

Abstract

This doctoral thesis analyses social participation as a factor shaping local security, using the rural municipality of Lubartów and the town of Lubartów as case studies. The subject matter falls within the field of research on local security, with particular emphasis on the role of local communities in shaping it.

The main research question was formulated as follows: to what extent does social participation shape the safety of residents in the rural and urban municipalities of Lubartów, and what measures can increase the involvement of local communities in safety provision processes? The aim of the research was to assess the extent and manner in which social participation influences local security, and to identify measures that foster greater resident engagement in this area.

The research process employed a diagnostic survey method, utilising questionnaire techniques and expert interview techniques. The analysis examined available forms of social participation, mechanisms of cooperation between residents and local entities, and factors determining the level of local community engagement.

The research findings showed that social participation is a key element in shaping local security, influencing both residents' sense of security and the effectiveness of measures taken by public institutions. Differences in the level of social engagement were found between rural and urban municipalities, resulting, among other things, from differing social and organisational conditions. It was established that significant barriers limiting the level of participation include infrastructure and transport conditions, including limited resident mobility, difficulties with access, and digital exclusion.

Empirical research highlighted the low level of resident participation in available forms of participation, such as reporting hazards, taking part in public consultations, citizens' initiatives or participatory budgeting. It was found that the limited level of engagement stems, among other things, from insufficient knowledge of opportunities for participation and limited information flow. It was also established that a key factor influencing residents' activity is the visibility of the outcomes of the actions taken.

Based on the results obtained, organisational, legal, communication and institutional solutions were proposed, aimed at increasing the involvement of local communities in safety assurance processes. The conclusions from the research may serve as a basis for improving local safety policies and developing a model of cooperation between residents and the bodies responsible for safety.

Keywords: social participation, local safety, local community, civic engagement, local community activation