



The Contemporary Aspects of Local Security

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Abstract

The sense of security of the inhabitants of a given territorial unit is one of the elements integrally related to the process of local development. Achieving an acceptable level of local security requires the creative activity of the local government and providing residents with protection against threats. Creating the desired state of security in the local environment is not possible without the continuous involvement of many entities in both material and non-material dimensions, which should ensure the implementation of the agreed tasks and the meeting of the collective needs of the community. An important element here is to take action to build and strengthen the resilience of territorial units against threats and crises. It is also important to perceive the security policy in the context of the objectives, assumptions, and implementation practice of the cohesion policy.

Keywords: self-government; development; security; territory; community; space

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1. Introduction

Security constitutes an intrinsic element of the functioning of local communities and is expressed in satisfying their basic needs, including the need to be safe in the subjective and objective sense. It also represents an important category when it comes to the quality of life. The local government has specific tasks to perform in this regard, and its main purpose is to create a process of growth within its area of operations. The sense of security of the inhabitants of a given territorial unit is one of the developmental factors and an important element of building its competitive advantage. It also influences the shaping of fundamental values and bonds in the local community, as well as establishing its territorial identity, which makes a given community a coherent organism, capable of active creation and conservation of common values and goods (Serafin, S. Parszowski, 2011).

It is worth noting that the tasks of local governments with regard to broadly understood security, focus on using proper tools to counter threats, properly reacting to the occurring phenomena, and shaping attitudes and behaviours strengthening the level of security on a certain territory.

It seems that the fundamental principles of the modern security policy on a local level include survival, territorial integrity, as well as the standard of living in the context of the

sense of security. That is why today local security is becoming a very important aspect of the inhabitants' perception of their individual position in the context of global conditions. It is also often the basis for cooperation with public authorities in developing various types of programmes and taking preventive action, whose purpose is to increase the security level in the area of the local authority concerned. Thereupon, the views and attitudes of the local government representatives regarding the issues of security as an area of territorial system development management. Their actions should translate into an increased sense of security (Potoczek, 2017).

It must also be noted that the process of initiating and shaping proper social behaviours, as well as encouraging civic participation in the public sphere, in the social-professional environment and within public institutions. It is important here to involve residents in the activities carried out by the relevant organisations and institutions. Another issue is the development of methods to solve social problems with corresponding legal and organisational procedures (Hoffmann, 2015).

From the local community's point of view, security should be perceived as one of the most important values, and with regard to the development process can be described as the ability to be creatively active to be able to take coordinated action freely and without threat. If the process of managing local development is to be considered, the ability to analyse risk, which next to the state of emergency is a security determinate, becomes extremely important. Risk is an objective uncertainty of the occurrence of unwanted situations, and it changes with the uncertainty that often accompanies socio-economic processes. A risk or uncertainty occurs when there is more than one possible outcome of our decision. In socio-economic practice eliminating risk is impossible, however, it can be limited through its proper management. There are many methods for assessing risk. They include intuitive, indicative, point, simplified, simulative, statistical, and discriminatory methods applied in practice (Samuelson, Marks, 1998).

Considering the issue of local community safety, one must also refer to the shaping of the public sphere in the context of creating conditions for cooperation, which may lead to the elimination of different threat categories of the territorial system. As there is an extremely complicated network of connections between the components of the development process, which shows its complexity and multiplicity of threads. Considering the issue of security on a territorial level, one must consider the plethora of conditions present, treating them as a peculiar state of peace and ability to neutralize threats within a geographically limited area, applying mostly to all the relations directly influencing the shaping of the standard of living (Drozdowski, 2016).

Local security understood as such, will be distinguished in a space characterised by common territory as the basis of socio-economic life. Thus, the security localisation is based on its positioning within a certain territorial system (Sosnowski, 2000).

The fundamental task of any authority is to guarantee the civilian population an acceptable security level and peaceful growth within the limits of its responsibility. On a local level, it requires creative activity of the local government, as well as protection and defence of the local community against threats. The most important objective of any effort by the authorities of any democratic state is ensuring proper conditions for its effortless, uncompromised growth. The guarantee of security requires a properly structured state

and community framework to meet the challenges that the threats and emergencies pose (Zieliński, 2004).

It seems that creating a desired state of security in a local environment demands constant engagement of multiple entities, as well as undertaking diverse enterprises. In that scope, it is supported by the culture of safety, which on both tangible and intangible levels should ensure the fulfilment of tasks related to shaping a desired level of security in a social environment and satisfying the community's basic needs.

2. The idea and objectives of building and strengthening the resilience of territorial entities

The contemporary definition and scope of the issue of security are being constantly reshaped, which stems from complex and everchanging conditions and factors influencing the safety level seen as an important factor forming the standard of living of the local community. Hence, the search for new solutions in a legal, organisational, and technological system that help deal with such problems that local authorities face when ensuring broadly defined security.

One such problem is the increased frequency and intensity of extreme phenomena stemming from climate change. Counteracting those phenomena and their results seems to be a priority of local authorities in the upcoming years and requires appropriate adaptation measures aimed at ensuring favourable conditions for socio-economic development at local and regional levels despite the rapidly increasing risks. According to the European Commission, which in 2013 published the *EU Strategy for the adaptation to climate change*, it is necessary to prepare the member states for the forecasted changes, as well as to take action at all management levels – state, regional, and local. Climate changes influence most elements of the functioning of territorial units, and floods, draughts and high temperatures threaten humanity and infrastructure, generating measurable losses. Adapting to climate change has both regional and local character, which is why it is crucial to support the efforts of local governments leading to increased resilience to the negative consequences of climate change. The issue of adaptation should be one of the priorities in a legal, technological, organisational, and social sphere. It requires the preparation of adequate action plans, based on threat analysis and the proposed adaptive actions. When talking about climate change, one must note that it constitutes a global problem, has serious ecological, social, economic, political, and income division repercussions and is one of the biggest challenges for humanity (Burszta, 2017). Efforts should therefore be made to develop a catalogue of identified key climate change risks at the local level and, consequently, to plan and implement specific adaptation measures.

In Poland, the idea of building and strengthening the resilience of territorial units against said phenomena is neither commonly known nor popular. However, since the problems connected to climate change systematically increase, it is necessary to provide security for the future development of territorial entities in the face of mounting threats. Vulnerability and the need for resilience which is discussed in the context of local and regional governments, may refer to different components of the endogenous potential or the relation of the territorial unit with its surroundings. However, it must be noted that the sole definition of resilience regarding a town or a parish is not specified in any

document, and the definitions that are included are often very general. Simply speaking, a resistant territorial unit is a unit which promotes increased capacity to counteract negative phenomena in the institutions, infrastructure, and socio-economic life in its area, reduces the vulnerability of these elements to extreme events and responds creatively to economic, social, and environmental changes to enable long-term sustainability. In this sense, the concept is strategic, establishing the actions that need to be taken to increase the effectiveness of the prevention of and response to crisis phenomena. Therefore, in the case of climate changes, it is becoming increasingly common to create the so-called adaptation strategies that demonstrate the capacity of territorial units to respond to phenomena likely to occur in the future or currently occurring in a particular area, which reduces the sense of security and may cause negative effects or constitute a negative turning point in the development process. It is then the ability to consciously react to the threats and to diminish their risk, involving a change in the perspective from which the development of the territorial system is considered. Such resilience emphasises the fact that the system keeps changing and works in time and space in the face of threats. It allows for the launch of mechanisms which will reduce the vulnerability of territorial units to negative changes and the resulting consequences and enable them to adapt to new conditions. Consequently, the endurance of the whole territorial system may be strengthened, regardless of the external changes, which enables its unimpeded development and fulfilment of the established goals.

In the face of ever-growing threats and dynamic changes, thinking in terms of resilience has a practical application, as it accentuates the essence of reaction to the occurring threats. Local governments taking definitive action to reinforce resilience is only possible after assessing and accounting for potential threats, and vulnerabilities of the system and after identifying future conditioning. It is therefore necessary to outline the types of threats that may occur and then to analyse their impact on the whole system, through examining interactions between its individual elements. The extent of the influence of a catastrophe or a sudden, negative change depends on the vulnerability of the territorial system and the knowledge of its weakness helps to identify the areas that require enhancement. It is basic knowledge allowing for building resilience that must be viewed in the context of the territorial governance process. The effectiveness of the local government enterprises in that regard is largely determined by the degree of cooperation between both the individual management levels, as well as local authorities and socio-economic partners. Multi-level management with simultaneous extensive local autonomy is important here, as many threats are of a supralocal nature and thus, social consultation and engaging as big a group of stakeholders as possible in the planning process leads to higher effectiveness. A relationship that occurs between the administration and the socio-economic partners has a two-way character, since on one hand, the needs and the vulnerability of the inhabitants and economic entities are discovered, but on the other hand, information is provided on the measures taken and the possibilities for individual protection and adaptation. The multitude of connections and the viscosity of networks between the individual parties interested in building a system of resilience and relations within the territorial unit contribute to the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and innovation. The active engagement of numerous stakeholders in the planning process results in accounting for their needs and creating solutions based on compromise, which makes taking action easier. A systematic flow of knowledge and experience may lead to the establishment of optimal programmes to increase resilience, which in turn increases

the likelihood of their realisation. The fulfilment of the planned actions must proceed in a thought-out manner, considering the current needs and future conditions change. A territorial system equipped with innovative and measured solutions can react to threats, deflecting and mitigating their outcomes, as well as adapting to new conditions.

The next matter is creating a network of relations between territorial units, as building resilience is a complex process, requiring engagement and cooperation of many units (Bilska, 2016). This is why the relations on different public administration levels are important, especially when the issue concerns a bigger area. Building resilience through cooperation is connected to the effectiveness of reaction to threats, which largely depends on the relation of a given territorial unit with the environment. The proper use of mutual influences may cause an increased resilience on both sides. Establishing a partnership of territorial units, and their cooperation with institutions and organizations, corporations and inhabitants must be noted here, as consequently, they allow for the synergy effect to occur.

The actual resilience building happens through actions that are both directly and indirectly connected to the premises and purposes set in strategies and plans. Their fulfilment demands creating new solutions significant for shaping the public sphere, which influences the relation of the territorial system – both with the environment and occurring inside.

The appearance of the idea of resilience is connected to reacting to current and future challenges and constitutes an important element in the local development policy. The starting here point is always the emergency. It is broadly understood that the policy of resilience should be based on conclusions drawn from emergencies in which territorial units are forced to counteract threats or face the consequences of cataclysms. The policy of resilience is based on the flexible reaction ability to both external and internal triggers, as well as the ability to adapt to ever-changing conditions. It is a proposal to look at the modern government body as a network of closely related elements, which, from the perspective of management, should be regarded as a whole. The idea of resilience reflects the ability to survive in the face of emergencies, especially those that are related to the effects of progressing climate changes. The way of thinking about crisis management is related to the everyday functioning of the local environment, which must face the growing physical, social, and economic challenges of the 21st century. The premise of enhancing the level of resilience is that the modern territorial units must make an effort to establish a broadly understood policy that fights against turmoil, cataclysms, and crises, simultaneously counteracting everyday problems and situations faced by the local community. According to that perspective, the economic, social, technological, or organisational issues also pose a serious threat to the functioning of the territorial unit. Hence the socio-economic, technological, and organisational resilience of the territorial unit and its inhabitants is the root of all the other challenges and threats. This holistic understanding of a town or parish as a complex of overlapping conditions originates from different threats to the life of each inhabitant. The perspective requires a complex enhancement of local communities, not only when it comes to reacting to a direct threat, but also in relation to a multitude of aspects that counteract potential threats. It determines the creation of flexible procedures and tools allowing to avoid, or somewhat

nullify the consequences of potential and actual threats (Wyzwania dla bezpieczeństwa infrastruktury krytycznej, 2017).

It must be noted that although the whole idea of building resilience has a universal global character, implementing a set of established solutions counteracting the internal and external threats must be tailored to individual territorial units and their local character. These units differ when it comes to their economic, social, spatial, or historical situation. They have unique experiences regarding crises or potential threats, and they also established their ways of handling existing difficulties. This is why it becomes extremely important to create conditions for creative exchange of experiences and recognising common problems which will in turn provide opportunities using the tools available to different facilities to solve any upcoming problems. An important element of creating modern resilience strategies is exchanging experiences and building conviction that territorial units do not have to search and implement proper solutions for the arising problems but rather can use the experience and good practices that were successful in other facilities. It is also necessary to create proper conditions for the active implementation of groundbreaking policies of growth, innovation and providing technological and substantive support in creating strategies that meet the needs of each territorial system. The purpose of the action should be to create flexible government bodies capable of reacting to threats and emergencies whilst ensuring a dignified way of life and adapting to the evolving needs of their inhabitants.

Due to the scarcity of knowledge and experience in this area, there is a need in Poland to promote and develop just such an approach to the issue of broadly conceived local security. It is therefore about creating the conditions for learning about the concept of resilience and then popularising it among local authorities. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the differing development potentials of the territorial entities, as well as the knowledge and experience of public representatives regarding the subject of threats and the implementation of security policy. This probably requires systematic and consistent action coordinated by committed leaders.

If one is to undertake activity in this area, it is also necessary to pay attention to the adaptation of the discussed concept to the legal, organisational, and social conditions under which Polish self-governments function. Thus, what is important here is the conceptual scope of the presented issues, the forms, and methods of achieving the intended effects, the designed and implemented action instruments, as well as the effects measuring method and the selection of proper factors.

Adopting and putting the idea of building and strengthening resilience into practice will engage Polish local governments in the European and global stream of activities, as said issues are the focus of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNIDRR) – the organisation that initiated a programme to increase the resilience of territorial units against the operations linked to the negative effects of civilizational transformation, including climate change. It results in the creation of a cooperation platform, exchanging experiences and solving common problems related to the implementation of various enterprises connected to a broadly understood local security. Participation in the programme does not bring any financial benefits, as the enterprise is mostly oriented towards the social and organizational effects, as well as perfecting the planning process

for building resilience against the current threats, although it will take on a more financial character. It must be noted here that the premises of the programme refer to not only eliminating the consequences of catastrophes and emergencies, but also everyday operations, developing contacts, undertaking joint initiatives, and thus creating a new quality of cooperation and partnership to ensure a broadly understood security on a territorial level.

3. Security policy in a contemporary context

According to the accepted paradigm of regional policy, the issues regarding local and regional development are considered in a broad context of the territorially oriented growth policy. It involves a process of supporting the development of areas for which it is necessary to take into account the broader context and specificities that distinguish them from other territorial units. Therefore, describing it as a territorially oriented policy, connected to the local governments' operations for sustainable growth, using their endogenic potential seems well-based.

The policy in such a term encompasses issues relating to broadly understood security in its territorial, spatial, social, or economic aspects. Individual territorial government units, which have different tasks and influence tools, create a multilevel system of a jointly responsible growth process management of a given territory, take proactive steps to analyse and evaluate the various risks and subsequently plan specific measures to prevent and limit the effects of crises. In this way, the foundations are being laid for the integration of security issues into the area of territorial system management, which will allow security policy to be incorporated into the local and regional development policy stream. At the same time, a platform will be created for the coordination of sectoral policies and the intersectoral implementation of measures in relation to development objectives set for the regional and local levels. It is also necessary to develop appropriate instruments and organisational solutions for the implementation of tasks with respect to security objectives at the local and regional levels. This will allow for greater integration and coordination of activities, which will consequently contribute to a more effective security policy implementation as an integral element of development policy.

In turn, from the point of view of cohesion policy, actions aimed at supporting the socio-economic development of individual areas and counteracting the accumulation of socio-economic problems are essential. It is also important to reduce socio-economic disparities, improve the living conditions and quality of life of inhabitants, as well as to improve the attractiveness and increase the level of competitiveness of territorial units. With regards to ensuring territorial cohesion, accessibility to public services that condition active and safe participation in the local development process is of great importance. Actions taken in this respect should take into account the specificity of individual areas and result from bottom-up designed strategies, action plans or other strategic documents at the local or regional level. This will enable the integration of areas requiring cross-sectoral cooperation and solutions for achieving development goals at the local level (Strategia na rzecz Odpowiedzialnego Rozwoju, Ministerstwo Infrastruktury i Rozwoju Warszawa 2017).

It should be ensured that the designed activities and the implementation system aim at favouring local development ventures, with the cooperation of various actors. What is

essential in this context seems to be the programming of operations that best meet the needs of individual territories, based on an assessment of the socio-economic situation, an analysis of potential threats and the use of existing and constantly evolving resources. The development policy must take into account the territorial aspect with regard to all the types of intervention, including the security issues as well. Therefore, it is important to match the development policy to a given area through strategic programming that accounts for growth diversity and the dynamics of individual areas, their relations, and interactions, as well as the identified problems. It must be noted that in response to the changing development conditions, the new growth model, and past experiences regarding the fulfilment of regional policy, there is a need to perfect the functioning mechanisms and instruments of said policy. It will influence the success rate and quality of regional policy, as well as other public policies that have a significant impact on the territorial development process. The territorial focus of regional policy and its thematic concentration, which consists of focusing on those development factors that offer the greatest opportunity for socio-economic growth and an improved quality of life, becomes vital. The issues related to security should be considered one of such matters. Thus, the role of the process of identifying the choice of specialisations related to the development process, and supporting the identified sectors and subject matters that give a chance for lasting growth of the socio-economic potential and the standard of living in a given territory will be expanded. Therefore, a big emphasis must be placed on the engagement and responsibility of local governments for setting a course of socio-economic growth and engagement in identifying and counteracting occurring threats.

From the point of view of development issues, security is understood as a category of a specific need that requires systematic satisfaction and all negligence in this regard causes damage to an individual and social group, destabilising their identity and functioning. One can thus assume that security is not as much a specified state of being, but a continuous social process by which the operating entities try to perfect the mechanisms securing their safety (Kukułka, 1995). Security is a significant category when it comes to local development activities, as an area linked to the subject of development policy, their functioning methods, socio-economic stability system, the quality of public space and the character of decision processes (Kitler, 2004). Security also directly affects the organizational stability and social order of a territorial unit and the public authority system. Moreover, it must be noted that the effectiveness of the development policy measures, conflict management methods, administration efficiency and the degree of civil society development (See Buzan, Weaver, de Wilde, 1998, pp. 7-8).

Security is also treated as a factor influencing the guarantee of the betterment of the citizens' standard of living, building trust for public institutions, as well as the state ensuring the protection of life and health of the residents and public wealth, against the consequences of and natural and technological disasters (Sekściński, 2013).

Thus, in the analysed context security in its broadest sense encompasses guaranteeing the needs related to existing, surviving, the whole territory, identity, independence, peacefulness, resource management, and the certainty of growth. As it is a necessary individual and social group need, it is simultaneously the basic guideline for local authority operations (Zięba, 2004). It is related to undertaking activities in favour of

public interest linked with the concept of fair access to public goods. From the local authority's point of view, the protection of public interest becomes crucial.

Sense of security also significantly affects a general assessment of an individual's life situation, shaping, to a large extent, the freedom of action, both in terms of subjective perceptions and real action taken, as well as the individual's links with the local community (Siemaszko, 1993).

Moreover, a sense of security strengthens the integration and social control process, as well as enhances the probability of the occurrence of behaviours benefitting social inclusion and the creation of lasting identity elements and territorial identification elements. It influences the quality of life, where experiences regarding the sense of security become an extremely important factor for citizen engagement in enhancing the economic as well as socio-technological conditions and potential improvement of the state of security. It can be assumed that security is one of the main factors shaping interpersonal and intergroup relationships with social environments, simultaneously including the objective assessment of the situation as well as the subjective sense of danger to the basic political, social, economic, as well as cultural and civilization values. It is both a defined state and process that is simultaneously a peculiar value and deciding factor in building the community responsible for the development of a territorial unit (Tatarczuk, 2007).

It must be emphasised that the basic step in the process of ensuring security is establishing the character of modern threats that can stem from both natural causes and/or be caused by another human (Leksykon wiedzy wojskowej, Warszawa 1979).

However, the whole picture of modern threats must be a result of conclusions whose rationale is the events that took place in the 20th and the 21st centuries. The change in the security environment at the brink of the recent centuries is the effect of the immense development of science and technology. The technological revolution created a state of social dichotomy. While it expanded human ability to make the world more friendly and comfortable it also gave us powerful tools for military and non-military conflicts. The experience stemming from the enormous scientific and technological development of the 20th and 21st centuries, point to the fact that apart from the positive factors that the development of modern protection measures gives us, at the same time, an unprecedented threat to humanity has emerged, including the spectre of environmental degeneration.

The resulting diverse phenomena cannot be ignored in the process of creating local security. Only proper preparation of available forces and resources, as well as developing an effective action strategy in the stable conditions of a functioning state, may lead to optimization and effectiveness of the solutions taken in case of direct threats to the territorial system. Thinking about security must consist of continually pushing beyond one's current limitations. Each next step of the operations regarding safety based on past experiences must go beyond the current threats. It must also be based on the inductive conclusions generalising the results of the individual, empirically available occurrences. Based on these, conclusions forming the basis for the creation of strategic plans to protect the interests of local communities and the directions for the transformation of the local

system should be drawn (Kopczewski, M. Tobolski, *Wyzwania i zagrożenia dla bezpieczeństwa Państwa*, www.awl.edu.pl).

It must be highlighted that modern security is understood in a much broader sense than in the past and it encompasses political, military, economic, technological, ecological, social humanitarian, or epidemiological aspects. Therefore, security is a significant existential need resulting from the objective conditions of the existence of humans and different social groups, as well as their mutual relationships that require care to be fulfilled. Thus, identifying and being aware of threats becomes the basic condition for undertaking preventive measures and organising different forms of counteraction.

It seems that political threats play a leading, overarching role, as other types of threats can arise from them, providing the stimulus that triggers the occurrence of other types of threats, especially economic, military, ecological, or social. In the complex reality of international relationships, threats can overlap, occur individually or holistically, and sometimes have a snowball effect. In certain threatening situations of one nature, they can take the form of a threat of another nature. Globalisation processes are broadening the material scope of state security. Threats in the age of globalisation have a dynamic and multidirectional character and also change their nature.

Such is the nature of social risks in the form of international terrorism, organised crime economic threats resulting from the actions of capital markets, risk capital and transnational corporations' capital, as well as ecological threats. At the same time, there is a broadening of the range of actors who are the carriers of specific threats. The factor of some security threats is their location and functioning in the transnational social sphere and on numerous occasions being detached from any location (Ciekanowski, 2010).

Contemporary technological solutions and the perspective of an even more dynamic technological development, lead to the rise of a new social model and therefore, new types of threats and an associated necessity to create new forms and methods of action to ensure security. Broadly defined social communication supported by modern media and capabilities created by advanced digitization plays an important role. In turn, globalisation processes lead to the disappearance of economic diversity, social structures, and cultural differences. Nowadays, technology is the most important driving impulse for civilizational changes and science is the main manufacturing force. New inventions and new technologies may make human life easier, significantly influence the state of security, violate, or restore ecological balance, and, most importantly, influence the shaping of social life and change the existing cultural patterns (Borkowski, 2001).

Civilizational changes always occur in conditions of the disintegration of the existing rules of social life and gradual or sudden substitution of past rules with new ones. (Czerniachowicz, Marek, Szczepkowska, 2008).

Each new civilization brings a new style of family life, changes in work practices, different perceptions of self and other people, new forms of economic activity, new conflicts, and most importantly, new awareness. Radical changes in the way social structure's function, related to wide access to information, the development of mass communication and social migration cause radical changes in the individual way of life and established interpersonal bonds. The dominance of medial culture induces relevant changes in the structure of

psycho-social needs and the value hierarchy, leading to changes in attitudes not only towards themselves but also towards others (Dziewiecki, 2013).

In the face of the ongoing deep cultural and civilizational changes, one can observe the increase of the dilemmas regarding both their shape in the dimension of unification and the diversification of social and political life. New tendencies emerge, as well as corresponding threats influencing the quality of life of local communities and the operations' form of local authorities responsible for the management of the development of territorial units, where safety constitutes one of the most important areas of such management. It becomes important to design new forms of activities and solutions related to socio-economic and special programmes and constructions. New growth tendencies come to fruition, and the dichotomy of endeavours, attitudes and values occurs frequently, with the simultaneous clash of different visions of socio-economic development and the formation of common interests and values. At the same time a global civil society that engages local community members to cooperate for instance in building resilience to civilisational change and climate risks (Chodubski, 2009). It will carry a significant influence on understanding security policy carried out by the local governments, which includes actions in a specific area to achieve pre-defined objectives. Hence, it becomes important to define those goals taking into consideration both the current and predicted situation. Thus, it should be a purposeful, planned and organised activity of self-government, social and private entities within a territorial unit, aimed at achieving and maintaining an optimal level of security under given conditions, combined with the creation of solutions ensuring the ability to respond efficiently and effectively to emerging challenges and materialising threats (W. Fehler, O pojęciu polityki wewnętrznego bezpieczeństwa państwa, „Studia Prawnoustrojowe”, 2014, issue 23, p. 208).

It must be highlighted that the scope of security policy understood as such will be very broad and diverse due to the plurality of contemporary threats. Therefore, the process of constructing security policy on a local level should be preceded by formulating main goals for the policy whose reference point should be local interests and the widely understood safety of the inhabitants. It becomes especially important in conditions of change caused by the coronavirus pandemic state-wide and on a European level, which generates not only a humanitarian crisis but also serious socio-economic implications. Thus, the issue of economic repercussions of the coronavirus crisis and then of the joint support in the reconstruction of economies and various forms of social life. It is also in a way a time of trial for the leaders and whole communities, which serves as a reminder that we live in a world, where cooperation is difficult, a focus on one's interest dominates, which requires a new outlook on the issue of contemporary security.

Hence, there is the need for knowledge and imagination, taking into account existing realities, to properly interpret phenomena and processes in their socio-economic, spatial and cultural dimensions. It will allow us to outline a vision for the future, considering numerous circumstances connected to it and important thanks to their impact on potential future occurrences. This creates policies relating to regional and local issues that can strengthen certain lines of activity or prevent some events. It has a serious influence on the development of local and regional communities, where a sense of safety is one of the pillars of a broadly understood quality of life.

4. Conclusion

It should be emphasised that the issue of security is part of the overall activities related to the local development process and its determinants. Due to its importance, meaning, and complexity ensuring security fits in the catalogue of the basic needs and tasks of every local government and the local community in its various configurations. Security is both an expected state, but also a continuous process, whereas its level and maintenance expectancy are under constant dynamic transformations, according to the existing conditions. Security is therefore not a constant and immutable value, which is why one of the most important elements of action in this field is to achieve an adequate level of satisfaction with the need for security at the level of the territorial unit, as well as to systematically observe, diagnose, and modify the conditions and instruments for achieving the desired state.

The issue is related to the concept and functioning of civic society, whose ideals are one of the aims of the European Union's and member states' social policy. At the same time, security is an important area of activity, which, although not strictly developmental in nature, is important for shaping the idea of self-government solidarity and achieving socio-economic goals, providing a stable basis for further development and modernisation of the territorial unit, thus playing an important role in meeting development challenges.

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