

CROSS-BORDER INTERNAL SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN POLAND AND UKRAINE*

KARINA PAULINA MARCZUK**

Poland and Ukraine are neighbouring countries, and therefore face common challenges and share common problems, as is evident along both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border. Among the numerous issues that concern bilateral relations at the local level are emergency management, natural and man-made disasters, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, environmental protection, and combating crime. Mutual relations and cooperation in these matters have been developed since the two states concluded a good neighbourhood treaty at the beginning of the 1990s.

The Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Poland and Ukraine was signed on 18 May 1992 in Warsaw by Polish President Lech Wałęsa and Ukraine's first elected President Leonid Krawchuk¹. The treaty consists of a preamble and twenty one articles. At the beginning of the 1990s, Poland concluded similar bilateral agreements with all of its neighbouring countries, known as good neighbourhood treaties. The first of these was the Polish-German Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation of 17 June 1991², which served as a model for the treaties Poland signed in the following years, not only with Ukraine, but also with Czechoslovakia (6 October 1991), the Russian Federation (22 May 1992), Belarus (23 June 1992) and, eventually, Lithuania (26 April 1994).

This paper encompasses the time period from 1992, the year of the Polish-Ukrainian treaty, until the present. It focuses on those issues that concern cross-

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** Dr. hab. – Assistant Professor, PhD, D. Litt. in Political Science, Institute of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, Warsaw University, Poland; e-mail: k.marczuk@uw.edu.pl.

¹ Traktat między Rzeczpospolitą Polską a Ukrainą o dobrym sąsiedztwie, przyjaznych stosunkach i współpracy, sporządzony w Warszawie dnia 18 maja 1992 r. [The Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine], *Dziennik Ustaw*, 1993, no. 125, item 573, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19931250573> (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

² On the Polish-German 1991 treaty, see further: K. P. Marczuk (ed.), *Reconciliation – Partnership – Security: Cooperation between Poland and Germany 1991–2016*, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 2016.

border internal security cooperation between Poland and Ukraine, although the cross-border traffic of people, goods, etc. is not included – this is a complex problem which deserves separate study. Joint activities of the two countries in the field of internal security are explored. I argue that Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation is at present undoubtedly one of the key areas of overall relations between Poland and Ukraine – this was emphasised in the treaty itself and further developed in the years that followed. Mainly, cross-border cooperation concerns such issues as: health security, waterways security, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), combating crime, disasters and hazards, and environmental protection. For the purpose of this paper, the notion of internal security is therefore understood in the broad sense, namely as protection against threats not only to the interior of the state, but also to society (here – the community at the local level) while respecting the law and civil liberties, and as the state's ability to maintain the stability of the political system, public safety and order³.

The main legal acts concluded by the two states are analysed in chronological order, and the key areas of bilateral cooperation and joint actions at the local level are presented. The paper ends with a concise presentation of conclusions.

The main legal acts and key areas of cooperation

The 1992 Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Poland and Ukraine contains a direct reference to the importance of bilateral cross-border cooperation. Of significance is Article 10.1, which states: “The Parties will favour the establishment and development of direct contacts and cooperation between regions, administrative and territorial units and cities of the Republic of Poland and Ukraine. Particular attention will be paid to cooperation in border areas”⁴. Other provisions emphasised the importance of comprehensive mutual cooperation in the following fields: environmental protection (Article 9); combating crime, terrorism, drug-related crime and smuggling (though there is no reference to illegal immigration) (Article 16.2); and health security (mainly combating infectious diseases) (Article 17.1). These provisions may be applied in the case of cross-border cooperation, as well.

I begin with the Intergovernmental Commission on Interregional Cooperation which was announced in Article 10.2 of the treaty. The Agreement on Interregional

³ K. P. Marczuk, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne państw członkowskich Unii Europejskiej: od bezpieczeństwa państwa do bezpieczeństwa ludzi* [Internal Security of the Member States of the European Union: From the Security of the State to the Safety of People], Oficyna Wydawnicza Aspra-JR, Warsaw, 2012, p. 50.

⁴ Traktat między Rzeczpospolitą Polską a Ukrainą o dobrym sąsiedztwie, przyjaznych stosunkach i współpracy [The Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine], *op. cit.*

Cooperation of 24 May 1993⁵ regulated its activities in detail (this document names the body the Intergovernmental Coordination Council for Interregional Cooperation), and determined what areas of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in cross-border matters it addressed. Those fields of bilateral cooperation include environmental protection, health protection and emergency management (Article 4), although the agreement states that other issues can be included, as well. What is more, the significance of intergovernmental cooperation is emphasised – joint activities of local authorities of both countries aimed at enhancing good neighbourly relations between them (Article 1). Thus, the 1993 agreement opened the way forward to developing bilateral cooperation in various fields, as was later confirmed by various legal acts adopted by the two states.

The first legal acts concluded in the 1990s concerned key issues for the security and safety of Poland and Ukraine. In particular, these were agreements on the safety of borderland areas, which is understandable, considering the fact that Ukraine became a new neighbour of Poland after the collapse of the USSR, and the two countries had to organise their mutual relations. A crucial matter was the administration of their common border along the Bug River, which is 535 km long⁶. In 1996, the two states concluded an Agreement between the Governments of Poland and Ukraine on Cooperation on Border Waterways. It determines cooperation in such fields as the economy, higher education and technology (Article 3.1)⁷. Cooperation in protecting the river's natural environment, and activities aimed at combating natural disasters, such as floods, should also be pointed out. The 1996 agreement, therefore, is about joint management of the waterway, but does not address such issues as border protection.

Nevertheless, cooperation in cross-border security matters is dealt with in the Agreement between the Governments of Poland and Ukraine on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime of 3 March 1999⁸. Apart from various types of crime

⁵ Porozumienie między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Rządem Ukrainy o współpracy międzyregionalnej [Agreement on Interregional Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine], Kiev, 24 May 1993, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/10999/Porozumienie.pdf> (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

⁶ Central Statistical Office, *Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland 2017*, Central Statistical Office, Warsaw, 2018, p. 18.

⁷ Umowa między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Rządem Ukrainy o współpracy w dziedzinie gospodarki wodnej na wodach granicznych, sporządzona w Kijowie dnia 10 października 1996 r. [Agreement on Cooperation on Border Waterways between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine], *Dziennik Ustaw*, 1999, no. 30, item 282, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19990300282> (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

⁸ Umowa między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Rządem Ukrainy o współpracy w zakresie zwalczania przestępczości zorganizowanej, sporządzona w Kijowie dnia 3 marca 1999 r. [Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Organised Crime between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine], *Dziennik Ustaw*, 2004, no. 38, item 343, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20040380343> (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

previously specified in the 1992 good neighbourhood treaty, “The Parties undertake cooperation between their public order and safety services in the field of preventing and combating organised crime, and detecting perpetrators of crimes involving [...] terrorism, [...] illegal migration and human trafficking” (Article 1.1). This was the first time these issues were emphasised by the signatories. Cooperation in these matters came down mainly to exchanging information and experience, so the agreement did not apply to operational cooperation between security services.

During the decade 2000–2010 and afterwards, the authorities of both states focused more on developing cooperation in emergency management, environmental protection, and public health. This was due to Poland’s accession to the European Union, and consequently, to the necessity of harmonising its laws with European standards such as EU environmental policy. The Bug River, which marks the borderline between Poland and Ukraine and is therefore the eastern border of the EU, is one of the richest rivers in Europe, with numerous species of fauna and flora. The Bug basin was therefore included in the EU programme Natura 2000, becoming part of a network of protected areas throughout Europe⁹.

Another field of interest was cooperation on safety and public order; this was enhanced before the UEFA EURO Football Championship 2012 hosted by Poland and Ukraine.

In 2002, an Agreement between the Governments of Poland and Ukraine on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Case of Disasters and Hazards of 19 July was adopted¹⁰. Its main aim was for each of the two states to provide voluntary assistance to the other in the event of disasters, natural hazards or other extraordinary events such as massive floods, fires, etc., which could threaten the life and health of people, property or the natural environment (Article 2.1). Such mutual assistance mainly concerned the activities of rescue groups and the provision of equipment (Article 4). Also important was the issue of the border along the Bug River and potential risks posed by ice, floods, etc. It was also necessary to protect the natural environment in the area of the Carpathian Mountains¹¹. Moreover, Poland and Ukraine enhanced their cooperation in the field of public health protection by adopting a

⁹ See further: European Commission, *Natura 2000*, see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

¹⁰ Umowa między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Gabinetem Ministrów Ukrainy o współpracy i wzajemnej pomocy w dziedzinie zapobiegania katastrofom, klęskom żywiołowym i innym nadzwyczajnym wydarzeniom oraz usuwania ich następstw, podpisana w Warszawie dnia 19 lipca 2002 r. [Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Preventing Disasters, Natural Hazards, and Other Extraordinary Events and Eliminating Their Consequences], *Dziennik Ustaw*, 2004, no. 166, item 1737, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20041661737> (accessed on: 13.04.2018).

¹¹ In order to protect the natural environment of the Carpathians, not only Poland and Ukraine, but also other countries concerned signed a Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, *Dziennik Ustaw*, 2007, no. 96, item 634, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20070960634> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

a cooperation agreement in 2008¹² aimed at combating HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases that could occur in borderland areas (Article 3). It is worth noting that the issue of public health protection had also been of importance to both states in times past. For instance, in 1923, Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus adopted a Sanitary Convention to avoid the spread of such diseases as plague, cholera, typhoid¹³. Poland and Ukraine now cooperate closely on phytosanitary issues – every year since 2012 they have signed agreements on implementing rabies control programmes within Ukraine. This has been in order to establish a buffer zone in Ukraine (26,400 square kilometers) to protect Polish borderland areas, and thereby the European Union, against rabies, by means of biannual vaccinations of animals¹⁴. The programmes have been run annually in the years 2012–2017.

A challenge Poland and Ukraine faced together was the organisation of the UEFA EURO Football Championship in 2012. Besides the logistical, technical, safety, public order and other matters that entailed, it was also necessary to develop and enhance cross-border cooperation in such fields as transit and transport, and infrastructure in border areas such as border crossing points¹⁵. Considering the anticipated influx of foreigners crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border, the Polish government decided to construct new crossing points and modernise existing ones. To that end, on 27 December 2011 the Council of Ministers of Poland adopted a resolution amending an existing resolution on the establishment of a Programme for the Development of Infrastructure on the Polish-Ukrainian Border in the Years 2010–2013¹⁶.

¹² Umowa między Ministrem Zdrowia Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Ministerstwem Ochrony Zdrowia Ukrainy o współpracy w dziedzinie ochrony zdrowia, podpisana w Warszawie dnia 14 marca 2008 r. [Agreement between the Minister of Health of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Health Care], *Monitor Polski*, 2010, no. 36, item 511, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP20100360511> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

¹³ Konwencja Sanitarna pomiędzy Polską a Rosją, Ukrainą i Białorusią, podpisana w Warszawie dnia 7 lutego 1923 roku [Sanitary Convention between Poland and Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia], *Dziennik Ustaw*, 1924, no. 13, item 111, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19240130111> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

¹⁴ Umowa między Ministrem Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Ministrem Polityki Rolnej i Gospodarki Żywnościowej Ukrainy dotycząca realizacji programu zwalczania wścieklizny na terytorium Ukrainy w 2012 roku, podpisana w Kijowie dnia 13 czerwca 2012 r. [Agreement between the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland and the Minister of Agricultural Policy and Food Economy of Ukraine Regarding the Implementation of a Rabies Eradication Programme on the Territory of Ukraine in 2012], *Monitor Polski*, 2012, item 759, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP20120000759> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

¹⁵ Umowa między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Gabinetem Ministrów Ukrainy o współpracy przy organizacji finałowego turnieju Mistrzostw Europy w Piłce Nożnej UEFA EURO 2012, sporządzona w Kijowie dnia 28 marca 2008 r. [Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation on the Organisation of the Final Tournament of the European Football Championship UEFA EURO 2012], Article 1.2, *Monitor Polski*, 2008, no. 74, item 667, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP20080740667> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

¹⁶ Komunikat Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych z dnia 26 stycznia 2012 r. o przyjęciu przez Radę Ministrów uchwały zmieniającej uchwałę w sprawie ustanowienia programu wieloletniego pod nazwą “Program rozwoju infrastruktury granicznej na polsko-ukraińskiej granicy państwowej w

Joint actions

The Agreement on Interregional Cooperation of 24 May 1993¹⁷ enumerated the main fields of joint activities of Poland and Ukraine listed above. Has cooperation between them in the field of internal security in the borderland areas developed during recent years? The answer to this question can be found by analysing the documents of the Intergovernmental Coordination Council for Interregional Cooperation established by that agreement. Those documents have been available since 2009¹⁸, and so activities from that time on are examined here. Moreover, in Warsaw on 7 September 2009, the Presidents of the Republic of Poland and Ukraine signed a Roadmap of Cooperation between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine in the years 2009–2010, which led to further bilateral cooperation. Prior to this, the two states also made efforts to work out a common cross-border cooperation strategy in the context of Poland's accession to the EU, although the draft of that document did not contain provisions on cooperation aimed at enhancing internal security in the border regions (that is, the Lublin and Sub-Carpathian provinces in Poland and the Lwow and Volhynia provinces in Ukraine)¹⁹. Another significant issue was cross-border cooperation in the field of spatial planning; this was initiated at the end of the 1990s when a Study of Spatial Development of the Areas alongside the Polish-Ukrainian Border was approved²⁰.

The powers of the Intergovernmental Coordination Council for Interregional Cooperation derive from its Statute of 26 January 1996²¹. This Council meets regularly, establishing working groups to deal with particular issues, essential concerning the border regions of Poland and Ukraine. The Council also is obliged to submit proposals for further developing bilateral cooperation in such areas as the

latach 2010–2013” [Bulletin of the Minister of Interior on a Resolution Amending an Existing Resolution on the Establishment of a Programme for the Development of Infrastructure on the Polish-Ukrainian Border in the Years 2010–2013], *Monitor Polski*, 2012, item 47, see: <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP20120000047> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

¹⁷ Porozumienie między Rządem Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej a Rządem Ukrainy o współpracy międzyregionalnej [Agreement on Interregional Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine].

¹⁸ The documents are available at the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland: see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/pl/wspolpraca-miedzynarod/wspolpraca-transgranic/miedzyrzadowe-rady-i-k> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

¹⁹ See further: Wspólna polsko-ukraińska strategia współpracy transgranicznej: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Wołyńskie, Lwowskie: 2005–2015 [The Common Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation strategy: Lublin, Sub-Carpathian, Volhynia, Lwow: 2005–2015], Europejskie Centrum Integracji i Współpracy Samorządowej “Dom Europy”, Wydawnictwo “Werset”, Lublin 2005.

²⁰ See further: D. Kociuba, Territorial Cohesion of Polish Border Areas – Spatial Planning Aspect, *Studia Regionalia*, 2013, 33, p. 105.

²¹ Statut Polsko-Ukraińskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej do spraw Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Statute of the Intergovernmental Coordination Council for Interregional Cooperation], Zamość, 26 January 1996, see: <https://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/11000/Statut.pdf> (accessed on: 28.04.2018).

law, the economy, trade, and the development of entrepreneurship; cooperation in enhancing internal security measures, that is, safety and public order, is not mentioned in the Statute, although the development of border crossing infrastructure and spatial development are enumerated.

The minutes of the Council meeting in 2009 contain conclusions of its working groups (commissions), among them the Commissions on: Spatial Planning, Border Crossings and Infrastructure, and Cross-border Cooperation. The areas of activity of this last are enumerated: “[...] infrastructure, security, public health and social issues, economic development, tourism, environmental protection [...]”²². As regards internal security, only issues concerning expanding border crossing point infrastructure – due to the UEFA EURO Championship 2012 – were touched upon.

In 2011, the two states signed a Roadmap of Cooperation between the Republic of Poland and Ukraine in the years 2011–2012, taking into consideration the forthcoming EU presidency which was to be held by Poland, and the possible implications of this for Ukraine. Regarding cross-border internal security cooperation, due to EURO 2012, border crossing point infrastructure was still at the top of the agenda. What is more, a special group for security and safety at EURO 2012 was established, aimed at fostering closer cooperation between the Polish and Ukrainian police, customs service and border guards. During the meeting in 2011, the Commission on Cross-border Cooperation focused on emergency management, particularly eliminating the consequences of natural hazards such as the erosion of the banks of the Bug River²³.

In 2012, Poland and Ukraine focused primarily on organising EURO 2012, including providing and maintaining security during the event, and this task dominated their agenda of bilateral cooperation. Particular emphasis was placed on cooperation in rescue and civil protection necessitated by EURO 2012; a Rescue and Civil Protection Commission was established within the Council. What is more, cooperation on environmental protection was touched upon – a common will was expressed to set up cross-border nature reserves (Polesie and Roztocze)²⁴.

In 2013, the Polish and Ukrainian presidents signed a Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Programme for 2013–2015 in Cracow (the previous one had been for 2011–2012). Although the main aim was a rapprochement of Ukraine with the EU,

²² Protokół z VIII posiedzenia Polsko-Ukraińskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the VIII Coordination Council for Polish-Ukrainian Interregional Cooperation Meeting], 27–28 October, Warsaw, p. 3, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/11001/VIIIposiedzeniePL-UAprotokol.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

²³ Protokół z IX posiedzenia Polsko-Ukraińskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the IX Coordination Council for Polish-Ukrainian Interregional Cooperation Meeting], 2–3 March 2011, Lvov, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/12806/14-12-39KW93488DUEIWMplik2.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

²⁴ Protokół z X posiedzenia Polsko-Ukraińskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the X Coordination Council for Polish-Ukrainian Interregional Cooperation Meeting], 28–29 March 2012, Warsaw, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/14349/protokolizalaczniki-skan.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

the Programme also affected cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine. On 1 December 2013, an Early Warning System at Polish-Ukrainian border crossing points was launched to more effectively manage cross-border traffic. Other issues related to internal security were not considered by the Commission on Cross-border Cooperation in 2013²⁵.

The next meeting of the Commission took place in 2015, that is, a year after the adoption of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus –Ukraine 2014–2020, which replaced the previous one for the years 2007–2013²⁶. Among the Programme's priorities were security and safety issues, as well as the management of migration. In particular, the activities of the Rescue and Civil Protection Commission were emphasised, that is, joint activities by Polish rescue services such as the fire brigade and their Ukrainian counterparts²⁷. Starting from this year, the reform of local administration taking place in Ukraine became a priority for the Council.

Similarly, the reform of Ukrainian local administration was touched upon in the Council meeting of 2016. Regarding cross-border internal security cooperation, issues were explored such as the development of infrastructure at border crossing points, cross-border transport infrastructure, the further improvement of cooperation in civil protection, and environmental protection. Cooperation in civil protection has been developed through exchanges of experience between the relevant services of the two countries²⁸. However, during the last meeting in 2018, internal security issues were pointed out to a greater extent. For instance, the Council underlined the need for further cooperation between the Polish and Ukrainian sanitary-epidemiological and veterinary services and, as previously, the need for the rescue services of the two countries to exchange experience. Issues related to border crossing points continued to be discussed²⁹.

²⁵ Protokół z XI posiedzenia Polsko-Ukraińskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the XI Coordination Council for Polish-Ukrainian Interregional Cooperation Meeting], 11–12 June 2013, Jaremcze, Ukraine, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/17037/11-11-06KW433419DWMIFeplik3.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

²⁶ For more information see: the website of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007–2013, <http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/en> and the website of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014–2020, <https://www.pbu2020.eu/en> [Accessed on: 29.04.2018].

²⁷ Protokół z XII posiedzenia Ukraińsko-Polskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the XII Coordination Council for Ukrainian-Polish Interregional Cooperation Meeting], Rzeszów, 31 March 2015, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/22333/ProtokolzXIIposiedzeniaUkraińskoPolskiejMiedzyrządowejRadyKoordynacyjnejdsWspol.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

²⁸ Protokół z XIII posiedzenia Ukraińsko-Polskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the XIII Coordination Council for Ukrainian-Polish Interregional Cooperation Meeting], 27–28 October 2016, Lvov, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/28524/ProtokolPL.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

²⁹ Protokół z XIV posiedzenia Ukraińsko-Polskiej Międzyrządowej Rady Koordynacyjnej ds. Współpracy Międzyregionalnej [Protocol of the XIV Coordination Council for Ukrainian-Polish Interregional Cooperation Meeting], Rzeszów, 16 February 2018, see: <http://www.mswia.gov.pl/download/1/33225/Protokol.pdf> (accessed on: 29.04.2018).

Conclusions

These two neighbours, Poland and Ukraine, face common challenges, mainly in those areas along their common border. In particular, among the various issues that concern bilateral relations at the local level, the most crucial are: emergency management, the elimination of natural and man-made disasters and hazards, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, protection of the natural environment, and the combating of crime; the cross-border traffic of people, goods, etc. has not been touched upon in this paper due to its complexity. Bilateral cooperation in these areas has been enhanced mainly as a consequence of the adoption of the Polish-Ukrainian Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation drawn up in Warsaw on 18 May 1992.

The research presented in this paper encompasses the period from 1992 to the present, and confirms the view that Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation is undoubtedly one of the key areas of the overall relations between the two countries. This was indicated in the 1992 Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation, and thereafter reinforced in numerous documents agreed by the two states in the years that followed. Those documents mainly concern the issues listed above, namely: emergency management, natural and man-made disasters and hazards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, protection of the natural environment, and the combating of crime.

CROSS-BORDER INTERNAL SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN POLAND AND UKRAINE

(Abstract)

The paper concerns cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine in the field of internal security, i.e. at the local level, since the adoption of a Treaty on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Poland and Ukraine on 18 May 1992. Joint actions in the field of cross-border cooperation between the two states are analysed. The main argument is that the major challenges in the field of cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine relate to ensuring internal security and safety at the local community level.

Keywords: Poland, Ukraine, cross-border cooperation, internal security, protection.