STUDIA NAD BEZPIECZEŃSTWEM

Nr 10 s. 175–180 2025

ISSN 2543–7321

© Instytut Bezpieczeństwa i Socjologii,
Uniwersytet Pomorski w Słupsku

DOI: 10.34858/SNB.10.2025.009

Patrycja Czerniejewska-Cembik

REPORT ON THE ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF THE EVENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS – THE 9TH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY AND DEFENCE KNOWLEDGE OLYMPIAD

Introduction

In the 2025/2026 academic year the Institute of Security and Sociology at the University of Pomerania in Słupsk, in collaboration with the Police Academy in Słupsk, organised an event aimed at secondary school pupils entitled the 9th edition of the National Olympiad on Security and Defence Knowledge.

The aim of the Olympiad was to raise awareness among secondary school pupils regarding the security and defence of the Republic of Poland, to develop first-aid skills and to promote health education.

An important aspect of the initiative was to provide pupils with the opportunity to showcase their own achievements and to compare their knowledge and skills with those of their peers from other schools.

The competition for pupils taking part in the event was divided into several stages, including organisational preparations, participant recruitment, the selection of finalists comprising a knowledge test and the preparation of a competition entry, as well as the final, which saw pupils competing across a range of areas.

Organisational preparations

Organisational work began in October 2025. By order of the Director of the Institute of Security and Sociology at the University of Pomerania in Słupsk,

an Organising Committee for the Olympiad was appointed, comprising research and teaching staff, teaching staff, an officer from the Police Academy in Słupsk, and students.

The first step was to develop the concept for the project, define specific objectives and draw up the event regulations, which contained detailed information on the rules governing organisation, participation, the conduct of each stage, the criteria for assessing competition entries and the procedure for selecting finalists and the winners of the Final.

The Organising Committee was responsible for coordinating administrative and logistical activities. Its members prepared the information necessary to create promotional materials, an e-learning platform for conducting the knowledge test and all elements essential for the smooth running of all stages of the Olympiad. It is worth noting that an Assessment Panel was appointed from among the Committee's members; its task was to assess the competition entries submitted, oversee the proper conduct of the selection process and ensure the smooth running of the final round.

The preparatory stage was of particular importance. Attention was paid to the transparency of the competition procedures and to ensuring a level playing field for all participants.

Publicity activities and sending invitations to schools

Once the organisational work was complete, the promotional and information phase began. An invitation containing details of the Olympiad's programme and its rules was sent by email to secondary schools across Poland.

Information about the event was also posted on the website of the Institute of Security and Sociology at the University of Pomerania in Słupsk. These measures were aimed at reaching as many pupils as possible who were interested in security issues.

Fifty-four teams of three students each from various regions of the country, including Tarnów, Kraków, Oława, Poznań, Słupsk, Koszalin, Ostrołęka, Wałbrzych, Lublin and Radomsko, registered to take part in the event. This demonstrates the need to organise initiatives supporting non-formal education.

Assessment of competition entries and the qualifying test

This stage involved the receipt and assessment of the submitted competition entries, as well as the students taking a knowledge test conducted via an e-learning platform.

Under the supervision of a teacher acting as the group's mentor, pupils prepared a competition entry falling within one of the selected thematic areas, namely:

- national security, taking into account the role of the armed forces;
- public safety and order – police forces;
- civil protection and civil defence (warning, alerting and response);
- first aid;
- health education; health at an individual and collective level; health-promoting behaviours.

Entries were required to be in multimedia format, i.e. a multimedia presentation comprising a maximum of fifteen slides, or a film, animated film or audio-video recording lasting up to seven minutes. Forty-nine entries were submitted, presenting a variety of approaches to the specified topics, ranging from literature reviews and legal analyses to original projects.

In accordance with the guidelines, the Assessment Panel carried out a thorough evaluation, paying particular attention to factual accuracy, originality, the creativity of the approach to the topic and the ability to articulate one's own assessment of the issue raised. Each entry could score a maximum of thirty points.

At the same time, participants individually sat a qualifying test, the aim of which was to assess their level of knowledge in the field of security and defence. The test consisted of twenty single-choice questions. One hundred and forty-four secondary school pupils sat the exam. Each individual's result contributed to the total score for their respective team.

The assessment of individual teams was carried out in accordance with the pre-established guidelines set out in the competition rules. The assessment system adopted was primarily designed to ensure objectivity. The panel carried out the assessment on the basis of clearly defined criteria.

This stage served as the basis for selecting the participants demonstrating the highest level of substantive preparation, and the total score for the competition entry and the test formed the basis for drawing up the list of finalists.

Preparation for the Final

Based on the assessment of the competition entry and the marks achieved in the knowledge test, fifteen teams of three were selected to take part in the Final of the 9th edition of the National Olympiad on Security and Defence Knowledge. It is worth noting that the finalists selected during the previous stages demonstrated a high level of knowledge, skills and commitment to carrying out the tasks entrusted to them.

The list of finalists was approved by the members of the Assessment Committee, then published on the website of the Institute of Security and Sociology at the University of Pomerania in Słupsk and sent by email to the schools' secretariats and the supervisors of the individual teams.

At the same time, the Olympiad's Organising Committee began intensive preparations for the final stage of the event. A key element was securing honorary patronage for the event. Support in this form was provided by:

- Minister of National Defence – Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz;
- Beata Rutkiewicz – Governor of the Pomeranian Voivodeship;
- Mayor of Słupsk – Krystyna Danilecka-Wojewódzka;
- Magnificence the Rector – Dr Zbigniew Osadowski, Eng., Prof. at the Pomeranian University in Słupsk.
- Paweł Lisowski – Head of Słupsk Maritime County;
- Słupsk Municipal Police Headquarters;
- Maritime Border Guard Unit – Ustka Post;

Another key aspect was ensuring compliance with all the requirements of the Olympiad regulations concerning the organisation and conduct of the Final. These included not only overseeing the preparations leading up to the individual competitions, in which pupils were to compete both individually and in groups, but also the implementation of the entire programme of the event.

As part of the preparations, care was also taken to source and prepare prizes, trophies and diplomas for the winners, as well as certificates of participation for each of the pupils.

The Final of the 9th edition of the National Olympiad on Security and Defence Knowledge

The final of the event took place on 20 May 2026 at the Institute of Security and Sociology of the University of Pomerania and the Police Academy in Słupsk. The

event was attended by invited guests, finalists, group supervisors, students and members of the Organising Committee.

The final began with the registration of participants, followed by a ceremonial opening during which representatives of the university authorities, invited guests and the organisers addressed the audience. The participants were then briefed on the rules and procedures applicable to the individual competitions.

The competition in the Olympiad final consisted of four events. The first of these was a test of knowledge on security and defence, comprising twenty single-choice questions. Each participant completed the test individually, with twenty minutes allotted for the task. Next, the teams, in accordance with their assigned competition numbers, undertook tasks in two areas: a practical first-aid skills test, which the pupils tackled exclusively as a team and a marksmanship test using a shooting simulator, which was conducted both individually and as a team. The next event was a physical fitness test held in the sports hall of the Police Academy in Słupsk. The competition took place both individually and as a team, enabling participants to demonstrate their physical abilities and their capacity for teamwork.

Once all the events had concluded and the points had been tallied by the Assessment Committee, the results were officially announced. In the presence of the participants, supervisors, invited guests from the Słupsk Municipal Police Headquarters, the Police Academy in Słupsk and the authorities of the Institute of Security and Sociology at the University of Pomerania in Słupsk, the winners of the individual and team classifications were announced.

Prizes, certificates and trophies were presented to the winners, who were congratulated on their achievements, their high level of knowledge and skills and their commitment. The event also featured a re-enactment of the three best competition entries, selected during the first stage of the Olympiad.

It is particularly worth noting that the winners included secondary school pupils from various regions of Poland. The top places were taken by participants representing towns such as Koszalin, Wojsławice, Tarnów, Mrągowo and Bielsko-Biała, which demonstrates the nationwide scope of the event and the high standard of competition.

The ceremony concluded with words of thanks addressed to the pupils, their supervisors and everyone involved in organising the event.

Summary

The organisation of the 9th edition of the National Olympiad on Security and Defence confirmed the high educational value of the initiative and its significant role in developing young people's knowledge and interests in the field of security and defence. The event provided participants with the opportunity to test their skills, exchange experiences and deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge. At the same time, the Olympiad helped to promote civic attitudes, social responsibility and awareness of the threats and challenges relating to national security.

The results obtained indicate that it is worthwhile continuing the initiative in the coming years and to further develop activities aimed at popularising science and supporting talented young people.