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## COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE WITH DEFENCE ORGANISATIONS IN POLAND

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### **Abstract:**

*The article presents the principles and the scope of cooperation between NGOs and the Ministry of National Defence in the context over the last five years. As a result of the conflict in the Ukraine, the Ministry of National Defence initiated action to enable wider than before the NGOs' and military engagement in the system of the voluntary support of the reserve personnel training and other capacity building activities for the public defence. The article is the critical analysis of these projects.*

### **Keywords:**

*security risk, conflict, non-governmental organisations, defence initiative*

## INTRODUCTION

The dramatic development of the conflict in Ukraine has been a subject of an interest of both European and World's societies, which as public opinion polls point out, express more and more concern at the escalation of the violence and chaos in the region. In Poland the systematic research on the conflict are conducted by the Centre for Public Opinion Research (CBOS) and on their basis it is possible to monitor either the level of social emotions or directions of changes in the opinion. The 2014 research indicates the high level of the sense of threat within Polish society. The respondents believe that Russian territorial claims will not be limited to Ukraine, they are concerned with the

direct threat posed to Poland, mainly to the economic and energetic spheres. A direct attack by the foreign troops is assessed as real by a part of the respondents<sup>1</sup>.

Since the beginning of the conflict the discussions have been continued on the most appropriate measures that should be taken by the countries not directly involved in the conflict. In response, the countries not involved in the conflict object illegal acts of Russia in order to convince the power state to change its policy towards Ukraine, respect the autonomy of Ukraine, mainly through economic sanctions and the political isolation, and by expressing the symbolic solidarity with Ukraine as well. Internal policies cover prevention actions aiming at protecting citizens' security against possible aggression of foreign troops, as a result of spreading of the conflict on the other European countries. This scenario has been assessed by analytics and can become a nucleus for the outbreak of III world war.

In Poland, as in other European states there are not unified opinions to what extent the countries not involved in the conflict should support Ukraine. Politicians are very cautious about the problem of selling weapons. There is no consensus on sending our troops to the armed conflict area. However, the necessity of the cooperation with the EU and NATO structures is being underlined. The situation, when the armed conflict is so close to the Polish border, prompts to analyse the Polish society readiness to meet emergency and extreme challenges. The threat level diagnosis presented mainly by military representatives is ambivalent. On the one hand, they do not give the grounds for the optimism. On the other hand, they assure that there is no need for creating intimidating and threatening environment. There is an agreement that the society is not prepared to act during emergency situations or a war. The human resources training system is a long way from the goals set<sup>2</sup>. Paradoxically, despite the feeling of threat declared by respondents in social research, a single piece of information regarding restoration of the conscript service causes controversy among politicians and society alike<sup>3</sup>. In such complicated situation when people are reluctant to accept additional obligations imposed by institutions (obligatory conscript service, human resources training), it is not easy to deal with building the effective security system of the state. The growth of military spending, that is to be introduced since 2016 (up to the level of 2% GDP) will not increase the citizens' competencies with regard to protection against the modern world' threats. For this reason the Ministry of National Defence has recently proposed initiatives aimed at social groups' voluntary engagement in raising their competencies connected with maintaining security, among others by appointing an authorised representative for social defence initiatives. The aim of the article is to

<sup>1</sup> Report from the survey, CBOS No. 144/2014, "Zainteresowanie sytuacją na Ukrainie i poczucie zagrożenia", p. 3-7, [online]. [available: 08.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: [http://www.cbos.pl/SPIS\\_KOM.POL/2014/K\\_144\\_14.PDF](http://www.cbos.pl/SPIS_KOM.POL/2014/K_144_14.PDF).

<sup>2</sup> [online]. [available: 09.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: <http://www.stefczyk.info/publicys-tyka/opinie/prof-szeremietiew-mon-przypomniao-sobie-ze-trzeba-szkolic-rezerwe,11764115214>.

<sup>3</sup> [online]. [available: 08.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: <http://www.tvn24.pl/wiadomosci-z-kraju,3/powrot-powszechnego-poboru-w-zwiazku-z-sytuacja-na-ukrainie-premier-zabral-glos,405469.html>; <http://www.wprost.pl/ar/443402/Przywrocenie-poboru-do-wojska-Klopotek-Na-litosc-boskanie-straszmy-ludzi-wojna/?pg>.

present the directions of changes that have recently happened in the area of military cooperation with the society as well as the critical assessment of these initiatives. The article seeks to answer the following questions:

- What actions were taken by the Ministry of National Defence in 2014 in order to strengthen the social defence potential?
- Has the Ministry of National Defence increased the amount of subsidies for NGOs for five years?
- Which NGOs are the largest beneficiaries of the Ministry of National Defence's subsidies?

The hypotheses formulated to the above research problems are as follows:

H1. The actions called "the social defence initiative" taken by the Ministry of National Defence are of institutional character, i.e. they strengthen the existing Ministry of National Defence's structures, which coordinate the cooperation with NGOs.

H2. The Ministry of National Defence's subsidies for supporting the NGOs activity have been at the similar level for five years.

H3. The largest beneficiaries of the Ministry of National Defence's subsidies are aero clubs, sport clubs and veterans and reservists training organisations.

## **1. FUNCTIONS AND THE CONDITION OF THE THIRD SECTOR OPERATING FOR DEFENCE IN POLAND**

In response to the events in Ukraine, the calls appeared to strengthen the military cooperation with NGOs acting for defence. It would be a way to broadly include groups of citizens in different defence- and security-related initiatives. For this purpose, in November 2014 the Ministry of National Defence assigned the representative for social defence initiatives<sup>4</sup>.

It is worth noting that currently the Department of Social Communication of the Ministry of National Defence (previously - the Department of Education and Defence Promotion) supervised by the Secretary of State at the Ministry coordinates the cooperation with NGOs. Establishing a position of the representative for the social defence initiatives (and the supernumerary Team formed by him / her according to the Ministry of National Defence's decision) should be seen through the context of the events in Ukraine and potential threats to the security of citizens. The representative is assigned tasks to lead to the enhancement of activities performed in cooperation with NGOs. However, the Ministry of National Defence sees more space for cooperation and the opportunity to invite such institutions like universities or schools to develop the interest in security and defence issues.

'The third sector' is defined as all NGOs having an organisational form, which obliges to register and possess documents such as a statute and regulations. Moreover, these organisations are independent of public authorities. They conduct non-profit activities

<sup>4</sup> Decision No. 460/MON by the Minister of National Defence of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 on appointment of an authorised representative of the Minister of National Defence for social defence initiatives; Journal of Laws of the Minister of National Defence of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014, item 373.

and take independent decisions. They base on voluntary membership<sup>5</sup>. NGOs' functions are described, among others, in the *Act on public benefit activities and volunteerism of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2003*<sup>6</sup>. Article 4 of the mentioned Act describes objectives – public tasks that can be performed by NGOs. In fact, the tasks indicate the functions of the NGOs as entities functioning in the sector independent from public and private areas, not meaning the isolation from them. Among mentioned tasks there are ones, which are included in the statuses of the organisations that cooperate with the Ministry of National Defence, i.e.:

- the maintenance of national tradition, cultivating Polish identity and broadening national, civil and cultural awareness<sup>7</sup>;
- science, education and upbringing<sup>8</sup>;
- dissemination of knowledge and skills for the state defence purposes<sup>9</sup>;
- rescue and protection of people<sup>10</sup>;
- relief to victims of catastrophes and natural disasters, armed conflicts, wars in the state and abroad<sup>11</sup>.

Functions that are performed by organisations operating for the defence and security purposes can be divided into serving individuals and society. In the case of the functions connected with the goals of individuals the organisations can satisfy the needs for affiliation (belonging, acceptance from the group members). Moreover, the participation of organisations can be a source of identity and self-realisation. A fundamental function for society (a group) is integrity. An organisation integrates individuals around tasks and ideas (values), causing the increased group coherence and linking collectives. Organisations pursuing objectives connected with education and upbringing contribute to the increase of knowledge and competencies of society within the selected areas, supporting in this way educational institutions. When working for organisations, people form civil society, work for public good, take independent decisions. The idea of democracy is strengthened this way. Organisations by supporting victims fill a gap created by not sufficient actions of the state institutions. The described functions performed by NGOs concern the needs of individuals and realisation of goals important for a community.

For many years the condition of the third sector in Poland has been assessed as weak in comparison to the 'old democracies', or even if set against Central and Eastern Europe countries. This fact results from the low level of social trust. The CBOS research of

<sup>5</sup> D. Moroń, *Organizacje pozarządowe. Fundament społeczeństwa obywatelskiego*, Wyd. Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław 2012, p. 16-17.

<sup>6</sup> Journal of Laws of 2003, no. 96, item 873.

<sup>7</sup> Ibidem, Article 4, paragraph 1(3).

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem, Article 4, paragraph 1 (11).

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem, Article 4, paragraph 1 (17).

<sup>10</sup> Ibidem, Article 4, paragraph 1 (19).

<sup>11</sup> Ibidem, Article 4, paragraph 1 (20).

the year 2012 showed that the low level of trust declared by the Poles towards the people not being a family or close friends has been on an almost unchanged level over the last few years<sup>12</sup>. The research conducted as a part of 'Social Diagnosis' project in 2013 proved the CBOS survey results. Moreover, very limited society involvement in the work for common good, both in an organisation and different forms of activities is pointed out<sup>13</sup>. The Poles do not trust foreigners, are not willing to act altruistically for the sake of other people, they developed the certain distance towards social initiatives undertaken by NGOs. The reasons for this state of affairs are connected with the society's experiences during the communist system. In this period social work did not result from the needs of self-organising citizens who had the sense of empowerment and impact on the situation and were achieving goals they believed right. The involvement in the social work was imposed top-down, creating seemingly altruistic and voluntary actions. More than 40 years of shell actions was one of the main reasons of the currently low Polish society capital that does not value the work for others and cannot see a point of the membership in organisations.

The military cooperation with the NGOs in Poland has a long tradition. After the Great War the society was conscious of the fragility of the regained independence and the necessity of engaging not only the armed forces but also ordinary citizens in the country's defence. Paramilitary organisations trained members of all social classes of the then Poland, including the under and recruiting age young people as well as academic ones, in terms of shooting, guard duties, first medical aid and operating communications assets. Owing to this, the society had the high awareness of defence obligations towards the state. The systematic work of associations in this field resulted in creating the strong resistance movement in Poland during the II World War. *Legia Akademicka*, *Przysposobienie Wojskowe Kobiet*, *Przysposobienie Wojskowe*, *Obrona Narodowa*, *Związek Strzelecki*, *Junackie Hufce Pracy* are some organisations that functioned at that time<sup>14</sup>.

After the II World War the citizens' commitment in the activities of associations and paramilitary organisations weakened. However, there were more active organisations, which aimed at creating self defence units consisted of volunteers. After the War the most active in this field were *Polski Czerwony Krzyż*, *Związek Ochotniczych Straży Pożarnych*, *Związek Krótkofalowców* or *Liga Obrony Kraju*. The idea of creating the self-defence unit has never been fully implemented though. Over time, the society generally believed that the special services were responsible for the state security<sup>15</sup>. Such attitude was strengthened after the compulsory military service had been suspended in Poland. A tendency of 'leaving' the security issues for special services is a trend observed not only in Poland.

<sup>12</sup> Report by CBOS BS/33/2012, "Zaufanie społeczne".

<sup>13</sup> J. Czapiński, T. Panek, (ed.), *Diagnoza Społeczna 2013. Warunki jakości życia Polaków. Raport*, Warszawa 2014, p. 321-335.

<sup>14</sup> A. Skrabacz, *Organizacje pozarządowe w bezpieczeństwie narodowym w Polsce i na świecie*, The Military Defence Academy, Warszawa 2003, p. 81.

<sup>15</sup> A. Skrabacz, *op. cit.*, p. 82.

After the year 1989 Poland began to build a democracy system. One of the positive effects of the transformation was the growth of the activities of people who started to set up associations and foundations in order to realise own ideas, needs, interests and passions. In 1990s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century legal solutions came into force, which became the ground for paramilitary organisations to tighten the cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence. *The Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 15<sup>th</sup> November 1994 on the list of governmental tasks that can be passed to NGOs* was the first document<sup>16</sup>. The document specified the areas in which the NGOs can perform tasks for defence purposes. The next legal act was *the Decision No.7 of the Ministry of National Defence on the regulations and principles regarding assignment of the national security governmental tasks to NGOs and supervision of the tasks' execution*. The document indicated the goals of the cooperation with the third sector as well as entities entitled to coordinate it on behalf of the Ministry of National Defence. The above mentioned decision evolved over the years, the consequence of which is currently in force *the Decision No. 187 of the Ministry of National Defence of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 on the implementation of principles of cooperation between the Ministry of National Defence and NGOs and other social partners*<sup>17</sup>.

## 2. COOPERATION OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH THE SOCIETY

Associations and foundations cooperate with the organisational cells of the Ministry of National Defence mainly in their local societies. At the central level, the coordination of activities regarding signing cooperation agreements, assigning national defence governmental tasks or handing over military equipment to organisations is the responsibility of the Secretary of State who performs the mentioned tasks through the Department of Social Communication at the Ministry of National Defence<sup>18</sup>. A cooperation agreement signed by the parties –representatives of the Ministry of National Defence and an organisation is the formal basis for cooperation. A party signing an agreement can be either the Ministry of National Defence or a commander of a military unit. Currently, the Ministry of National Defence informs about 85 cooperation agreements, which gives about 90 organisations, which interoperate with the Ministry of National Defence based on the formally signed agreements (some of which are signed with more than one organisation<sup>19</sup>). It must be underlined, that having an agreement signed is not the necessary condition for cooperation between an NGO and the Ministry. Organisations can apply for subsidies to perform national defence gov-

<sup>16</sup> Journal of Laws of 1994 No. 131 item 657 (later amendments: Journal of Laws of 1995 No. 120 item 579, Journal of Laws of 1997 No. 94, item 573).

<sup>17</sup> Journal of Laws of the Ministry of National Defence of 2009 No. 12 item 131 and of 2011 No. 9, item 21 (as amended).

<sup>18</sup> The Regulation of the Ministry of National Defence of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 on the detailed regulatory procedure in handing over the State Treasury movable property controlled by entities subordinated to the Ministry of National Defence or overseen by him/her, Journal of Laws of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014, item 759.

<sup>19</sup> [online]. [available: 13.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: [http://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/pl/f/view/fobject\\_id:512926](http://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/pl/f/view/fobject_id:512926).

ernmental tasks and also to receive military equipment from the Ministry<sup>20</sup>. The goals (governmental tasks) that can be subsidised are described in the appendix to *the Regulations of the Council of Ministries of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1997, on assigning the governmental tasks to NGOs and the list of the tasks*, and they are as follows:

- the maintenance of airfields, and aerial and parachute defence training courses;
- promotion and dissemination of defence related issues;
- paramilitary training;
- defensive sports training courses<sup>21</sup>.

The non-governmental organisations that have the longest history of the cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence established through signed agreements include *Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego* (the agreement signed in 1993), *Polski Związek Radioorientacji Sportowej*, *Związek Strzelecki "Strzelec" Organizacja Społeczno-Wychowawcza*, *Stowarzyszenie "Rodzina Wojskowa"*, *Związek Towarzystw Gimnastycznych "Sokół"* (the agreement signed in 1995), *Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej*, *Związek Inwalidów Wojennych RP*, *Liga Morska i Rzeczna*, *Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Sportowe RP*, *Polski Związek Łowiecki* (the agreement signed in 1996).

Statutory goals of organisations, which have the cooperation agreements signed with the Ministry of National Defence, are various. There are organisations supporting and integrating former soldiers and veterans (for example: *Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów Sił Zbrojnych RP*, *Krajowy Związek Byłych Żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie*, *Ogólnokrajowe Stowarzyszenie Kombatantów Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie*, *Stowarzyszenie Byłych Żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie "Karpaczczyki"*, etc.). One of the areas of cooperation between organisations and the Ministry of National Defence is promoting sport (for example: *Stowarzyszenie Wspierania i Rozwoju Sportu "Mazovia Team"*, *Wojskowa Federacja Sportu*, *Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Sportowe*, etc.). Another goal is the popularisation of military traditions, the history of Polish weapons (for example: *Stowarzyszenie „Szwadron Jazdy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej"*, *Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Twierdzy Modlin*, etc.). The social assistance and satisfying the needs of military families or particular groups of soldiers (for example: *Stowarzyszenie "Rodzina Wojskowa"*, *Stowarzyszenie Rannych i Poszkodowanych w Misjach poza Granicami Kraju*, *Fundacja Pomocy Emerytom i Rencistom Wojskowym*, etc.) are important statutory aims of some organisations. The next area of interest is rescue, removal of effects of natural disasters and catastrophes (for example: *Państwowa Straż Pożarna*, *Liga Obrony Kraju*, *Polski Związek Krótkofalowców*, etc.). Some organisations deal with conducting defence education and reservists' trainings (for example: *Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej*, *Federacja*

<sup>20</sup> The Regulation of the Ministry of National Defence of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 on the detailed regulatory procedure in handing over the State Treasury movable property controlled by entities subordinated to the Ministry of National Defence or overseen by him/her, Journal of Laws of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014, item 759.

<sup>21</sup> The appendix to the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1997 points 76-79, Journal of Laws of 1997 No. 94, item 573.

*Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów Sił Zbrojnych RP, Związek Żołnierzy Wojska Polskiego, Wielkopolskie Stowarzyszenie Aktywnych Rezerwistów, etc.).*

### 3. THE NATIONAL DEFENCE RELATED TASKS ASSIGNED TO NGOS REALISED OVER LAST FIVE YEARS

On the webpages of Public Information Bulletin of the Ministry of National Defence (BIP MON) there are reports on fulfilling national defence related tasks by NGOs throughout the years 2005-2013<sup>22</sup>. The analysis of these documents allows the tracing of the changes in the scope of cooperation, the expenditures and the list of beneficiaries. Currently, the legal documents constituting the basis for granting subsidies for defence tasks are as follows:

- The Act of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2003 on public benefit activities and volunteerism (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 234, item 1536, as amended)
- The Act of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 on public finance (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 885, as amended)
- The Decision No. 483 of the Minister of National Defence of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 on regulations and principles regarding the assignment of the national security governmental tasks to NGOs (Journal of Laws of the Ministry of National Defence of 2008 No. 21, item 266).

### 4. THE BUDGETARY DECISION (VALID IN A GIVEN ACCOUNTING YEAR)

Table 1 includes amounts of subsidies and number of organisations-beneficiaries in the years 2005-2013.

**Table 1.** Subsidies received by NGOs for executing defence related tasks in the years 2005-2013

Year	Amount of subsidies	Number of beneficiaries
2005	10 722 075,00	121
2006	13 459 443,00	129
2007	1 155 045,00	108
2008	18 681 179,00	159
2009	8 670 559,00	129
2010	8 743 601,00	101
2011	8 803 736,00	115
2012	8 761 996,00	133
2013	8 530 376,00	136

*Source: own study based on the data from the webpages of BIP MON<sup>23</sup>*

It can be noticed that expenses on the defence tasks realised by organisations were at the steady level during the years 2009-2013 (not exciding 8 million zlotys). In comparison with previous years, it is worth noting that the Ministry of National Defence's ex-

<sup>22</sup> [online]. [available: 08.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: <http://archiwumbip.mon.gov.pl/41.html>.

<sup>23</sup> Ibidem [online]. [available: 16.03.2015].



penditures were 2-10 million higher (2007 was the exception, when the amount of subsidies was drastically decreased to 1 155 045 zlotys). In 2008 the amount of subsidies reached its record level of 18 681 179 zlotys and 159 organisations took advantage of it. The year 2007 was the weakest year when the amount of subsidies was only 1 155 045 zlotys. Within the years 2010-2013, despite maintaining relatively steady level of subsidies, the number of organisations, which benefit from the aid increased.

While tracing the history of the subsidies granted to particular organisations, it is possible to point out these ones, which clearly stand out in the amount of subsidies received. Table 2 includes the summary of the associations and foundations, which were the main beneficiaries within the years 2013-2005.

**Table 2.** Beneficiaries of subsidies for performing governmental tasks related to national security

The name of an organisation	Subsidy granted <sup>24</sup>
<b>Year 2013</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	1 194 400,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	430 650,00
Stowarzyszenie Byłych Żołnierzy 62 kspeca "Commando"	228 021,00
Stowarzyszenie Rannych i Poszkodowanych w Misjach Poza Granicami Kraju	226 200,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie "Sport-Turystyka-Obronność"	238 550,00
WKS "Flota"	490 707,00
WKS "Grunwald"	513 130,00
WKS "Śląsk"	379 530,00
Fundacja "Polonia Militaris"	265 335,00
<b>Year 2012</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	1 151 900,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	664 746,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	244 690,00
Klub Sportowy "Iskra"	392 222,00
Stowarzyszenie Byłych Żołnierzy 62 kspeca "Commando"	214 668,00
Wojskowa Federacja Sportu	290 950,00
Polskie Towarzystwo Kulturalne "Pro Militari"	286 900,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie "Sport-Turystyka-Obronność"	331 550,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	247 280,00
Wojskowy Klub Spadochronowy "Skrzydło"	255 000,00
<b>Year 2011</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	1 106 000,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	446 800,00
Aeroklub Lubelski	321 500,00
Caritas Ordynariatu Polowego WP	245 000,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	498 365,00
Fundacja "Pro Militaria XXI"	359 828,00

<sup>24</sup> The subsidies granted were higher than 200 thousand zlotys.

Klub Sportowy "Iskra"	411 310,00
WKS "Grunwald"	344 761,00
WKS "Śląsk"	315 180,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	271 000,00
<b>Year 2010</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	1 215 450,00
Aeroklub Częstochowski	242 625,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	557 972,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	276 470,00
Aeroklub Poznański	243 870,00
Aeroklub Radomski	533 860,00
WKS "Flota"	324 981,00
WKS "Grunwald"	444 349,00
WKS "Śląsk"	400 000,00
<b>Year 2009</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	694 650,00
Caritas Ordynariatu Polowego WP	228 720,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	264 496,00
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół 1 Mazurskiej Brygady Artylerii	455 480,00
WKS "Flota"	314 000,00
WKS "Grunwald"	393 884,00
WKS "Śląsk"	320 000,00
Wojskowa Federacja Sportu	253 500,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie "Sport-Turystyka-Obronność"	423 170,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	418 458,00
<b>Year 2008</b>	
Aeroklub "Orląt"	1 283 110,00
Caritas Ordynariatu Polowego WP	463 520,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	336 555,00
Fundacja "Cyber"	230 290,00
Wojskowy Klub Sportowy "Śląsk"	975 000,00
Stowarzyszenie "Rodzina Wojskowa"	400 411,00
WKS "Zawisza" Sekcja Strzelecka	344 000,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	957 010,00
WKS "Grunwald"	539 929,00
Klub Sportowy "Iskra"	306 018,00
WKS "Flota"	696 100,00
Wojskowa Federacja Sportu	481 185,00
Światowy Związek Żołnierzy Armii Krajowej	255 830,00
Stowarzyszenie Wspierania i Rozwoju Sportu	316 400,00
Stowarzyszenie Żandarmerii Wojskowej "Żandarm"	200 053,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	569 634,00
WKS "Skrzydło"	412 030,00
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół 1 Mazurskiej Brygady Artylerii	456 400,00
Związek Byłych Żołnierzy Zawodowych i Oficerów Rezerwy	207 443,00
Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze	236 349,00
Aeroklub Częstochowski	431 484,00
Aeroklub Radomski	444 320,00
Aeroklub Poznański	683 780,00

Fundacja "Polonia Militaris"	584 440,00
<b>Year 2007</b>	
Liga Obrony Kraju <sup>25</sup>	511 612,00
<b>Year 2006</b>	
Aeroklub Polski	786 166,00
Caritas Ordynariatu Polowego WP	453 720,00
Europejskie Centrum Współpracy Młodzieży	351 112,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	246 865,00
Fundacja "Polonia Militaris"	418 290,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	540 519,00
Klub Sportowy "Iskra"	297 340,00
WKS "Flota"	620 800,00
WKS "Oleśniczanka"	255 067,00
WKS "Skrzydło"	332 740,00
WKS "Śląsk"	980 250,00
WKS "Zawisza" - Sekcja Strzelecka	344 025,00
Stowarzyszenie Association KRAV-MAGA	241 912,00
Stowarzyszenie Wspierania i Rozwoju Sportu	466 510,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	682 625,00
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół 1 Mazurskiej Brygady Artylerii	332 450,00
Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej	338 405,00
Związek Byłych Żołnierzy Zawodowych i Oficerów Rezerwy	327 964,00
<b>Year 2005</b>	
Aeroklub Polski	512 630,00
Caritas Ordynariatu Polowego WP	334 200,00
Federacja Stowarzyszeń Rezerwistów i Weteranów SZ RP	504 870,00
Fundacja "Polonia Militaris"	321 560,00
Wojskowe stowarzyszenie "Sport-Turystyka-Obronność"	223 200,00
Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Harcerstwa	230 115,00
Stowarzyszenie "Rodzina Wojskowa"	319 020,00
WKS "Zawisza" - Sekcja Strzelecka	352 315,00
Liga Obrony Kraju	396 630,00
WKS "Grunwald"	1 438 575,00
Klub Sportowy "Iskra"	249 820,00
WKS "Flota"	474 260,00
WKS "Oleśniczanka"	333 040,00
WKS "Skrzydło"	336 214,00
WKS "Śląsk"	961 670,00
Stowarzyszenie Wspierania i Rozwoju Sportu "Mazovia Team"	566 700,00
Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"	254 270,00
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół 1 Mazurskiej Brygady Artylerii	308 280,00
Towarzystwo Wiedzy Obronnej	878 167,00
Związek Byłych Żołnierzy Zawodowych i Oficerów Rezerwy	415 600,00

Source: own study based on the data from the webpages of BIP MON

<sup>25</sup> In 2007 the given subsidies were at the relatively low level, i.e. 1 155 045 zlotys. Only *Liga Obrony Kraju* was given subsidies of more than 200 thousand zlotys.

Aerial clubs, sport clubs and *Liga Obrony Kraju* are the organisations that constantly have appeared in the table over the years. The beneficiary of the resources is also the federation of the associations bringing together veterans and reservists (*Federacja Stowarzyszeń Weteranów i Rezerwistów SZ RP*). The Ministry of National defence's resources support functioning cultural organisations (for example: *Wojskowe Stowarzyszenie Społeczno-Kulturalne "SWAT"*), and also the Military Ordinariate of the Polish Armed Forces. Associations of former soldiers and organisations supporting persons deprived during missions benefit from subsidies as well. After analysing the aims of subsidies it can be stated that the majority of the resources cover activities such as:

- education, training, cultural and upbringing activities addressed to soldiers, civil workers, military families, children and the youth, pupils and students;
- the propagation of traditions, popularisation of military history, promotion of the armed forces;
- training for the specialties useful in the armed forces, training of the under conscripts and reservist;
- the development of the defensive sports
- shaping and improving knowledge and skills in the field of defence;
- social assistance for former soldiers, war and military invalids as well as veterans.

## 5. THE SOCIAL DEFENCE INITIATIVE.

In 2014 the Ministry of National Defence appointed the representative for social defence initiatives<sup>26</sup>. The representative's tasks were specified in the decision:

- establishing and coordinating the cooperation with the pro-defence NGOs;
- preparing the system-based solutions in the Ministry of National Defence in the area of cooperation with pro-defence NGOs, regarding the coordination and support of the initiatives connected with enhancing the state security;
- incorporating military academies and other organizational cells and units of MOD into close cooperation with pro-defence NGOs;
- overseeing the activities of the personnel appointed as supernumerary representatives for defence initiatives, who operate in the organisational units subordinated to the Ministry of National Defence;
- performing additional tasks assigned by the Ministry of National Defence in terms of defence initiatives<sup>27</sup>.

Moreover, the Ministry of National Defence initiated a conference attended by NGOs and other entities (mainly school classes of military profile) operating in the field of defence. The conference called the congress of paramilitary organisations took place

<sup>26</sup> Decision No. 460 /MON by the Minister of National Defence of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 on appointment of an authorised representative of the Minister of National Defence for social defence initiatives; Journal of Laws of the Minister of National Defence of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014, item 373.

<sup>27</sup> Ibidem.

on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and was financed through resources for national security tasks<sup>28</sup>. One of the important conference's outcome was establishment of the confederation of associations. It consisted of 7 associations experienced in the cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence: *Związek Strzelecki Organizacja Społeczno-Wychowawcza „Strzelec”*, *Związek Strzelecki „Strzelec”*, *Związek Strzelecki „Strzelec” im. J. Piłsudskiego*, *Związek Strzelecki „Strzelec” Wągrowiec*, *Związek Strzelecki, Stowarzyszenie Instruktorów Legia Akademicka w Lublinie i stowarzyszenie FIA (Fideles et Instructi Armis – Wierni w Gotowości pod Bronią)*<sup>29</sup>. According to the representative for the social defence initiatives NGOs and schools should cooperate with the Ministry of National Defence in terms of human resource training and the development of the crisis response system. Schools running military classes should be a part of the military and non-military security system of the state. While the tasks of defence organisations are among others: patriotic education of society, training of volunteers for human resources purposes, preparation for tackling non-military threats and participation in the crisis management system. The establishment of the confederation of associations, that took place during the congress aimed at making the work more effective: “Owing to the federation the new quality can be achieved in the field of cooperation between paramilitary organisations and the Ministry of National Defence (...). NGOs can operate arbitrarily, nobody imposes the direction of activity, but through the consolidation we want to create the good platform for cooperation of the armed forces with such voluntary organisations”<sup>30</sup>. The Ministry of National Defence is planning to establish the bureau for defence initiatives that is deal with cooperative ventures with NGOs.

## CONCLUSION

With regards to hypothesis formulated in the introduction, it can be stated that the depicted analysis allowed proving them. Answering in details the questions raised in the introduction to the article it can be assumed that the initiatives taken by the Ministry of National Defence over last two years (2014-2015) aiming at the mobilisation of the Polish society towards broaden commitment to the state defence are mainly of institutional nature. They do not involve the increase in financial outlay in order to support NGOs initiatives and do not bring with them modifications of wider defence education of society, even at the universal education level. These initiatives/activities are nothing but creation of the representative's position for the social defence initiatives and the team supporting him/her substantively, as well as the organisation of conferences targeted at the integration of the bodies acting in favour of the defence. They are not the activities that would substantively change the way of the Ministry of National Defence's cooperation with NGOs, but it has to be admitted that they bring spectacular media effect. The amount of NGOs subsidies has been at the same level for

<sup>28</sup> [online]. [available: 08.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: <http://bip.mon.gov.pl/ogloszenia/tresci/inne/otwarte-konkursy-ofert/aktualne-ogloszenia-1025479/otwarty-konkurs-ofert-na-realizacje-zad-an-publicznych-03022015-r-1032547j>.

<sup>29</sup> [online]. [available: 08.03.2015]. Available on the Internet: <http://mon.gov.pl/aktualnosci/artykul/najnowsze/2015-03-20-wicepremier-na-kongresie-organizacji-proobronnych-i-klas-mundurowych>.

<sup>30</sup> Ibidem.

five years (around 8 million zlotys). The largest beneficiaries of the Ministry of National Defence's subsidies are aero clubs, sport clubs and the organisations dealing with veterans and reservists training and also cultural organisations.

Undoubtedly, any single initiative aiming at strengthening the defence potential of Poland deserves to be noticed and to be given positive assessment. Nevertheless, there are doubts regarding the results that can be achieved through the recently taken actions. It is noticeable, that during the congress only 7 organisations agreed to join the federation of associations.

Thus, it can be questioned whether it is necessary to create another institution (a representative of the Ministry of National Defence) cooperating with the society when the Department of Social Communication (previously - the Department of Education and Defence Promotion) has been performing such duties for years. Perhaps, it is worth utilising the experience that has been gained for many years, extending only the scope of the cooperation and allocating the majority of grants for NGOs. The sum of approximately 8 million zlotys spent every year is not (relatively) high in comparison to the year 2008 when it was 18 million zlotys and the number of beneficiaries reached 160 organisations.

It should be noted that the condition of the third sector in Poland is weak, and it refers to defence organisations as well. The low number of organisations that became the confederation members during the congress confirmed the thesis. The reasons can be connected with the low social capital. People do not value social work and do not trust organisations. This problem is firmly rooted in broader cultural settings, thus the Ministry of National Defence's expectations regarding associations' support for the security system can be exorbitant. The society changes, people want to feel secured, not necessarily being the part of the system. Instead of counting on changing the mentality of individuals, who are (or not) willing to engage in organisations' activities, perhaps it is worth using the mechanisms of the state's impact on citizens. The introduction to schools the paramilitary training of broader scale at all educational levels, obligatory security trainings in institutions (based on obligatory HAS trainings) would certainly increase the units' security competencies. However, it requires a system reform and additional funds greatly exceeding current budget for associations. Encouraging associations to train reservists is a constructive step, nevertheless taking into account the social change that has happened within 10 last years in Poland, it will not form a basis for human resources training. The activities of associations are only „a drop in the ocean” in terms of needs.

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