

Edited by / Herausgegeben von
Emil W. Pływaczewski / Ewa M. Guzik-Makaruk

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE PENAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

AKTUELLE PROBLEME DES STRAFRECHTS UND DER KRIMINOLOGIE



Wydawnictwo C. H. Beck

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Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology-origins and present status at Criminology School in Białystok

This volume of “Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie” is a continuation of the series started by the book edited by Professor *Piotr Hofmański* over twenty years ago¹. Back then, the Faculty of Law in Białystok, which was still within the structures of the University of Warsaw, comprised three criminal law institutes: the Institute of Criminal Law, the Institute of Criminal Procedure and the Institute of Criminology and Organized Crime Issues (headed by Professor *Emil W. Pływaczewski*). The aforementioned volume allowed the staff of those institutes to present their achievements and current directions of their research. Their papers focused mainly on the criminal law reform that was being prepared, due to the ongoing discussion on the published drafts of criminal law bills. The assumption was that the first volume would start a new series which should also include papers by authors from other universities, to encompass foreign ones.

That idea was implemented in the next volume which had a new formula and whose title, for obvious reasons, was complemented². This time, the 26-person team of contributing authors included, in addition to leading Polish representatives of the sciences of criminal law and criminology, also professors considered to be leading international authorities in these fields. The foreign authors represented such countries as Australia, Austria, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The United Nations (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna) was also represented. The foreign authors submitted papers in either German or English, while Polish authors – in Polish. Finally, all the papers were published in their original language versions. Each paper written in German or English had a summary in Polish, and those written in Polish had summaries

¹ P. Hofmański (ed.), *Z problematyki prawa karnego* [On the problems of criminal law], Białystok 1994, p. 262.

² E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Aktualne problemy prawa karnego i kryminologii. Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, Białystok 1998, p. 622.

in English, German or French. Thus, the first publication series on an international scale was initiated with the objective to present the most recent trends and the results of research – often pioneering – both Polish and foreign, in two fields, namely criminal law and criminology (in English and German), with the participation of both leading representatives of those fields and outstanding young scientists from different countries and continents. The volume was published at a special time, as of 1.10.1997 an act was passed on transforming the Białystok branch of the Warsaw University into an autonomous university, the thirteenth in Poland.

The third volume³ was published after profound structural transformations which took place in the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok. On 1.9.2002, departments were established at the University, to include the Department of Criminal Law consisting of the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology⁴ and the Institute of Criminal Procedure. The intention of the editor of that volume was to present, in the first part of the book, the current directions of research conducted by the staff of the Department of Criminal Law. The other part of the volume was to include papers submitted by distinguished professors representing selected Japanese and German universities who have maintained very close academic relations with the staff of the Department of Criminal Law.

The next (fourth) volume⁵ was published after new structural changes were implemented in the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, resulting from academic promotions among the Faculty's staff. The changes include, first, the establishment of the Department of Criminal Procedure⁶ and, second, the establishment of the Institute of Criminal Policy within the Department of Criminal Law. It needs to be emphasized that the Department of Criminal Law has significant achievements in its research, which confirms its leading role in studies on terrorism, organized crime, money laundering and on broadly defined issues of homeland security in Poland⁷. It was the Department that conducted,

³ E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Aktualne problemy prawa karnego i kryminologii. Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, Białystok 2005, p. 468.

⁴ The author became the head of both the Department of Criminal Law and the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology.

⁵ E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, Białystok 2009, p. 772.

⁶ The Department was established on the basis of the Institute of Criminal Law.

⁷ See E.W. Pływaczewski, K. Laskowska, G. Szczygieł, E. Guzik-Makaruk, W. Filipkowskiki, E. Zatyka, *Polskie kierunki badań kryminologicznych nad bezpieczeństwem obywateli* [Directions of Polish criminological studies of citizen security], *Prokuratura i Prawo* 2010, No. 1–2, pp. 176–201. E. Jurgielewicz, M. Perkowska, *Kierunki badań prawno-karnych i kryminologicznych prowadzonych w Zakładzie Prawa Karnego i Kryminologii Wydziału Prawa Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku* [Directions of research in criminal law and criminology conducted at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology of the University of Białystok], [in:] I. Sepiolo, *Interdyscyplinarność badań w naukach penalnych* [Interdisciplinary nature of research in penal sciences], Poznań 2012, pp. 423–449. L. Paprzycki, Z. Rau (eds.), *Praktyczne elementy zwalczania przestępczości zorganizowanej i terroryzmu. Nowoczesne technologie i praca operacyjna* [Practical elements of the fight against organized crime and terrorism. Modern technologies and operational work],

in the years 2003–2006, the largest commissioned research project so far in Poland⁸, entitled “Legal and organizational-technical solutions in countering organized crime and terrorism with special emphasis on the problems related to trial evidence and the institution of immunity witness”. It was the first joint undertaking of academic circles and bodies of law enforcement and administration of justice. The project that Prof. Emil W. Pływaczewski had the honor to manage involved the participation of approximately 140 representatives of the Police, public prosecutor’s office, courts, and the science of criminal law.

In October 2007, Prof. Emil W. Pływaczewski was entrusted with the position of the director of another commissioned research project titled “Monitoring, identification, and countering threats to citizens’ security” which was conducted in the years 2007–2010. The project was carried out by the consortium established by the University of Białystok and the Military University of Technology in Warsaw. It involved 350 participants who are both representatives of academic circles (including many well-known professors in legal and technical fields) and practitioners from bodies of law enforcement and administration of justice.

The aforementioned fourth volume of the book presented selected results of the work performed on the project on “Monitoring, identification, and countering threats to citizens’ security”, and mentioned especially the work performed by the staff of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology and the Department of Criminal Procedure. The team of 38 authors of papers presented in the volume consists predominantly of foreign authors. Their papers provide a good basis to compare with the research conducted in the project. The foreign authors, traditionally including international authorities in the field of criminal law and criminology, come from such countries as Australia, Austria, China (Hong Kong, Macau), France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. Like before, the United Nations (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, Austria) was also represented.

The research project “Monitoring, identification, and countering threats to citizens’ security” was an integral part of the Polish Platform for Home-

Warsaw 2009. E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Przestępczość zorganizowana* [Organized crime], Warsaw 2011. K. Laskowska, (ed.), *Oblicza współczesnej przestępczości zorganizowanej* [The faces of contemporary organized crime], Białystok 2014; E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Proceder prania pieniędzy i jego implikacje* [Money laundering and its implications], Warsaw 2013. E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, W. Filipkowski, E.W. Pływaczewski, *Zakres kryminalizacji procederu prania pieniędzy w ujęciu prawnoporównawczym* [The scope of criminalization of money laundering from the standpoint of comparative law], [in:] M. Kolendowska-Matejczuk, K. Szwarz (eds.), *Wybrane aspekty nowelizacji prawa karnego. Zagadnienia penalizacji prania pieniędzy w świetle projektowanej nowelizacji. Kognicja sądów w sprawach wpadkowych w postępowaniu karnym* [Selected aspects of criminal law amendments. The problem of penalization of money laundering in the light of the planned amendment. Jurisdiction of courts in incidental cases in criminal proceedings], Warsaw 2015, pp. 48–60.

⁸ Financial means are granted to projects of this type in the framework of a competition where the commissioning party (the State Committee for Scientific Research) provides financing to the leading Polish academic centers which can demonstrate their achievements in the proposed research area.

land Security (PPHS) – Scientific University Network, a unique initiative that has been positively evaluated among others by representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, European Defence Agency and the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in 2010 in Brazil⁹.

The primary goal of this project is to create integrated computer tools to support various activities in the area of public security. The research projects (a total of thirty) performed in the framework of the PPHS focus, on the one hand, on using modern technology to support the work of the police, public prosecutors and security services and, on the other hand, on supporting efforts to enhance security and to counter crime committed by using modern technologies and, in particular, the Internet. Thus, the projects increase the efficiency of the work of the state services and bodies responsible for the security of citizens and the state¹⁰.

The fifth volume of this publishing series¹¹ was of fairly similar structure to the previous volume. The publication presented the current directions and results of research conducted by the staff of the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, specifically the Department of Criminal Law, which is one of the leading Polish academic entities conducting research in the field of generally defined security, and the Department of Criminal Procedure. The publication contained the outline of the results of the aforementioned research project involving publications of representatives of the academia and the practitioners of criminology and technical sciences, which was the largest scientific project conducted in Poland to date¹². However, the main objective of the publication was to discuss, as broadly as possible, the current trends, both European and worldwide, in the fields of criminal law and criminology. With this in mind, a large group of criminal law and criminology experts from over ten countries was invited to take part in this publishing project. The invitation was extended mostly to scientists from those academic centers which the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok had cooperated with before or those which it had

⁹ See: E.W. Pływaczewski, *Zapobieganie przestępczości i sprawiedliwość karna* [Crime prevention and criminal justice], 12th United Nations Congress (Salvador, Brasil, 12–19.4.2010), *Państwo i Prawo* 2010, No. 10, pp. 133–135.

¹⁰ More on the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS): see E.W. Pływaczewski, Z. Rau, *The Polish Platform for Homeland Security – a pioneer initiative for up-to-date security in the European Union*, [in:] E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, Białystok 2009, p. 445 ff. E.W. Pływaczewski, E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, *Polish Platform for Homeland Security and its place in the research on security in Poland*, [in:] J. Dworzecki (ed.), *Selected aspects of internal security*, Inglobal Writer Inc., New York 2015, pp. 219–234.

¹¹ E.W. Pływaczewski (ed.), *Current Problems of the Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, vol. 5, Warsaw 2012, p. 846. This position was presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Chicago as a part of the Directory of Exhibitors – a presentation of new publications by the world's most recognized publishers. Thus, it was the first time in the long history of conferences of the American Society of Criminology that a book published in Poland was presented in the promotional exhibition of that forum.

¹² See: E.W. Pływaczewski, Z. Rau, *The Polish...*, p. 515 ff.

signed a cooperation agreement with (e.g. the Northeastern University in Boston (MA), the Bern University in Switzerland, the Masaryk University in Brno in the Czech Republic, or the Southwest University of Political Science and Law in China) or to scientists with whom scientific cooperation had started earlier and had been maintained for considerable periods of time¹³.

In total, 63 authors (or co-authors) of 49 essays have participated in this publishing project. Besides Poland (18 authors), they represent the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, China (Hong Kong, Macau), the Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Both the foreign and the Polish authors submitted their papers in either German or English. Like in the previous volumes, the authors include many distinguished scientists, mostly representing criminal law and criminology, with internationally recognized status (some of them hold *honoris causa* doctorates of foreign universities and/or important national and international distinguished scholar awards). At the same time, however, the principle was observed that invitations were extended to outstanding Polish and foreign representatives of the younger generations of scientists in the aforementioned fields. A certain new characteristic of this volume is the participation of scientists from countries which, like Poland, were once a part of the communist block and its regional, military-political, and economic-trade arrangements.

The main objective of the sixth volume was to present the current directions and outcomes of research conducted by the staff of the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, specifically the Department of Criminal Law, which is one of the leading Polish academic entities conducting research in the field of generally defined security, and the Department of Criminal Procedure.

This involves, in particular, implementation of successive large projects at the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok and presentation of their selected research outcomes described in numerous papers in this book. The projects worth presenting in a detailed way comprise the two large projects carried out by the consortium established as a part of the Polish Platform for Homeland Security, with the University of Białystok as the consortium leader.

The first project, led by Prof. *Emil W. Pływaczewski* of this preface, entitled “State-of-the-art technologies for/in the criminal process and their use – technical, forensic-science, criminological, and legal”¹⁴, aims to conduct an in-depth technical research on enhancement of the safety of citizens owing

¹³ See among others: A. Eser, K. Yamanaka (eds.), *Einflüsse deutschen Strafrechts auf Polen und Japan. Zweites Deutsch-Polnisch-Japanisches Strafrechtssymposium 1999 in Osaka*, Baden-Baden 2001; H.J. Hirsch (ed.), *Krise des Strafrechts und der Kriminalwissenschaften? Tagungsbeiträge eines Symposiums der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung*, veranstaltet vom 1. bis 5. Oktober in Bamberg. Schriften zum Strafrecht, Heft 129, Berlin 2001; D. Siegel, H. Van de Bunt, D. Zaitch (eds.), *Global Organized Crime. Trends and Developments*, Studies of Organized Crime, Dordrecht–Boston–London 2003; C.R. Huff, M. Killias (eds.), *Wrongful Convictions. International Perspectives on Miscarriages of Justice*, Philadelphia 2008.

¹⁴ The project was financed by the National Centre for Research and Development; project no. O ROB 0021 01/ID 21/2. The implementation period: July 2011 – June 2014. The members of the consortium who carried out this project encompass: the University of Białystok (leader), the

to the knowledge of law, forensic science, and criminology. In particular, this involves solutions that could support law-enforcement agencies, secret services, and the judiciary in the performance of their tasks, both in operational reconnaissance and process-related activities.

What makes the project innovative and novel is that it involves work at the interface of the humanities and the technical sciences. The element that is common to all the research areas is information, or, more precisely, its acquisition, collection, and analysis in order to use it to ensure public security and order. Nowadays, with the development of the society and the economy, and with the technological progress, not only do the new threats to security appear but also new ways of ensuring security. Not only do criminals use new off-the-shelf technologies freely but state bodies – supported by scientists – should look for ways to make their actions more effective¹⁵.

Nevertheless, one must keep in mind that, according to the concept of a democratic law-abiding country, law enforcement bodies and the judiciary may only take those actions that are legal. Quite often, the law is unclear or allows different interpretations. The legal research involves not only evaluation of the binding laws but also search for new solutions (also those inspired by laws of other countries and by international law). Still, the fundamental issue is to observe the principle of proportionality between interference with human and civil rights using technological solutions and protection of such rights in democratic countries by defining the framework of permitted application of such solutions¹⁶.

The above-mentioned deliberations will be supplemented with the research in the area of forensic science, more specifically the strategies and techniques for using modern technologies, the issue of their use, and analysis of the organizational aspects pertaining to law enforcement agencies and the judiciary¹⁷. Further research will be conducted in the field of criminology. Its objective is to compare the suitability and effectiveness of technical solutions in the context of contemporary threats, such as organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, as well as the ways to ensure energy security.

It needs to be emphasized here that cooperation between a university that focuses on humanities (like the University of Białystok) and technical universities makes it possible to use the results of the research that has been con-

Military University of Technology in Warsaw, the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, and the PPBW Sp. z o.o. from Białystok.

¹⁵ More information can be found in E. Nawarecki, G. Dobrowolski, M. Kisiel-Dorohinicki (eds.), *Metody sztucznej inteligencji w działaniach na rzecz bezpieczeństwa publicznego* [Artificial intelligence methods in actions aimed to enhance public security], Kraków 2009, p. 291.

¹⁶ See: E.W. Pływaczewski, W. Filipkowski, *Combating Transnational Crime Under the Rule of Law. Contemporary Opportunities and Dilemmas*, [in:] P. Reichel, J. Albanese (eds.), *Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice*, Los Angeles–London–New Delhi–Singapore–Washington D.C. 2014, pp. 375–396.

¹⁷ See: W. Filipkowski, *Technologiczne aspekty walki z przestępczością zorganizowaną* [Technological aspects of the fight against organized crime], [in:] J. Kasprzak, B. Młodziejowski (eds.), *Wybrane aspekty procesu karnego i kryminalistyki* [Selected aspects of the criminal process and of forensic science], Olsztyn 2010, p. 253 ff.

ducted by the latter and to analyze their applicability in the area of security. In particular, it fosters further research and development of projects on an electronic process module (and, more broadly, digitalization of court proceedings, in particular criminal ones), an electronic system for recovery of property, the use of operational technologies (used in the course of operational reconnaissance activities), criminal intelligence analysis¹⁸ (with particular focus on *data mining* and artificial intelligence applications), use of open information sources (in particular the Internet), and the problem of video monitoring.

The final result of the project will be comprehensive and complementary legal and forensic-science analyses pertaining to implementation of specific new technologies that are important to internal security of the state and prototypical implementations of such technologies (described later in the application). The project also assumes studies on commercial use of the results of the research that has been conducted. In order to improve the effectiveness and utility of the research, the project assumes broad involvement of experienced consultants from law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

The results of the research project are two extremely large monograph volumes and a large number of contributing works¹⁹. In his review, S. Waltoś, who is an undisputed authority in the field of penal science, stated that due to the size of the work two statements must be made: first that the work, like any collective work (containing a total of 103 works), contains works that are very different with regard to both the academic level and the clarity of communication; this work is an event in the Polish literature due to its subject and comprehensive approach; second that the work in question constitutes the most current compendium of knowledge about new forms of crime in the 21st century and about the problems associated with the fight against it. The work should be present in every academic library and every reference library of law enforcement bodies²⁰.

The performance of this project is closely related to the establishment of the European Institute of Homeland Security. On 13.2.2014, a declaration was signed that established the European Institute of Homeland Security (EIHS), whose seat is located in the Professor Hilary Koprowski Gdańsk Science and Technology Park. The EIHS was established in the form of an open cluster composed mostly of companies interested in developing technologies in the security area, as well as of research institutions, institutes, public sector entities, and institutions in the business environment. The coordinator of the cluster is the EIBW company

¹⁸ See: P. Chlebowicz, W. Filipkowski, *Analiza kryminalna, Aspekty kryminalistyczne i prawnowodowodowe* [Criminal intelligence analysis. Forensic-science and evidence-law aspects], Warsaw 2011, p. 220.

¹⁹ E.W. Pływaczewski, W. Filipkowski, Z. Rau (eds.), *Przestępczość w XXI wieku – zapobieganie i zwalczanie. Problemy prawno-kryminologiczne* [Crime in the 21st century – prevention and suppression. Legal and criminological problems], Warsaw 2015, p. 973. E.W. Pływaczewski, W. Filipkowski, Z. Rau (eds.), *Przestępczość w XXI wieku...*, Warsaw 2015, p. 905.

²⁰ S. Waltoś, review of the following books: E.W. Pływaczewski, W. Filipkowski, Z. Rau (eds.), *Przestępczość w XXI wieku...*, No. 4, pp. 159–163.

that has been involved in R and D since it was established and has experience in performance of multiple research and implementation projects.

The Institute focuses on and specializes in broadly defined public security and order. Key topics for the institute are terrorism, cyber terrorism, organized crime, security of the state, security of citizens, telecommunication security, functioning of law enforcement and judiciary, criminology, forensic science, business intelligence, and open source intelligence. The actions of the Institute are mostly aimed to provide new technologies to support law enforcement agencies, mostly the Police and the Border Guard, as well as the judiciary and other entities that deal with internal security and order. These undertakings are intended, on the one hand, to support effective detection and fight against crime and, on the other hand, to support actions related to protection against and prevention of consequences of crimes. The main objective of the Institute is to create a platform for cooperation and exchange of information among representatives of the public sector and the private sector, conducting research and development activities, and supporting representatives of the two sectors with expert knowledge.

Security is the field of interest of employees of the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology of the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok. They not only actively support the activities of the European Institute of Homeland Security but also conduct broad research and development activities²¹.

The other of the aforementioned projects, entitled “Elaboration of a system for detection of threats to the safety of blind and vision-impaired persons, with particular focus on road traffic. Criminal-law and technological aspects”²², is also unique, as there have not been any projects of this type in Europe so far²³. The aim of the research is to design methods of ensuring the safety of blind and vision-impaired persons in road traffic, in particular in urbanized areas. This is particularly important in terms of problems which blind and visually-impaired people face every day while getting around. It should be noted that the implementation of the project is the continuation of previous research work on blind

²¹ E.M. Guzik-Makaruk (ed.), *Poczucie bezpieczeństwa obywateli w Polsce. Identyfikacja i przeciwdziałanie współczesnym zagrożeniom* [The citizens' sense of security in Poland. Identification and countering of contemporary threats], Warsaw 2011, p. 383; E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, E.W. Pływaczewski (eds.), *Współczesne oblicza bezpieczeństwa* [Contemporary images of security], Białystok 2015, p. 430.

²² The members of the consortium were University of Białystok (leader), AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, Higher School of Computer Technology and Telecommunication in Kielce, and Future Voice System Sp. z o.o. Decision no. 0022/R/ID3/2011/01. The project finished in June 2014, after 30 months of its implementation. Dr. hab. E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, a professor of the University of Białystok was the project manager and the staff of the Department of Criminal Law constitute the majority of the project team. In total, about 200 people are involved in the project.

²³ E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, *Sprawozdanie z konferencji inauguracyjnej projekt badawczo-rozwojowy poświęcony bezpieczeństwo w ruchu drogowym osób niewidomych i słabowidzących* [Report from a conference inaugurating an R and D project devoted to the safety of blind and visually impaired persons in road traffic], Paragraf na Drodze 2012, No. 5, pp. 77–80.

and visually-impaired people which was concluded with the publication in the form of an e-book²⁴.

The project is interdisciplinary *i.e.* combines technical and social sciences, which distinguishes it from other projects. Consequently, the research is performed in three fields: information technology, law, and criminology. One of the main objectives of the project is to develop a prototype of a smart mobile device that will help blind and visually impaired people to determine their location and to move around in urban areas and to detect threats that occur on the road. The system will enable safe movement of blind and visually-impaired persons and avoidance of common threats in road traffic, such as walking onto the carriageway, moving vehicles, collisions with other pedestrians, and walking into objects. The project will also result in the development of solutions that will help such people learn how to move on their own in urban areas and, consequently, improve the safety of the project beneficiaries in road traffic. This aspect will be very important taking into account learning spatial orientation by blind and visually-impaired persons, which they find very difficult and dangerous. Hence, they must overcome their fears before they start to move on their own.

The main objectives of the research project, as far as legal aspects are concerned, refer to the analysis of binding domestic and international legislation regarding the safety of blind and visually impaired people. Domestic legislation *i.e.* the Polish road traffic regulations are evaluated in the light of experience of road traffic police officers. The analysis will lead, among other things, to *de lege ferenda* policy recommendations directed at the domestic legislator. As regards criminological issues, the research aims to help foster the target group's feeling of security and establish a knowledge base of obstacles which pose hazards for blind and visually impaired people. This will enable the designing of an urban hazards map for blind and visually impaired people who wish to get around actively in the urban area. The criminological part of the project will be complemented with a catalogue of offences committed by blind and visually-impaired offenders.

The advantage of the research tasks will be the two-dimensional perception on the problem of how to ensure the safety of blind and visually impaired pedestrians; hence both the public bodies with the duty of care and visually impaired people will be involved in the project. Consequently, the readiness of local and regional government units for implementation of innovative solutions that contribute to an improved safety of blind and visually-impaired persons in road traffic will be evaluated. The results of empirical research will enable the development of an optimized technological tool intended to improve the safety of the beneficiaries of the project and, consequently, avoid their social

²⁴ E.M. Guzik-Makaruk, *Możliwości wykorzystania i wdrożenia nowoczesnych technologii do budowy narzędzi wspomagających codzienne funkcjonowanie osób niewidomych* (e-book) [Implementation of modern technologies to build tools supporting the everyday live of blind persons], Kraków–Białystok–Poznań 2011, p. 147. Blind and visually-impaired persons are the authors of many papers contained in the e-book.