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Institutional and organizational determinants of safety management on public roads in Poland

The subject of the presented doctoral dissertation was the assessment of factors determining the organization of the security system on public roads in Poland, including the scope of competences of the established institutions and finding the opinions of road users regarding their effectiveness and the scope of activities performed for its provision by the appointed institutions.

The purpose of the dissertation is to assess the existing solutions for ensuring safety on public roads in Poland and the proposal to adapt solutions to improve the functioning of the system based on the organization of institutions responsible for its provision, including the leading institution, which is the National Road Safety Council.

The conducted research allowed to confirm the assumptions of research hypotheses, which in the main hypothesis stated that the institutional and organizational solutions in Poland in the area of ensuring road traffic are in line with a dynamic increase in the number of road users, which results in a decrease in road accidents and collisions.

In addition to the main hypothesis, additional hypotheses were formulated, which assume that:

1. The main cause of accidents and collisions on public roads in Poland is inconsistency with the rules of traffic behavior of road users.
2. Road safety depends on the preventive activities of the organizations and institutions providing as well as their close cooperation.

The dissertation allowed to verify research hypotheses, identify the functioning of the system and point out its imperfections. As a result, it allowed to develop possible recommendations for implementation.

The structure of the thesis are five thematically related chapters presenting contents in the field of public safety related to the subject of work which are the institutional and organizational determinants in its management in relation to the traffic safety on public roads in Poland.

For the state to function efficiently and to be the main guarantor of security, durability, territorial integrity, order and public order, it must have in its organizational structure a number of public institutions that guarantee aspects mentioned above. This creates

a public security system. In relation to particular areas of social life and the structure of the national economy, the state should guarantee them in the highest possible way, as exemplified by efficient, functional and safe traffic for users.

The legal system and the organization of the legal order in the field of road safety requires from the authorities of every level of public administration solutions that minimize human and material losses, which due to community functioning, bear the whole society.

In Poland, the leading institution in the field of road safety is the National Road Safety Council as the creator and implementer of the national road safety policy supervised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction. It expresses its actions in the provisions of national road safety programs, which is implemented through the National Council Secretariat in cooperation between the institutional members and its individual members.

The concern for road safety is reflected in the policy of the European Community, which through the adopted directives and programs tries to minimize the share of people killed in road accidents under the "Safe System" method - solutions used in the framework of a safe transport system.

The dissertation in its subject discusses issues realized as part of the "Zero Vision". The founder of the Vision is the Swedish government which implemented road safety policy, the effectiveness of which is demonstrated by the lowest in the EU indicator of the share of fatalities in road accidents. These assumptions have been adapted to the Polish National Road Safety Program 2013-2020 and are aimed at limiting the share of fatalities in road accidents for the adopted time perspectives.

The concern for road safety is an element of public safety where its effectiveness is demonstrated by a secure communication system with appropriate infrastructure, degree of functionality, homogeneity or legibility that can minimize errors of its participants. In addition, the characteristics of the road network allow to determine its structure taking into account the type of vehicles and users along with the tendency of the number of fatalities as a result of road accidents.

An indispensable element allowing the estimation of the number of victims of road accidents is related to research methods, control and recording of road incidents by designated for this purpose services, registration in central databases or using information technology tools in the form of the National Safety Threat Map with an active participation of the society.

Road incidents generate certain social costs, which account for about 3% of GDP for the Polish economy. The application of measures oriented to the limitation in the process of

legislation, supervision, research or exchange of experience undoubtedly improves the actual situation in the field of road traffic safety.

The dissertation takes into account the opinions of users about the state of the security on public roads in Poland, who are the drivers of vehicles and the activities of institutions responsible for its provision - the Police. The thematic scope of the prepared questionnaire allowed to determine the profile of the driver, the main risks of road accidents, the attitudes of its participants and the educational activities carried out in this regard. In combination with information provided by the Police, they constitute a rich source of information for the prepared doctoral dissertation. The dissertation is complemented by recommendations included in Chapter 5, the implementation of which will help to improve the institutional and organizational safety management system on public roads in Poland. The pursuit of the conducted research positively verifies the assumed research hypotheses.

Keywords in English

traffic safety management, public safety - systemic view, public administration and road safety, road incidents