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DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF SAFETY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WARMIA AND MASURIA

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ABSTRACT

The picturesque landscape and tourist assets make Warmia and Masuria one of the most attractive regions in Poland. The area is commonly referred to as the “green lungs of Poland” and the “land of a thousand lakes”. Nonetheless, Warmia and Masuria rank among the poorest regions of Poland. The unemployment rate is the highest in Poland. Transport infrastructure (road and rail) is poorly developed. The tourism-oriented profile contributes to poor development of industry and commerce. Social and demographic problems to a considerable extent impact and determine the level of security of local communities. As demonstrated by research, safety and unemployment link with other social pathologies.

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Many fields of science address problems related to daily life, human safety, and local communities. Those issues are examined and explored by social science, humanities, science and natural science. Most studies take the man and their immediate surroundings as their point of reference. Interdisciplinary research calls for humbleness and reminds us of how in-

complete our knowledge in the subject matter that we explore. Security of local communities depends on a number of factors, predominantly social, demographic, economic issues, tourist and investment assets.

The Warmia-Masuria Province is situated in the north-eastern part of Poland and covers 24,174 sq.km. (9,341 sq. mi.) (land area including inland waterways and part of sea). It is the fourth largest region of Poland and accounts for 7.7% of the country's total area. It borders with four provinces: the Pomeranian Province (106 km long border), the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Province (133 km long border), the Mazovian Province (218 km long border), the Podlasie Province (225 km long border) and Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia (208 km long border), and connects to the Baltic Sea through the Vistula Lagoon. The agricultural land prevails in the province – it accounts for 55% of its total area, with wooded area and plantings representing 32%, and underwater land – 5.7%. Residential areas account for 0.5% of the province area, and transport infrastructure for 2.4%. In administrative terms, the Warmia-Masuria Province is divided into 21 poviats (the second-level unit of local government and administration in Poland), including 19 land poviats and 2 city poviats (cities holding poviat status) – the city of Olsztyn and the city of Elbląg. There are 116 gminas (the third-level unit of local government and administration) in the province, including 16 urban ones (municipalities), 33 mixed urban-rural ones and 67 rural gminas (communes)¹.

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The population structure of the Warmia-Masuria Province, along with demographic processes bear upon many aspects of community life, which condition and define social policy tasks in the region. In late 2015 the Warmia-Masuria Province with a population of 1439.7 thousand, that is 3.7% of the national population, ranked on the 12th position in Poland. Women account for 51.0% of the population, and men for 49.0%. The average age of the inhabitants is 40.1 years – comparable to the national average.

The population of the province is on the wane (in 2013 – 1446.9 thousand, 2014 – 1444.0 thousand). As forecast by the Central Statistical Office of Poland (GUS), the total population of the province will stand at

¹ Board of the Warmia-Masuria Province, *Strategia polityki społecznej województwa warmińsko-mazurskiego do 2020 roku [Strategy of social policy of the Warmia-Masuria Province until 2020]*, Olsztyn 2012.

1 336.3 thousand in 2035 (down by 7.7%) and only 1 207.9 thousand in 2050 (down by 16.5%). The population shrinkage will accumulate in the cities. The fall of 10.4% and 3.7% is forecast by 2035, respectively for the urban and rural population, and of 20.7% and 10.5% by 2050, respectively. The urbanisation rate will decline from 59.3% in 2013 to 56.3% in 2050².

The forecast population shrinkage reflects the phenomena observed over recent years, such as natality decrease triggering population aging. The Warmia-Masuria Province posts a natural decrease of -737. This corresponds to natality of -0.5 per 1000 province inhabitants. This figure may reach -4.1 by 2035, and already -5.9 by 2050. The share of people aged 65 years and over will be trending up, to reach 24.5% by 2035, and 32.9% by 2050³. In 2015, 63.7% of the Warmia-Masuria Province inhabitants are of working age, 18.5% of pre-working age, and 17.7% of post-working age⁴. There were 13,121 births, of which girls accounted for 48.6% and boys for 51.4%. The demographic dynamics ratio, that is to say, the ratio of live births to deaths, stands at 0.95 and is comparable to the national average.

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND LABOUR MARKET

The labour market situation is one of the major strategic problems of the Warmia-Masuria Province. Given its economic potential and economic activity, the province is hardly a leader in the national ranking. On considering the basic economic indicators, it tends to trail. The Warmia-Masuria labour market ranks among the least developed and dynamic in Poland, while the province itself is one of the least industrialised areas of Poland. The low industrialisation level of the province is also attributable to its landscape profile, indicative of the definitely agricultural and tourist character of the region.

Against the backdrop of the Polish economy, the Warmia-Masuria Province features a relatively low level of economic development. The provincial GDP is PLN 46,191 million in 2015, which translates into PLN 31,955 *per capita* (PLN 44,686 being the national average). The average gross monthly salary in the Warmia-Masuria Province is PLN 3 495.02,

² *Prognoza demograficzna na lata 2014–2050 dla województwa warmińsko-mazurskiego* [Demographic forecast for 2014–2050 for the Warmia-Masuria Province] olsztyn.stat.gov.pl/download/gfx/olsztyn/pl/.../w28_prognoza_demograficzna.pdf (accessed 16.04.2017).

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ http://www.polskawliczbach.pl/warmińsko_mazurskie#ixzz4a0sUm46t (accessed 16.04.2017).

which corresponds to 84.20% of the average monthly gross wages and salaries in Poland. In the Warmia-Masuria Province, there are 236 professionally active persons per 1000 inhabitants (293 people is the Poland's average). The registered unemployment in the Warmia-Masuria Province amounted to 16.2% in 2015 (18.3% among women and 14.3% among men). This stands considerably above the national average (9.7%). 20.4% of the active population of the Warmia-Masuria Province work in agriculture (agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing), 29.7% in industry and construction, 0.6% in services (trade, vehicle repair, transport, accommodation and catering, information and communication) and 0.6% in the financial sector (finance and insurance, property management)⁵.

ADDICTIONS IN THE WARMIA-MASURIA PROVINCE

Demographic and social developments and economic conditions affect the changes in the lifestyle of the Warmia-Masuria Province inhabitants.

These changes also apply to behaviour patterns involving consumption of all kinds of addictive substances (alcohol, drugs, legal highs, medicines and other intoxicants) and pursuit of risky behaviours leading to addiction (by way of illustration, Internet usage, gambling and other).

Addictions, principally to alcohol and drugs, produce social, medical, legal, cultural and economic consequences, and in a number of cases closely link to the issues such as unemployment, poverty, crime, domestic violence or homelessness. The principal difficulty of assessing the risks of alcoholism and drug addiction at the provincial level stems from the absence of a statistical system that diagnoses and monitors these phenomena⁶.

ALCOHOLISM

Besides many other pathological phenomena, alcoholism persists as a major social problem. This phenomenon is widespread at the current juncture. Due to unrestrained access to alcohol, the distilled beverages are consumed not only by adults. Also young people reach out for it, and not just at parties or social gatherings, but also in families where parents connive at alcohol consumption by the indiscriminate attitude to their children.

The indifference of adults who often turn a blind eye to the sale of alcohol to minors in all kinds of shopping and dining establishments, and

⁵ *Ibidem.*

⁶ Board of the Warmia-Masuria Province, *Strategia polityki społecznej...*

diffusion of responsibility observed among the adults who purchase alcohol for minors on their requests constitute another considerable factor or alcoholism. Whereas alcohol stimulates aggressive behaviour, dismantles emotional constraints, this triggering conflicts with the law, the percentage share of intoxicated suspects in selected categories of crime is significant. The number of reported underage drinkers in the Warmia-Masuria Province has waned over the last three years. In 2014 the police reported 151 fewer juveniles under the influence of alcohol as against 2013 (2014 – 758; 2013 – 909; 2012 – 1141). The sobering-up station – Outpatient Detoxication Clinic in Olsztyn admitted a total of 4,979 intoxicants, including 726 women, 4253 men and one minor. The Welfare Centre in Elbląg treated 3388 inebriated wards⁷.

A number of institutional, social and non-governmental organisations carry out preventive and educational projects in the field of alcoholism prevention. The system for the prevention and solving of alcohol-related problems defined in the National Programme operates on three mutually complementary programmes of action run at different administration levels:

1. Communal/Municipal programmes for the prevention and solving of alcohol-related problems adopted annually by the communal/municipal councils and implemented by communal/municipal local governments. The Act sets out the key categories of tasks that local governments should implement within the communal/municipal programme and points out the source of funding for these tasks, whereas the State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems (PARPA), upon research and examination, issues annual recommendations for the development of communal/municipal programmes.
2. Provincial programmes for the prevention and solving of alcohol-related problems implemented by provincial local governments.
3. The National Programme for the Prevention and Solving of Alcohol-Related Problems specifying tasks carried out by the governmental administration and the National Council of Radio and Television and the State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems (PARPA). PARPA coordinates the implementation of the five-year

⁷ SPRAWOZDANIE z działań profilaktycznych Policji na rzecz zapobiegania patologii społecznej w 2014 roku [*Report on Police Prophylaxis for Preventing Social Pathologies in 2014*], <http://www.warminsko-mazurska.policja.gov.pl/ol/statystyki/sprawozdania-z-profilak/152> (accessed 16.04.2017).

Programme and integrates all three areas of activity – central, provincial and communal/municipal – by formulating coherent conceptual categories and strategic objectives. While preserving the separate forms of management and funding of activities for the prevention and solving of alcohol-related problems at individual levels of administration provided for in the Act of Upbringing in Sobriety and Counteracting Alcoholism, the Program underpins the implementation of the integrated alcohol-related policy counteracting the adverse implications of alcohol consumption⁸.

All this being said, a special mention should be given to the preventive and educational actions of the local police. The list of key preventive measures includes meetings in schools, lectures, educational programmes addressed to children and young people, ongoing cooperation with teachers and educators, raising awareness of the risks involved in underage drinking and developing skills to respond to situations of identifying persons at risk of demoralisation. The police in the province were running preventive and operational actions “Chrońmy dzieci przed alkoholem” [*Protect children from alcohol*]. The project was designed to counteract demoralisation and juvenile delinquency by restraining access to alcohol to minors.

The Provincial and Municipal Police Headquarters pursue numerous long-term educational and preventive actions, to name just a few:

- Czy ponoszę jakieś konsekwencje? [*Do I bear any consequences?*] – legal education programme insofar as legal and criminal liability of minors carried out by the Provincial Police Headquarters in Olsztyn, addressed to first-formers of the lower- and upper- secondary schools. Since September 2014, the action has covered over 30 lower- and upper secondary schools from the city and powiat [*district*] of Olsztyn.
- Pozytywne Rodzicielstwo – [*Positive Parenting*] – a programme addressed to parents of six-formers of Olsztyn primary schools. At the age of 13, students graduate from a primary school and commence lower secondary education. The main agenda of the programme is to teach parents to cooperate with institutions for the benefit of children, to learn the decision-make of individual institutions, and to take joint action

⁸ The State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems, *Narodowy Program Profilaktyki i Rozwiązywania Problemów Alkoholowych na lata 2011–2015* [*National Programme for Prevention of Alcohol-related Problems for 2011–2015*] Ministry of Health, http://www.parpa.pl/images/image/NP%202011_2015_11_011.pdf (accessed 26.02.2017).

- to protect young people from the consequences of being involved in difficult situations.
- Alkohol. Tylko dla pełnoletnich [*Alcohol. For adults only*] – programme implemented during the student Juvenalia [*Student Days*] by the Prevention Department in Olsztyn along with the Student Council of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM). The project sought to influence the awareness of adult participants of Kortowiada – both young people, university students and salespeople about the consequences of underage drinking and smoking.
 - Powstrzymaj Pijanego Kierowcę [*Stop Drunk Driver*] – Plenipotentiary for the Mayor of Braniewo for Alcohol-related Problem Solving in cooperation with the Police Municipal Headquarters in Braniewo. The purpose of the project was to sharpen local residents' skills of responding to intoxicated persons making an attempt to drive any vehicle.
 - Nietelni pod Nadzorem – [*Minor under surveillance*] – programme implemented by the District Police Headquarters in Działdowo. The goal of the project was to prevent juvenile delinquency and antisocial behaviour, including the inspection of points of sale for selling alcohol to juveniles, and of juvenile gathering places for detecting the consumption of alcohol.
 - Miasto Nocą [*City by Night*] – activities aimed at improving the safety of Działdowo inhabitants at the place of residence, including reporting intoxicated minors and drivers/riders.
 - Alkohol i Narkotyki [*Alcohol and Drugs*] – At least once a month, activities were conducted whereby inebriated drivers and pedestrians posing a threat to road safety were excluded from traffic.
 - Lejek – projects in Działdowo district aimed at improving the safety of road traffic compromised by drunk drivers.
 - Risks for children and adolescents stemming from drug addiction, alcoholism and other pathologies – Police officers of the Elk District Police Headquarters held and conducted social debates with educators from primary, lower- and upper- secondary schools aimed at reducing alcoholism among children and youth.
 - “Antimina” – musical show – this is an artistic programme of addiction prevention addressed to the youth of lower- and upper- secondary schools in Giżycko. The performance involves meetings where young people learn about the threats of alcohol, drugs and other stimulants.

- Styl życia a zdrowie [*Lifestyle and Health*] – Twentieth Review of Small Theatre Forms, an event aimed at primary and lower- and upper- school students of Nidzica aimed at disseminating healthy lifestyle and raising awareness of dangers involved in addictions and pathological phenomena.
- Bezpieczne osiedle [*Safe Neighbourhood*] – project held by the District Police Headquarters in Pisz in cooperation with students of the Police Academy in Szczytno. One of the project aims was to report inebriated minors. Additionally, “Blokowisko”.
- [“*Council Houses*”] preventive measures were carried out in Pisz. Police officers were reporting cases of selling alcohol to inebriated minors and underage persons⁹.

DRUG ADDICTION

Consumption of psychoactive substances by children and adolescents constitutes a major social problem. In addition to the traditional drugs on the market, various kinds of intoxicating substances of unknown composition and origin enter the market. They sell under the generic name of “legal highs” and carry considerable risk to the lives and health of young people. By exploiting legal loopholes and the time required to examine the composition of the preparation, the distributors place psychoactive products on the legal market under the guise of fragrances, amulets, souvenirs of *ad hoc* coined names and with new appearance. Once detected and recalled, the renamed product reappears with slightly modified composition. Since 2012, the “Zapachy & inne” [*Fragrances & other*] stores (formerly the “Pachnący Dom” [*Fragrant House*] network) have been operating in the region, where the trade of narcotic substitutes has been carried out.

While the past few years have seen a decline in the number of reported inebriated juveniles, the number of drugged underage persons is raising by the year. The groups particularly vulnerable to the abuse of psychoactive substances include children and youth without parental care, “stray kids”, juvenile delinquents, persons at the risk of demoralisation, children and youth at risk of social exclusion, and youth with behavioural disorders. Quoting after statistics, in 2014 the police in the Warmia-Masuria Province reported 37 drugged juveniles, 7 more than in 2013. The number of cases of poisoning with narcotic substitutes has been climbing up. There

⁹ SPRAWOZDANIE z działań profilaktycznych Policji... [Report on Police Prophylaxis...]

were 29 poisonings reported in 2012, 97 a year later, and 103 in 2003. Since 2012 the number of poisoning cases has peaked in Olsztyn, Elbląg and Ostróda, which is probably due to the operation of “Zapachy & inne” stores in those cities. The disturbing tendency prevails that poisoning concentrates in persons aged 16 (40 in the years 2013–2014). The age range of 15–17 and over 25 also accounts for a high rate of poisoning (127 people in the years 2013–2014). Most cases were reported among men – 155, among women – 43¹⁰.

Prevention is one of the basic methods and strategies for counteracting drug addiction and related problems. Even though it is steadily implemented in response to current and projected problems, its effectiveness is not very conspicuous. Scientific research supports the above view and demonstrates insufficient efficiency in this sphere and damage attributable to improperly conducted activities. The essence of prevention is to help young people modify their behaviour, acquire skills and improve their interactions in different dimensions such as social norms, interaction with peers, living standard or their own personality traits. This view is also reflected in the existing preventive models. In simple terms, community prevention strategies focus on social norms, universal prevention is concerned with skills development, peer interaction and social interactions, selective prevention refers to living standards and social determinants, and preventive counselling facilitates coping with individual personality traits and psychopathology¹¹. According to standards, addiction prevention has been defined as a whole of activities that (at least in part) seek to prevent, delay or reduce the consumption of psychoactive substances and/or related adverse effects in the general population or subpopulations. These measures include preventing or delaying initiation into drugs, promoting abstinence, reducing the frequency of consumption and/or amount of consumed of substances, preventing transitions to increasingly dangerous and harmful consumption patterns, and/or preventing or reducing adverse consumption effects¹².

¹⁰ *Ibidem*.

¹¹ *Europejskie standardy jakości w profilaktyce uzależnień od narkotyków [European quality standards for the prevention of drug addiction]. Podręcznik dla specjalistów profilaktyki uzależnień [Manual for addiction prevention specialists]*, p. 14. http://prevention-standards.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Europejskie_standardy_jakosci.pdf (accessed 27.02.2017).

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 36.

Drug prevention is implemented on a number of levels and by many state institutions, local governments and non-governmental organisations. Among them, Monar deserves special mention. The association shows a track record of 40 years-operation, engaged in the mission of helping people addicted to drugs, alcohol, the homeless, the sick and the lonely. It offers diagnostics, consultation, detoxication, counselling, therapy and rehabilitation of addictions, therapies for addicts' close persons, work with patients in inpatient centres in accordance with the therapeutic community method. Under out-of-homeless programmes that support socially excluded people Monar supports the homeless, victims of violence, mentally ill and ex-inmates.

Monar advocates life free from addictions, sensitivity to the needs of others, faith in the man and their capabilities. The association reaches out to schools, educational institutions, operates at mass events for young people. Monar activists run preventive classes, partyworkers accompany the participants of concerts and discos¹³. Monar principally seeks to:

- protect and promote health;
- carry out activities in the field of social assistance, including assistance to families in difficult situations and equalisation of chances for those families and persons;
- support minorities and people with disabilities
- promote employment and occupational activation of people who are unemployed and at the risk of lay-off;
- promote and protect women's rights and promote equal rights for women and men;
- promote and protect children's rights, organise children's and young people's leisure;
- support economic development, including the development of entrepreneurship;
- support the development of communities and local communities, science, schooling, education and upbringing, as well as regional studies, culture and protection of heritage;
- promote physical culture and sport;
- counteract social pathologies;
- undertake initiatives for European integration and develop contacts and cooperation between societies;

¹³ <http://www.monar.org/o-nas/nasza-misja-cele/>(accessed 03.03.2017).

– promote and run volunteering¹⁴.

In the Warmia-Masuria Province there exist the following institutions:

- MONAR Association Preventive and Consultative Outpatient Department in Olsztyn, al. Wojska Polskiego 8A/3, 10–255 Olsztyn, tel. 89 527 22 09 olsztynporadnia@monar.org; monarol@wp.pl monar-olsztyn.lh.pl
- MONAR Association Outpatient Department for Prevention, Treatment and Therapy of Addictions in Elbląg, ul. Generała Bema 80, 82–300 Elbląg, tel. 55 236 92 13 elblag@monar.org
- Centrum Pomocy Bliźniemu Markot w Marwałdzie [*Help Thy Neighbour Centre Markot Centre in Marwałd*], Marwałd 56, 14–120 Dąbrówno, tel. 89 647 44 44, 89 647 45 15 marwald@monar.org
- MONAR Association Preventive and Consultative Outpatient Department in Bartoszyce, ul. Sikorskiego 6, 11–200 Bartoszyce, tel. 89 764 09 28 iwona.jedwabnik@gmail.com¹⁵.

The Police in the Warmia-Masuria Province carry out a number of prophylactic, preventive and educational programmes aimed at counteracting behaviour patterns affirmative of drug consumption and trafficking. Since 2014 it has been implementing the programme “Zanim będzie za późno” [*Before It's Too Late*], addressed to parents of lower- and upper- secondary school students. The programme was developed with the participation of representatives of the Education Board in Olsztyn and consulted with the Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Olsztyn. The basic objective of the programme is to reach as many parents as possible and encourage them to cooperate for the youth exposed to the risk of this rapidly spreading phenomenon. The primary goal of the programme is to counteract drug abuse and reduce consumption of drugs among children and adolescents at lower- and upper- secondary schools. Before the holidays, the Police in cooperation with the employees of the Health Promotion and Health Education and the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Stations engage in the “Bezpieczne i Zdrowe Wakacje” [*Safe and Healthy Holidays*] project. The Municipal Police Headquarters in Olsztyn implemented the objective of the German programme of early intervention for young people consuming drugs. “FreD Goes Net”, recommended by the National Bureau of Drug Prevention.

¹⁴ *Ibidem.*

¹⁵ *Ibidem.*

The goal of the programme is to prevent the consumption of intoxicants by children and young people and to assist them in the event of exposure to psychoactive substances. The programme targets people aged 14–25, first time detainees for offense/crime involving possession of drugs, and also for minors reported under the influence of alcohol, legal highs. The representatives of the Municipal Police Headquarters in Olsztyn invited those persons to participate in the programme and the information about the programme was also provided during the meetings with parents under the “Before It’s Too Late” programme¹⁶.

As part of the prevention of the development of addiction to psychoactive substances and addiction-related risky behavior patterns, the Olsztyn police have joined the “Trzymaj formę” [*“Stay fit”*] health-oriented programme implemented in the schools in the city and district (powiat) of Olsztyn. The project was inaugurated by the training session delivered by the staff of the Section of Health Promotion and Health Education of the District Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Olsztyn to 41 school coordinators representing the primary and lower secondary schools in the city and the district of Olsztyn.

The Municipal Police Headquarters in Elbląg, along with the employees of the District Sanitary and Epidemiological Station and the Border Guard Unit in Elbląg have developed and implemented preventive and educational project known as “Dopalacze oferta śmierci” [*“Death Exhalators”*].

The project sought to initiate a long-term social education process in the environment of children, youth, parents and teachers with reference to risks involved in the consumption of narcotic substitutes and the scope of legal and criminal liability under the Anti-Drug Law (Act of counteracting drug addiction).

The Aleksander Sewruk Dramatic Theater in Elbląg held youth meetings as part of the “Safe and Friendly School” project. The first-formers of lower secondary schools participated in a talk with a police officer and a representative of the District Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Elbląg and next saw a show on prevention. The project involved 11 performances and educational and preventive activities for the safety and friendly environment in all ten lower secondary schools in Elbląg.

The Nidzica Culture Centre, Sports and Sports Service Team, Municipal Social Welfare Centre along with the District Police Headquarters in

¹⁶ *SPRAWOZDANIE z działań profilaktycznych Policji... [Report on Police Prophylaxis...]*

Nidzica have announced the art competition “Narkotyki – jestem na nie” [*Drugs – I’m against*]. The aim of the project was to develop attitudes that opposed drug addiction and to inspire artistic creativity in children and adolescents. All primary and lower secondary schools from Nidzica municipality were invited to participate in the competition. The police also co-organised the Twentieth Review of Small Theatre Forms, entitled “Lifestyle and Health”. The event targeted primary school and lower secondary school students. The goal was to promote healthy lifestyles and to raise awareness among children and adolescents of the risks involved in addictions and pathological phenomena. The “Nieletni pod nadzorem” [*Minor under surveillance*] preventive actions were staged and held along with the Działdowo police. One of the assumptions of this plan was to disclose crimes under the Anti-Drug Law¹⁷.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Under Article 115 §22 of the Criminal Code, human trafficking includes recruitment, transport, delivery, transfer and storage or reception of a person while using, inter alia, violence or unlawful threat, abduction, deception, misrepresentation, misuse of a relationship of subordination, taking advantage of critical situation or helplessness, offering or accepting economic or personal gain or a promise thereof to a person who exercises guardianship or supervises another person¹⁸. Those activities are designed to abuse the person, even with their consent, in particular in prostitution, pornography, for forced labour or services, begging, slavery or other forms of humiliating human dignity, harvesting cells or tissue in contravention to the law. Trafficking in human beings constitutes a criminal offense defined in Article 189a of the Criminal Code and whoever perpetrates the offense shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for not less than 3 years. The person who arranges for perpetration of human trafficking offense offender shall also be subject to penalty.

The year 2014 saw no trafficking offenses in the Warmia-Masuria Province. The police have cooperated with the Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje [*Nobody’s Children Foundation*], which aims to enhance the safety of children and young people by strengthening preventive measures to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. At the Criminal Division

¹⁷ Accessed 16.04.2017..

¹⁸ Kodeks karny, *kodeks-karny.org*/(accessed 03.03.2017).

of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Olsztyn there operates an anti-trafficking team, dedicated to ongoing monitoring of the phenomenon of organ harvesting, forced slave labour, begging, prostitution. The operations pursued by both criminal and preventive officers considerably moderate the potential for perpetrators to recruit victims. As regards prevention, the year 2014 witnessed public information campaign addressed also to the most vulnerable groups exposed to human trafficking. Within the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings a number of targeted actions reached out the citizens considering seeking employment abroad. Information was disseminated about the “Nie uciekaj” [*Do not run away*] programme implemented by ITAKA Foundation – Centre for Missing People. Under the auspices of the Chief of Police, a 116-000 hotline for missing children was launched, which is part of a pan-European free-of-charge social phone lines created at the initiative of the European Commission. It is also worthwhile to mention the dissemination of materials on working abroad “Bezpieczne wyjazdy do pracy” [*Safe work abroad*] and “Nie płać za pośrednictwo pracy” [*Do not pay the work agent*], developed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy¹⁹.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2014 in the Warmia-Masuria Province a total of 5991 “Blue Card” reports for the victims of domestic violence were registered, including:

- a) number of reports initiating the procedure – 4536,
- b) number of mid-procedure reports for subsequent cases of domestic violence – 1455,
- c) cities – 3459,
- d) villages – 2532.

The number of reports was on a steady increase from 2011 to 2013 (4100 Blue Cards totaled in 2011, 2850 in 2012 and 3834 in 2013).

Presumably, 8633 people are exposed domestic violence, including 5339 women, 1063 men, 2231 juveniles (1109 girls and 1122 boys). Overall, 6010 people were found to cultivate domestic violence, including 372 women, 5597 men, 41 minors, 9 girls and 32 boys. In 2014, 1640 people were arrested (in 2013 the number was 247) on suspicion of domestic violence, including 51 women, 1585 men and 4 minors. 3755 cases of drunk domestic violence were reported, including 171 women,

¹⁹ *SPRAWOZDANIE z działań profilaktycznych Policji... [Report on Police Prophylaxis...]*

3577 men and 7 juveniles (boys). In addition, 1330 people were brought to sober up in the police facilities for detainees or sobering-up stations. There were 5996 cases of psychological violence reported, 4762 cases of physical violence, 190 cases of sexual violence, 41 cases of economic violence and 3214 cases of other types of violence²⁰.

Where the situation in respect of domestic violence amounted to the offense under Article 207 of the Criminal Code, preparatory proceedings were initiated in the case. 1282 proceedings were initiated in the province in 2014 (in 2013 the number was 1334). 739 proceedings yielded indictment, 548 were discontinued. Within the implementation of the Provincial Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the provincial coordinator of the “Blue Card” programme co-organised a series of training courses within the framework of the police programme „MOC – TAK! PRZEMOC – NIE!” [*“STRENGTH – YES! VIOLENCE – NO!”*] in co-operation with the Section of Psychologists at the Provincial Police Headquarters in Olsztyn. As part of the training for teachers held under the project “Uczyć, informować, zapobiegać. Otwarte Szkoły, Otwarte Jednostki Policji” [*“Teach, inform, prevent. Open Schools, Open Police Units”*], run for the fifth time already, the issue of “Pomóc dziecku krzywdzonemu. Procedura Niebieskie Karty” [*“Help a child victim. Blue card procedure”*] was discussed. Within the framework of “Tydzień Pomocy Ofiarom Przestępstw” [*“Week of Assistance to Victims of Crime”*] (24 February 2014 – 1 March 2014) Information Centres were launched which rendered legal and psychological assistance to the concerned persons (both directly and on the telephone). The most common problems reported concerned domestic violence, parenting problems, spousal abuse, family law²¹.

Family Support Centres and Crisis Intervention Centres, Prevention and Treatment Centres, Counseling Centres for Victims of Domestic Violence, Municipal and Communal Social Welfare Centres, Consultative Points of the Committee on Resolving Alcohol-related Problems, Police joined the international “BIAŁA WSTAŻKA” [*“WHITE RIBBON”*] campaign. The Centre for Global Leadership of Women has held the International Campaign “16 Dni Przeciw Przemocy Wobec Kobiet” [*“16 Days Against Violence Against Women”*] since 1991. The campaign aims to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, raise public aware-

²⁰ *Ibidem.*

²¹ *Ibidem.*

ness that gender-based violence also violates human rights. Additionally, it contributes to consolidating local structures for the counteracting of violence against women and to building links between local and international initiatives for stopping violence against women.

PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Determining the scale of prostitution in Poland and the Warmia-Masuria Province is quite difficult. Various research reports provide different data. As reliably estimated, up to 150–160 thousand people render paid sexual services and there are 15 thousand escort agencies²². Whereas over 17% of respondents engaging in sexual services pursued earning and gain, 14% were willing to raise their living standard, however, nonetheless most of all (over 60% of women) took up prostitution due to tight financial situation. Furthermore, 2.8% of the respondents declared to pursue this profession forced by others. Apart from Poles (72%), escort agencies mainly employ women from beyond the eastern border of Poland: Ukrainians (19%), Russians, Belarusians and Bulgarians²³.

Prostitution, including underage, is the subject of systematic action pursued by preventive and criminal services, with particular inspection exercised over train and bus stations and their surroundings, as well as potential gathering places of juvenile runaways from family homes or care and educational establishments or social rehabilitation institutions. Apart from identifying the scale of the phenomenon, these activities are designed to identify people who encourage or facilitate prostitution in order to gain. The issue of risks involved in prostitution is also a topic of educational meetings with children and young people. The Helplines may not only take a crime report, but first of all offer advice on the relevant assistance institution to refer the case. In order to curb the phenomenon in the Warmia-Masuria Province, the police educate primary school students and lower secondary school students on physical integrity and sexual abuse of children. They also advise of the contact assistant for the sexual abuse victim. Adults (parents, teachers) attend meetings where they can learn how to counteract sexual abuse and identify its symptoms. In summer the police officers instructed on the ways to counteract the com-

²² M. Jędrzejko, *Prostytucja jako problem społeczny, moralny i zdrowotny [Prostitution as a social, moral and health problem]*, Pułtusk-Warszawa 2006, p. 42.

²³ T. Maćkowiak, *Bezczynność pod latarnią*, „Newsweek”, issue 40/2004.

mercial exploitation of the youngest and assistance institutions for victims. The Provincial Police Headquarters in Olsztyn joined the nationwide campaign “Nie odwracaj wzroku” [“Do not turn a blind eye”], against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism.

SUBCULTURES

The *homo polis* develops by participation in social groups of various types. The family is the key and at the same time the first one, followed by the preschool and peer group.

The pivotal functions of a peer group are:

- to substitute for the family,
- to stabilise personality,
- to build self-esteem,
- to define behavior standards,
- to facilitate negotiation of the rules of conduct with adults,
- to develop social competences,
- to pass behaviour patterns and create conditions for copying them²⁴.

The group provides support and facilitates articulation of individual views. The need for acceptance on the part of friends is so intense that a young person can engage in conformist behavior incompatible with their accepted values with a view to winning acceptance. Affiliation with a youth subculture is demonstrated by distinguishing oneself from the mainstream mainly by external attributes, apparel, leisure style, or language²⁵.

The Police systematically identify and report youth subcultures that develop during sporting, cultural and youth events. With a view to eliminating possible threats of collective disturbance of public order (during, before or after sporting events), the Warmia-Masuria police stayed in touch with the management and administration of football clubs, surfed the websites of football clubs and Internet forums. Accordingly, they could easily take preventive actions towards eliminating aggressive behaviors and calming particularly active leaders of clashes and brawls in stadiums and beyond, the so-called “duels”. Given the “grudges” borne among different groups of stadium hooligans, football matches may disturb public order.

²⁴ E. Hrypińska, *Subkultury młodzieżowe [Youth Subcultures]*, http://www.sosw.uznam.net.pl/dokumenty/EwaH/subkultury_mlodziezowe.pdf (accessed 04.03.2017).

²⁵ P. Wasilewski, *Zarys historii nieformalnej obyczajowości żołnierskiej [Outline of the history of informal habits of soldiers]*, Toruń 2008, p. 13.

Two basic threats involved in football matches can be distinguished: the former are the passage of football lovers/hooligans through the Warmia-Masuria Province; the latter – playing football matches at the stadium in Olsztyn and the movement of groups of supporters from outside the province. In Olsztyn the group of HOOLIGANG 00, Stomil Olsztyn unruly supporters of approx. 50–90 persons, is active, hostile both to the Police and the security. In Elbląg young people do not show much interest in the activities of youth subcultures. The “Ultras” of approx. 60–80 people are the most active.

In the Province, the so-called Graffiti artists manifest their subculture by painting and vandalising façades, public transport stops and other public places. As part of their duties, the Police officers carry out intensive preventive actions, through community enquiry, prevention in the community of students of lower- and upper- secondary schools.

HOMELESSNESS

Since 1999 the Regional Social Policy Centre of the Marshal's Office of the Warmia-Masuria Province in Olsztyn has systematically diagnosed the phenomenon of homelessness in the region by bi-annual monitoring (in January and September, and since 2008 in September and December). In accordance with the data from social welfare centers, the number of the homeless in the Warmia-Masuria Province is estimated to have risen by 66 vis-à-vis the previous year, and it amounted to 1361 as of 31 December 2014 (in 2013: 1295), predominantly men – 87.43% (1190), with women accounting for 10.58% (144)²⁶. The problem also affects juveniles, 27 homeless children were reported in the province (1.99%). Most of the homeless stay in urban centers, in Elbląg (161), Olsztyn (153), Ostróda (61), Bartoszyce (53), Gołdap (46), Biskupiec (40), Nidzica (36), Szczytno (32) Iława and Ełk (31 each).

The reasons behind homelessness include: alcoholism – 935, eviction – 333, crime – 107, sickness – 138 and other causes – 139. Other causes of homelessness include, but are not limited to: family problems and conflicts, divorce, housing problems related to administrative deregistration from the place of residence, alcohol and drug addiction, sales of apartment, house collapse, fire in the apartment, long-term unemployment, loss

²⁶ As per the data from the Regional Centre for Social Welfare in Olsztyn – as of 31 December 2014.

of permanent income, leaving the care and educational establishments, homelessness of choice.

People over 51 years of age are the largest group among 1334 adult homeless: 808 (739 men and 69 women) – 60.57% of all homeless adults. Of the 262 homeless between 41 and 50, there are 262 men and 35 women (22.26%); of 161 in the 31 to 40 age group, there are 134 men and 27 women (12.07%). In the age group of 18 to 30 years old there are 68 people – 56 men and 12 women (5.1%).

People with primary education constitute over 50% of the homeless. The following data show the exact number of homeless adults according to the education criterion:

- primary education: 749 (648 men and 101 women), that is 56.15%;
- vocational education: 448 (428 men and 20 women), that is 33.58%;
- secondary education: 124 (108 men and 16 women), that is 9.3%;
- tertiary education: 13 (8 men and 5 women), that is 0.97%²⁷.

As implied by the study in homelessness in the Warmia-Masuria Province between 2011 and 2014, the number of the homeless rises in winter, when adverse weather conditions expand the ranks of the homeless turning to welfare institutions for aid (social welfare centres, shelters, lodgings, dinners and other support centres).

The province reports a total of 24 lodgings, hostels and shelters with 778 beds. Despite a considerable divergence between the overall number of the homeless and the number of places in shelters, it should be emphasised that the needs of the homeless are met. The number of beds may be increased in winter, and also help is extended by dinners, clothing and food dispensing centers, laundry facilities, baths, and medical assistance desks. Nonetheless, many of the homeless show reluctance to receive care and support of shelters and lodgings, especially due to the non-acceptance of their rules and the prohibition of alcohol consumption on the premises. Alcohol-addicts take recourse to self-protection from freezing by squatting or in gazebos in the allotment gardens.

Winter poses a serious threat to the lives and health of the homeless and the lonely. Each autumn and winter, demises are reported due to the cooling of the body (2009/2010 – 36 freezings, 2010/2011 – 12, 2011/2012 – 8, 2012/2013 – 13).

²⁷ *Ibidem.*

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