

SUMMARY

The dissertation, entitled: *Care for national heritage and patriotic-defensive upbringing on the example of the activities of the Association NASZ BEZPIECZNY POWIAT KĘPIŃSKI*¹, takes up the issue of patriotic-defensive upbringing, the formation of national identity and historical intergenerational ties of the local community of Kępiński district (county). The issue was recognized in the context of the activities of a micro-regional non-governmental organization, whose leading statutory goal is the implementation of tasks for security in various dimensions of public life.

The author's intention was to study and describe the significance of the impact of an objective factor, such as the activity of a local organization, on the subjective feeling of security by the residents of Kępno district. The essence of the research undertaken was to identify the key determinants of the sense of security of the Kępno community in correlation with the social activity of a non-government, nonprofit entity in financial terms. In practical terms, the idea of the dissertation was to develop a paradigm for the activities of this type of social body in shaping security at the local level – the Kępiński district, as distinguished by the title.

Considering the object and purpose of the research – the *main research problem* was formulated in the form of a question with the following content: *What modifying and improving changes should be induced in the activity of the Association NASZ BEZPIECZNY POWIAT KĘPIŃSKI to increase its effectiveness in the conducted activity for the formation of social defense potential, a sense of national identity and the promotion of patriotic attitudes?*

In this situation, it became crucial for the research basis of the dissertation to solve one of the specific problems, namely: *What improvements, initiatives and activities would be associationally effective in shaping the necessary patriotic, defensive, and civic attitudes for the benefit of the community of Kępno County?*

This dissertation is a written report of the process that allowed the final resolution of the assumptions presented above. It consists of an introduction, five chapters and

¹ Note: in terms of the used nomenclature - the full name of the social organization examined in this dissertation and registered in the National Court Register (KRS no. 0000494372) is - Stowarzyszenie "NASZ BEZPIECZNY POWIAT KĘPIŃSKI". Due to the principle of uniformity of the record respected by the author, the following entry will be used in the text of the dissertation - *Stowarzyszenie NASZ BEZPIECZNY POWIAT KĘPIŃSKI*, or an abbreviated version - SNBPK.

a conclusion, where each substantive subsection – in addition to the title-distinguished content – contains a synthetic summary and conclusions of a rudimentary nature.

The first part – *Methodological Assumptions of the dissertation* – justifies the choice of the topic, concretizes the object and purpose of the research, defines the main research problem and specific problems. Based on these attitudes, the adopted *working hypothesis* and *specific hypotheses* were then presented. In addition, the course of the research process was described, as well as the methods, techniques and tools used at its various stages.

The second chapter – *Nation-building Factors and Values of National Identity* – is theoretical in nature. The discourse contained therein is an argument summarizing the author's inclination towards the thematically distinguished issues – from the most general approach, through the threads narrowing down to the issues of collective and individual identity, to the identification of the sense of national distinctiveness. The inquiries conducted in this area, were adequately supported by the content, being the results of the applied sociological and socio-historical analysis.

The third chapter – *Activating Social Capital in a Changing Security Environment* – presents the results of research indicating the qualities of the interrelationships of modern civil society. Emphasizing the importance, thus distinguished values, was linked to the necessary formation of civic attitudes and improvement of defense education.

The fourth chapter – *Formation of national elites and the role of the local community* – was adopted as ordering the issues of optimizing, implemented in the country, the process of triggering the necessary behavior with native values and universally activating. Based on such assumptions, the issues of preserving national heritage at the central and local levels and the essence of activating communities at the local level were slanted.

The fifth chapter – *Kępiński association activity and the postulate model of activation* – was given the character of a classical exposition of the results of empirical research, the foundation of which was the presentation of the sociological specificity and complexity of the studied micro-environment. Thus empowered, the existence of the *Association NASZ BEZPIECZNY POWIAT KĘPIŃSKI* was translated into a multi-source exploration of the assumptions and significance of its activities in the field of national heritage and patriotic-defensive education. This then became the basis for a probing assessment of the presented organizational activity. At the same time, it provided an ace to formulate viable proposals for changes to optimize such an activity profile. This was done both in empirical terms for management practitioners – and in theoretical terms for the needs of the discipline of *security science*.

The conclusion summarizes overall the issues that are the subject of the research, with a conclusion about the degree to which the objectives of the dissertation have been achieved. Based on the theoretical considerations conducted and the results of empirical studies, the author supplemented this material with his own thoughts and conclusions. On such a basis – he then articulated legitimate postulates for the formation of security at the local level – while indicating areas that require further scientific exploration.