

Doctoral dissertation: "The Concept of a Public Security and Order System in the Capital City of Warsaw"

Abstract

The present dissertation addresses the issue of organization and functioning of the public order and safety system in the capital city of Warsaw. The study concentrates on three primary areas: (1) the condition and evaluation of normative determinants both national and non-state as well as socio-political, administrative and local government, spatial and urban, ecological, perceptual (including the sense of security and public expectations), economic, and technical factors relevant to the city of Warsaw; (2) a critical assessment of the existing solutions and institutional arrangements; and (3) the development and presentation of a comprehensive concept for ensuring safety and public order in the metropolitan area, informed by the author's original empirical research.

From a theoretical perspective, this dissertation fills a significant research gap by examining integrated urban security solutions that encompass normative, organizational, and social dimensions. Practically, it responds to the pressing need to enhance the existing public safety system by identifying strategic directions for its modification and improvement. These recommendations address contemporary challenges associated with crime, extraordinary threats, and cybersecurity, while simultaneously supporting the development of urban resilience in the face of evolving risks.

The research's cognitive objectives were: (1) critical source inquiry and the possibilities of their utilization; (2) analysis and evaluation of current normative solutions (ordinary legislation and executive acts, resolutions of the City Council of Warsaw) as well as programmatic-organizational and control solutions (level of local government organizational units); (3) analysis and evaluation of the city's and residents' safety in the context of the internal and external security environment of the state; (4) determination of the typology of security and public order threats in Warsaw, assessment of systemic solutions, and possibilities for their modernization; (5) mapping of characteristic security and public order deficits in Warsaw, including types of crime and comparison with the situation in other major national agglomerations: Kraków and Poznań; (6) development of a concept for the public order and security system in Warsaw.

The utilitarian aim of the research was to conduct expert interviews (quantitative-qualitative) and a diagnostic survey with the use of a questionnaire, as well as to process the results in graphical and statistical form, and to present the possibilities for implementing the concept of the public order and security system in Warsaw.

To achieve these objectives, the main research problem was formulated as a question: To what extent does the public order and security system in the capital city of Warsaw ensure the safety of the city and its residents in the context of identified threats, and what are the expectations regarding the modification of goal-oriented and functional-structural solutions?

To answer the main research question, the following detailed questions were formulated: (1) What are the main challenges and threats that affect the quality of public safety and order in the capital city of Warsaw? (2) What normative and programmatic-organizational solutions contribute to effectively identifying the challenges of public safety and order in Warsaw, and what actions should be taken to improve the quality of these solutions? (3) Do the organizational units of the capital city's local government administration and the functioning services fulfill their tasks regarding safety and public order in Warsaw? (4) How do the residents of Warsaw perceive safety and public order in their metropolitan area, and what changes do they expect? (5) What is the usefulness of the proposed concept of public safety and order in Warsaw in the context of the adopted goal-oriented framework of a "resilient complex adaptive system" that identifies and neutralizes identified threats?

According to the methodological assumptions of the dissertation, the research identified an overall dependent variable: Public Safety and Order, treated as a synthetic measure of the effectiveness of the protection system functioning – both at the state level and in Warsaw – and an independent variable: Normative-Legal Order, which provides the framework for the actions of institutions responsible for safety.

During the research process, both theoretical and empirical methods were employed. The theoretical methods included: (1) system analysis; (2) comparative analysis; (3) statistical analysis; (4) data triangulation; (5) desk research; (6) SWOT analysis. The empirical methods included: (1) diagnostic survey; (2) case study analysis; (3) individual in-depth interviews; (4) computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI); (5) telephone interviews; (6) document analysis related to the conceptual research area.

The research findings revealed that the public safety and order system of the City of Warsaw, despite its observable strengths, requires modifications towards a more comprehensive and resilience-based model that integrates normative, institutional, organizational, technological, and social components. The analysis showed that, in order to effectively respond to both traditional and emerging threats—political, climatic, cyber, or hybrid—the system should evolve towards a resilient management model, capable of adapting to dynamically changing challenges.

Warsaw is confronted with a wide range of threats to public safety and order, necessitating the use of multi-level instruments for their effective identification and mitigation. However, the existing normative and organizational frameworks prove insufficient in addressing the scope and complexity of these challenges. The current safety system is encumbered by structural, organizational, and financial limitations, which significantly impede its capacity to respond effectively to emerging and persistent threats.

The analysis demonstrated that the Resilient Complex Adaptive Systems (RCAS) framework – serving as a central element of the proposed public safety and order concept for Warsaw – meets the needs of a large urban agglomeration. It positions the city as a complex and dynamic organism with the adaptive capacity to respond flexibly, regenerate, and manage multi-dimensional threats.

The developed concept, resulting from system-level research, outlines directions for the modernization of goal-oriented and structural-organizational solutions, including: (1) elevating the priority of public safety in the work of the Warsaw City Council and within the city's strategic development plans; (2) establishing a Deputy Mayor for Security, responsible for coordinating the actions of all units involved in maintaining safety and public order; (3) strengthening the role of the Capital City Safety Center (Stołeczne Centrum Bezpieczeństwa); (4) enhancing the human and technical resources of the Police and Municipal Guard (Straż Miejska).

The research also revealed a high sense of security among Warsaw residents, while simultaneously identifying gaps in the visibility of Police and Municipal Guard operations and the need for greater civic involvement in shaping safety policy. These insights, supported by expert interviews, underscore the need to implement modern technological solutions, such as: IT-based predictive monitoring and analysis systems using Big Data and AI, broader deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for patrol and preventive tasks, increased involvement of Private Security Forces (SUFO), particularly in protecting critical infrastructure.

In conclusion, the research findings validate the initial hypothesis that Warsaw's public safety system necessitates enhancements, particularly in the domains of inter-institutional coordination, operational transparency, and professionalization of services. Despite these identified shortcomings, the system demonstrates substantial organizational and normative potential that can support its continued development. The proposed conceptual framework is of an applicative nature and holds practical implementation value, offering the prospect of strengthening the city's resilience to threats and improving both the objective conditions of safety and the subjective sense of security among residents.