Abstract of doctoral dissertation

The subject of considerations of this doctoral thesis is presenting the role of non-governmental organisations in public order and safety in Poland. Due to the fact that tasks connected with security in the broad sense are performed by numerous entities belonging to all three sectors of social-economic activity, it was relevant to characterise state administrative bodies, government administration and local authority units, as well as entrepreneurs providing services in the protection of persons and property or operating in the field of investigation activities, internal security service, law enforcement and information services of organisers of mass events. A detailed analysis of non-governmental organisations acting for citizens' security has been conducted. The significance of public order and safety in the functioning of the state and society has also been demonstrated. To form a comprehensive view on the role and importance of non-governmental organisations in the security system and public order it was necessary to determine the conceptual scope of social and non-governmental organisations, activity of non-governmental organisations as a form of decentralisation of public services or restriction of their activity in the sphere of security and public order. Moreover, cooperation and collaboration in performing tasks pertaining to security, safety and public order have been defined. The objectives of the thesis required exemplifying operation of non-governmental organisations in the most vital tasks of security and defence and, in addition, pointing to activities for public benefit and voluntary service as forms of social activity in the area of security and order. The dissertation discusses funding sources of non-governmental organisations and their influence on development of organisational activity, chosen operational models of non-governmental organisations worldwide, the impact of social environment and development directions of non-governmental organisations in Poland.

The findings of research have been presented in the dissertation consisting of introduction, six chapters divided into smaller units and conclusion. The first chapter plays an introductory role and is devoted to outlining the origin and development of non-governmental organizations, providing definitions of social and non-governmental organizations and illustrating similarities and differences between them. An important aspect of this chapter is also classification of non-governmental organizations plus forms and methods of their operation, and consideration of the issues of decentralisation of public services and involvement of non-governmental organizations in this activity. Second chapter focuses on issues of public order and safety as one scope of activity of non-governmental organisations. Besides basic definitions of public order and safety, the system of entities performing tasks in

the field of this administration is presented. Special attention has been paid to non-public bodies and privatization of public tasks in this sphere of state performance. The abovementioned examination allowed the identification of limits to activity of non-governmental organizations in the realm of public order and safety. Chapter three concerns the study of forms and methods of operation of non-governmental organizations connected with performing tasks of security protection and public order. The chapter includes exemplification of chosen spheres of this activity, among others: rescue, fire and flood protection, road safety, environmental and nature protection and defence. Participation of non-governmental organizations in shaping local security has been highlighted as well. Next chapter is related to charitable activities of non-governmental organisations and the importance of voluntary organisations in realization of tasks associated with public order and safety. The term and operating range of charitable activities and entities of their operation have been presented. Voluntary service as the basic form of supporting charitable activities, especially in the field of security protection and public order has been defined. Chapter five raises the issue of funding non-governmental organizations, including legal options of obtaining financial resources, with particular reference to financial means from the state budget and the European Union, but also own funds and public donations. In the last chapter prospects for development of non-governmental organisations have been outlined. In this part of the thesis you will find reflections on operation of third sector organisations in the countries of the European Union and chosen countries in the world. Additionally, development directions of non-governmental organisations and conclusions *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda* streamlining regulation and functioning of these important entities performing public tasks in the state are presented.

Analysis and interpretation of the studied data have confirmed that the role of non-governmental organisations in performing public tasks is invaluable. It pertains to not only the realm of public order and safety but all the aspects of social activity. Non-governmental organisations are a crucial element of building civic society, decentralization of the state, development of self-governance and consolidating democracy.