

The issue includes activities aimed at acquiring knowledge and skills by the citizens in the area of security, increasing their competence in this area and strengthening social awareness of security threats and proper response in the event of their occurrence. It is implemented by general and higher education, central and local state institutions as well as associations and non-governmental organizations⁸, which must cooperate together.

The Act on the general duty of defence of the Republic of Poland determines who is subject to the obligation of education for safety, these are: [Primary school and secondary school students: general high school, technical school and industry school of the 1st

¹ Security is: "a state of non-threat, peace, confidence"- J. Stańczyk, *Contemporary understanding of security*, ISP PAN, Warsaw 1996, p. 15; Security – "a state that gives you confidence and guarantees its maintenance and a chance for improvement. One of the basic human needs is a situation characterized by a lack of risk of losing something that a person particularly values, for example: health, work, respect, feelings, material goods"- Ed. J. Pawłowski, *Dictionary of terms in the field of national security*, AON, Warsaw 2009, s. 13.

² See J. Marczak, *National Security – concept, character, determinants* [in] *Foundations of national security in the era of globalization*, ed. R. Jakubczak, AON, Warsaw 2008, p. 34-39

³ See A. Skrabacz, S Sulowski, *Social security. Concepts, conditions, challenges*. Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p.14.

⁴ Security began to be described and researched in this subject as an antidote to the emergence of new (non-military) threats in the 1980s, previously only military strikes were recognized. Author's footnote.

⁵ "Social security covers all legal and organizational activities carried out by governmental entities (national and international), non-governmental organizations and citizens themselves, which aim at providing a certain standard of living for individuals, families and social groups and preventing their marginalization and social exclusion"- M. Leszczyński, *Social security and state security*, Publication of the Jan Kochanowski University of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Kielce 2009, p. 37; "Social security means protecting the existential basis of human life, providing opportunities to satisfy individual needs (material and spiritual) and performance of life aspirations by creating conditions for work and study, health protection and pension guarantees"- A.Skrabacz, *Social security, Theoretical and practical basics*, Publishing House Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p. 38.

⁶ National security strategy from 2014, p. 38;

⁷ Ibidem, p. 39; The subject of "Education for safety" was introduced to Polish school from September 1, 2009, replacing the subject of "Protective Prevention". The scope of education within the framework of "Education for safety" includes issues concerning: state security, preparation for rescue operations in the event of various threats, principles of first aid and health education – Author's footnote.

⁸ National security strategy from 2014, p. 39.

degree, with the exception of adult school students, are subject to education for safety]⁹. In addition, the Act specifies that the subject "Education for safety" is mandatory for the above-mentioned schools and covers one hour per week.

The ordinance of the Minister of National Education¹⁰ sets out in detail the goal and assumption of the subject "Education for safety", stating that it is to prepare students for appropriate, proper responses to dangerous situations, according to the scale of the threat, and presents content regarding rescue operations, first aid and individual and collective health-related issues. In addition, the subject takes into account issues concerning state security including the essence of security, safety components, its determinants and the role of international organizations in ensuring security. The curriculum is based on the core curriculum of the subject: education for safety. It consists of four modules: state security, threats in the modern world and dealing in emergency situations, first aid in emergency states threatening life, health education (fig. 2).

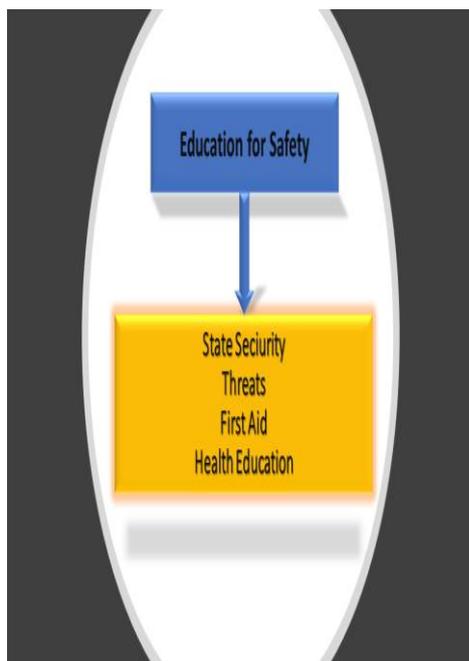


Fig. 2. Education for safety. Own study based on: Regulation of the Minister of National Education of February 14, 2017

State security

Security is the basis for the functioning of every state and allows its stable development. The defence system of the state consists of many links that must cooperate together and complement each other. Therefore, it is necessary to know the geopolitical conditions of Poland's security, the importance of international organizations in shaping security.

Threats in the modern world, dealing with threats

⁹ The Act of November 21, 1967 on the general obligation to defend the Republic of Poland (Journal of Laws of 1967 no. 44, item 220 and Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1459, 1669), art. 166.1.

¹⁰ See the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of February 14, 2017 on the core curriculum of pre-school education and the core curriculum of general education for primary school, including students with intellectual disability of a moderate or severe degree, general education for a special school of the 1st degree, general education for a special school preparing for work and general education for a post-secondary school (Journal of Laws of 2017, item 356).

Issues of this module will familiarize students with the threats of various origins (natural and man-made) occurring in the modern world, allow to recognize alarm signals, warning messages in force in the state and also learn the rules of conduct in case of alarm signals. They teach how to respond in crises at home, at school and the surrounding area. They allow to get to know the role and tasks of services responsible for participation in the elimination of threats (fire, traffic accidents, snowstorms, release of dangerous chemicals, terrorist incidents).

First aid in sudden life-threatening situations

The subject of this module contains a very wide range of issues regarding first aid, safe conduct at the place of event (protection of one's own health, assessment of own capabilities, use of personal protection measures), recognizing the life threatening condition of the injured person, the ability to deal with the unconscious person (among others, assessment of respiratory function and possible airway clearance, correct positioning of the unconscious person in the lateral position, thermal protection of the person). In addition, the module teaches proceedings in the case of people with limb injuries, burns, cardiac arrest, choking and others. Knowledge, skills achieved under this chapter can be used in various types of threats involving persons injured.

Health education. Health in an individual and collective dimension

Issues included in this module allow to get to know the factors and behaviours that threaten health, or act positively on people, and also indicate tasks that can contribute to improving health (among others, protection of the natural environment, cooperation of people, organizations for health).

2. Training in the field of universal self-defence of the population

Activities aimed at preparing the population for universal self-defence consist in its participation in training and the performance of specific obligations by citizens. Legal regulations concerning activities within this field can be found in: Act of November 21, 1967, on the general obligation to defend the Republic of Poland (section IV, chapter 4 – Common self-defence of the population) and in the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 28, 1993 on universal self-defence of the population. Universal self-defence as part of civil defence consists of compulsory participation of the population in basic or practical exercises (practical exercises can be carried out in the framework of combating natural disorders and environmental threats, as well as during removal of their consequences).

The Act on the general duty to defend the Republic of Poland includes the following provisions concerning this issue:¹¹ [Persons with the Polish citizenship, capable in terms of health, subject to the obligation to train the population in the field of universal self-defence. Training of the population in the field of universal self-defence aims to prepare for self-defence against the means of mass destruction and other actions of the enemy. Training of the population in the field of universal self-defence is carried out in the form of basic classes or practical exercises]. According to the provisions of the aforementioned Act, Polish citizens up to 60 years of age are obliged to self-defence, the exception being: sick persons, incapable of work, disabled, taking care of children under 16, pregnant women, soldiers of active service and officers of the services, guards responsible for security in the state (Internal Security Agency, Intelligence Agency, Police, Central Anticorruption Bureau, Border Guard, State Protection Service, Prison Service and State Fire Service). The duties imposed on

¹¹ Act of November 21, 1967 on the general obligation to defend the Republic of Poland (Journal of Laws of 1967, no. 44, item 220 and Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1459, 1669), § 168.

citizens within the framework of universal self-defence include: preparation of protection of residential premises, personal and individual property, protection of own sources of drinking water against pollution and contamination, maintenance of appropriate equipment and means of protection in a proper state.

The document in detail specifying the size, organization and principles of training the population in the field of universal self-defence and defining the competence of the authorities in matters of imposing this obligation and releasing it is the regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 28, 1993 on universal self-defence of the population.

Training in the field of universal self-defence consists of compulsory participation of people in basic or practical exercises.

Basic classes, are organized in the form of training or self-education, their task is to theoretically prepare the population to perform self-defence tasks. They are carried out in a five-year cycle, not more often than twice a year (on business days up to 4 hours or up to 8 hours on a non-working day). They are implemented on the basis of programs elaborated by commune administrators, mayors (presidents of cities) of programs, which take into account the program assumptions of the Head of National Civil Defence and the issue of threats of a given region, plant or environment, rules of conduct in cases of their appearance, assistance to the injured. The discussed classes conducted by civil defence instructors, commanders of the civil defence formation or other persons appropriately prepared for this are held in workplaces or in places of residence.

During **practical exercises**, projects are carried out that give the opportunity to acquire practical skills to protect own health and life, household and help the injured.

[The organization of training of the population in the field of universal self-defence is directed by the competent civil defence chiefs using the existing database of the civil defence formation for this purpose]¹².

Participation in training in the field of universal self-defence is mandatory, imposed on citizens in the form of a decision issued by the commune administrator or mayor (city president). People who were established under the said decision are required to attend training in the field of universal self-defence in the time and place indicated by the organizer of the training. There is a possibility of appeal against the decision, the appeal may be at the request of the person concerned or from the office (e.g. due to the position held – significant for reasons of national security) after presenting the documents justifying the application. Exemptions from the obligation to undergo training in the field of universal self-defence are carried out by commune administrators or mayors (city presidents).

Commune administrator, mayor (city president) by imposing the obligation on the citizens to prepare for self-defence defines the principles of preparing buildings for protection, proceedings after the announcement of alarm signals and during natural disasters and other threats, as well as controls the preparation of self-defence.

The head (owner) of the workplace (in relations to the employees of the plant), commune administrator or mayor (city president) are obliged to keep records of persons subject to training in the field of universal self-defence and persons who have been trained.

Expenses related to the training of the population in the scope of universal self-defence constitute the costs of the state budget as part of current expenditure for defence purposes.

4. Conclusions

The presented analytical material concerns a very important social problem, which is the proper preparation of the population of the state to act in the event of crisis or war. Knowledge of this problem by young people under education and adult citizens can make a significant contribution to surviving in difficult crises. The idea of implementing the subject "Education for safety" with its program assumptions is a very good idea, but it does not always work well in practice due to the lack of fully prepared, specialized, educating staff.

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¹² Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 28, 1993 on universal self-defence of the population (Journal of Laws of 1993, no. 91, item 421) §3.