


Security Issues in the Electoral Program of Electoral Committee of Silesian Local Government Officials in the 2024 Local Elections

Tematyka bezpieczeństwa w programie wyborczym Komitetu Wyborczego Wyborców Śląscy Samorządowcy w wyborach samorządowych w 2024 roku

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Abstract: The primary aim of this article was to attempt to present the programme assumptions of the Electoral Committee of Silesian Local Government Officials in the 2024 local elections, with a focus on security-related issues. The most important theoretical issues were explained, including categories of security, its typology, the concept of a national minority, and Silesian identity. The following research methods were used: comparative and statistical, along with the use of literature criticism and source analysis as exemplary research techniques.

Keywords: Silesian Local Government Officials, German minority, security, local elections, Opole Voivodeship

Streszczenie: Zasadniczym celem artykułu jest podjęcie próby przedstawienia założeń programowych Komitetu Wyborczego Śląscy Samorządowcy w wyborach samorządowych w 2024 r. w aspekcie tematyki bezpieczeństwa. Dokonano eksplanacji najważniejszych zagadnień teoretycznych, w tym m.in. kategorii bezpieczeństwa, jego typologii, pojęcia mniejszości narodowej i tożsamości śląskiej. Wykorzystano następujące metody badawcze: komparatystyczną i statystyczną, przy zastosowaniu krytyki piśmiennictwa i analizy źródeł jako przykładowych technik badawczych.

Słowa kluczowe: Śląscy Samorządowcy, mniejszość niemiecka, bezpieczeństwo, wybory samorządowe, województwo opolskie

According to data from the National Population and Housing Census (hereinafter: NSP) in 2021, the Opole Voivodeship was inhabited by 954,133 people, among whom 114,073 respondents declared a nationality different from Polish. The largest group consisted of respondents declaring Silesian origin – 60 049 people and German – 59 911 people (*Tablice*

z ostatecznymi danymi 2021). The former is part of the German national minority,¹ which is one of the nine legally recognised national minorities in Poland (Ustawa 2005/17/141). It is the most numerous of these and is characterised by having the most extensive organisational structure (Nitschke 2012: 195). In turn, the second group – “Silesian” – is not legitimised by the status of a national or ethnic minority, and its constituent binder is “Silesian identity.” According to Halina Rusek, it carries various connotations, since it can occur in parallel with both Polish and German national orientation, as well as be declared by people with indifferent nationality. The Silesian community is represented by a relatively large number of organisations, which have already since the 1990s “place among their most important tasks, first and foremost, the raising of the region’s profile and the appreciation of the local population” (Rusek 2015: 125–126).

The overarching aim of this article is to present the electoral programme of the Electoral Committee of Silesian Local Government Officials (hereinafter: KWW Silesian Local Government Officials) in terms of the broadly understood issue of security. The indicated organisation was established for the 2024 local government elections by representatives of the Social-Cultural Society of Germans in Opole Silesia (hereinafter: TSKN) and the Silesian Local Government Association (hereinafter: ŚSS). Among the research tools and methods used in the study were: comparative, source analysis (including online), statistical and literature criticism.

1. Security – explanatory assumptions

The term “security” is commonly defined as the absence of threats (Zięba 2012: 7), while scientific discourse emphasises its complexity, ambiguity and interdisciplinarity. The concept being characterised is the subject of research in a number of disciplines, including: security science, political science, legal science, sociology, psychology, and history. Each of them in a different context analyses the issue of safety, its scope, types and research

¹ For the purposes of this study, it is assumed, following Krzysztof Kozbial, that a national minority means “a group of people, smaller in number than the largest national group in a given country – sometimes called the dominant nation – distinguished from it by language, culture, tradition, history, sometimes religion” (Kozbial 2013: 41).

area, focusing on different aspects of the phenomenon. Thus, in the literature of the subject one can find a rich explorative offer of the characterised category and its typology (Szczepański 2023: 27–28).

For the purposes of this paper, it is assumed, following Ryszard Zięba, that the origin of the word security can be traced back to the Latin term *sine cura* (*securitas*), which is translated as “without care” (Zięba 2014: 13). It signifies a state of confidence, calm and security, and the absence of threats and protection from danger. In addition, it also includes the satisfaction of needs such as the certainty of development, survival, existence, wholeness, independence, identity, and possession (Zięba 2004: 27). It is at the same time a subjective need, both of individuals and of large social groups, including nations, states and societies, as well as the institutions that represent them. The need for security is existential and inalienable (primary), and its absence determines the occurrence of anxiety and a sense of danger (Zięba 2014: 13). Safety can be analysed in three dimensions: subject, object and functional. In the first, it is defined as the certainty of an entity’s existence and survival, in the second as the unquestionability of its development opportunities, and in the third as “the variability over time of the subjective and objective aspects of security, i.e. the certainty of an entity’s functioning and development” (Zięba 2012: 8–9).

Włodzimierz Fehler notes that security is an indivisible category, but for analytical, research and practical purposes, its different typologies are constructed. Among the most important, the author distinguished the following: subject, object, spatial, temporal and sources of threats (Fehler 2012: 9). According to Mariusz Ciszek, Józef Kukułka made a division based on the dimensions: subject, object and procedural (Ciszek 2011: 167), while Zdzisław Jagiełło proposed a division based on the criteria: subject, object, spatial and method of organisation (Jagiełło 2015: 14). This paper adopts the typology proposed by Jerzy Stańczyk, who categorised it on the basis of the following variables: security subject, its object, space and purpose. Security in the subjective sense can concern both individuals and larger communities; in the objective sense it includes, among other things, political,²

² Political security means guaranteeing the political independence of the state (its sovereignty) and the conditions for the uninterrupted development and functioning of the subjects of the political system. Political security actors will be all participants (collective or individual) in political processes, including, inter alia, the state, authorities, political institutions and citizens with political rights, regardless of their ethnicity (Zalewski 2017: 346–347).

cultural,³ social,⁴ environmental⁵ and economic⁶ security; in the spatial sense it is related to the location of security in a specific area and can mean, e.g., local, local and regional security; and with regard to the objective of security, it takes on a negative or positive value (Stańczyk 1996: 20–28).

2. Electoral Committee of Silesian Local Government Officials as the political representation of the German minority of Silesia Opole

The largest concentrations of the German minority are recorded in Upper Silesia, especially in Opole Silesia (Plewko 2000: 89), where it forms compact concentrations of inhabitants. These concentrations occur east of the Oder River, in the vicinity of Strzelce Opolskie, Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Ozimko and

³ Cultural security is “the ability of the state to protect its identity and cultural goods and national heritage, especially in conditions of openness to the world, which allow the development of culture through the internalization of values that are not contradictory to its own identity” (Kośmider 2014: 28). As an element of cultural security, it also specifies the category of identity security, used in the “context of the vision of the nation – its connection with the traditional beliefs of its ancestors, the vision of history, the situation in the international environment or the morality of the nation” (Zajdel 2023: 9). Thus, with regard to national and ethnic minorities, cultural security (including identity) will mean a situation in which the indicated groups have the opportunity to strengthen their own distinctiveness and ethnic identity, develop and perpetuate their culture and at the same time draw on the cultural heritage of other national communities (Szyszlak 2015: 30).

⁴ Social security, also known as human security, aims to provide individuals with the conditions for a dignified existence and to prevent economic threats, as well as to guarantee their freedoms and civil rights. It is related to the satisfaction of existential-social, psycho-emotional, educational-cultural and interactional needs. The fundamental subject of social security is man and the social groups that enable him to develop comprehensively (Loranty 2017: 374–378).

⁵ Ecological safety concerns the preservation of balance in the natural environment, manifested in the maintenance of nature (animate and inanimate) in an undisturbed state (Szmulik 2012: 8). Thus, it means “a set of conditions that protect man and the environment from ecological threats and such shaping of natural and social relations in the Earth’s biosphere that creates appropriate living conditions for all humanity, without undermining the foundations of life on our planet, mainly through the implementation and realisation of the concept of sustainable development” (Kaczmarek, Łepkowski, Zdrodowski 2008: 16).

⁶ Economic security is a multi-threaded and complex category, in which the most important element is the material factor that determines the standards and quality of life of societies, both in individual, local and international aspects (Szczepański 2023: 37).

Olesno – in the following counties: Strzelce, Opole, Krapkowice, Olesno, Prudnik, Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Kluczbork and Opole-city (Mniejszości Narodowe i Etniczne n.d.). According to estimates, the number of representatives of the group at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries was indicated to be between 300,000 and 500,000 people (Popieliński 2020: 97). However, the above calculations differ significantly from the data obtained during the NSP in 2002, 2011, and 2021. According to the results of the first of these, Poland was inhabited by 147,094 Polish citizens declaring German nationality, of which 104,339 people were in the Opole Voivodeship, while during the second census, the number of representatives of minorities amounted to 144,328, including 78,157 people in the Opole Voivodeship (Mniejszości Narodowe i Etniczne n.d.). During the 2021 NSP Census, 144,177 German nationality declarations were recorded, including 59,911 persons in the Opole Voivodeship (*Tablice z ostatecznymi danymi* 2021), but until the time of this article (October 2024), the Central Statistical Office (GUS) had not provided information on how many of the indicated respondents held Polish citizenship, a necessary condition for national minority status.

The German minority has the widest institutional representation of all national and ethnic minorities in Poland. The vast majority of its subjects are affiliated to the Union of German Social-Cultural Societies (hereafter: ZNSSK) based in Opole, which acts as the so-called roof organisation, i.e. providing care and leadership for the other German institutions (Szczepański 2021: 60). Among the most important objectives of the ZNSSK are: mediating in the resolution of issues between its members; representing their interests in relations with the Polish and German authorities; maintaining the linguistic and national identity of Germans in Poland; nurturing and developing German education and culture. The statute of the ZNSSK provides for three types of membership in the organisation: ordinary, associate and supporting. The first group may be made up of minority social-cultural societies in Poland,⁷ the second group may be made up of German professional organisations which have their headquarters in Poland and co-implement in a specific area the objectives of the above-mentioned societies, while the third group may be made up of “other German organisations in Poland whose

⁷ One of the 25 entities is TSKN.

activities are of a local and nationwide nature”⁸ or “foreign organisations related to the Association which are willing to support the activities of the ZNSSK in Poland” (Statut Związku Niemieckich Stowarzyszeń Społeczno-Kulturalnych w Polsce n.d.).

The largest of the national and ethnic minority organisations in Poland is the TSKN, which at the turn of the first and second decades of the 21st century had a membership of approximately 30,000 people (2023). The organisation was registered on February 16, 1990 by the Voivodeship Court in Opole under the name Social-Cultural Society of the German Minority in Opole Silesia with its seat in Gogolin.⁹ The internal structure of TSKN includes the following entities: members, German friendship circles-Deutsche Freundschaftskreise (DFK), municipal, county and provincial boards. An ordinary member may be any natural person of German nationality who resides in the area of activity of the Association. Honorary membership can be granted both to a natural person – of German nationality or origin – and to an individual of another nationality and origin, appointed by the General Meeting of the circle and approved by the Management Board of the Association. In turn, the status of a supporting member can be obtained by any natural or legal person who declares support for the Association (Opiola, Czabanowska 2023: 73).

The Society’s key objectives include: propagating, popularising and developing German education, culture, art and language; acting on behalf of the German population living in the area of TSKN’s activities to the authorities and public institutions; representing the collective and individual interests of its members; supporting partnership cooperation between the German and Polish population; to act for ecology, civic education, tourism and recreation, development of rural areas, care for historical monuments, protection and promotion of health; to provide assistance to people returning permanently from Germany and other countries; to organise support for people in difficult life situations and to participate in political and social life, e.g., by taking part in referendums, conferences and other events. Among other things, by participating in referendums and local and parliamentary

⁸ These are organisations and foundations established from the structures of the German minority, whose activities are not only limited to minority-related projects, but also relate to supporting the communities of the entire region. One such institution is the ŚSS (Rosenbaum et al. 2018: 62–64).

⁹ The current headquarters of the society is located in Opole.

elections (Statut Towarzystwa Społeczno-Kulturalnego Niemców na Śląsku Opolskim n.d.). With the above in mind, it can be concluded that, according to Lech M. Nijakowski and Sławomir Łodziński, the TSKN has achieved the status of an “ethnic party understood as a social organisation (and thus also an association) that is the official representative of an ethnic or national group and seeks to participate in power at all levels – local, regional and central” (Nijakowski, Łodziński 2003: 163). The German minority has been involved in the candidate selection¹⁰ process since 1990 and, as an electoral committee, delegates its representatives to electoral competition at the level of municipalities, districts, the Opole Voivodeship and in the parliamentary arena. The committee received its greatest electoral support in the early 1990s and since then interest in its offer has been gradually declining, which is particularly noticeable in the context of parliamentary elections¹¹ (Lis 2016; Szczepański 2022a, 2022b).

Silesian Local Government Association, which until 2001 was called The Local Government Club, was established in 1991 in Leśnica and registered three years later. The organisation consists of current and former local governments from the Opole and Silesian Voivodeships. The association carries out activities of public benefit to the general population in the territory of the Republic of Poland with a particular focus on Silesia. Some of the key objectives of the ŚSS include: to undertake activities for tolerance and cooperation of all people, regardless of nationality, world-view and place of residence; to represent the interests of its members before public and private institutions; to represent the interests of the Association in foreign relations, especially with the German side; to stimulate socio-political activity and conditions for raising the level of culture, art, and education of the inhabitants of Silesia, especially people of German origin; creating conditions for economic development of municipalities;

¹⁰ For the first time, a representative of the minority Henryk Król took part in the by-elections to the Senate, held on 4 and 18 February 1990. In the first round, 84,601 people voted for him, and in the second he received 124,498 votes. The support received was insufficient to win a mandate.

¹¹ Since the first fully free elections in 1991, the number of votes cast for German minority candidates has steadily declined, conditioning the group’s political representation in parliament. During the terms 1991–1993, the minority had seven deputies and one senator, in the years 1993–1997 – four deputies and a senator, in the period 1997–2007 – two deputies, and in the years 2007–2023 – only one deputy. In the 2023 elections, none of the candidates of the KWW German Minority won a parliamentary seat.

stimulating the process of creation of intellectual, political and economic elites of the native population; popularising knowledge about the European Union – its law, activities of its bodies and policy, especially in the context of agricultural and rural issues; nurturing and popularising multiculturalism of Silesia; and “representing the interests of the Association towards the authorities of the Social-Cultural Society of Germans in Silesia, the Foundation for the Development of Silesia and other minority organisations.” Members of the ŚSS are divided into ordinary and supporting. The first group consists primarily of current and former presidents, mayors, wójt and presidents of city and commune councils, declaring the active implementation of the goals and tasks of the Association. On the other hand, supporting members may be natural and legal persons supporting the statutory objectives of the organisation, regardless of their place of residence/registered office (Statut Śląskiego Stowarzyszenia Samorządowego n.d.). The association has 54 members, among whom are the following German minority politicians: Ryszard Galla, advisor to the Marshal of the Sejm for National and Ethnic Minorities, former MP; Zuzanna Donath-Kasiura, deputy marshal of the Opole Voivodeship; Rafał Bartek, chairman of the Opole Voivodeship Sejmik and chairman of the TSKN; Józef Swaczyna, former Starost of the Strzelce district; Łukasz Jastrzebski, mayor of Leśnica and Chairman of the ŚSS; Waldemar Czaja, former wójt of the Zębów commune; Hubert Ibrom, mayor of Ujazd (ŚSS).

During the TSKN press conference held on December 13, 2023, R. Bartek announced the creation of a new political project – Silesian Local Government Officials, created to participate in local elections in 2024. It was intended to be “open to all regionalists – whether they feel German, Silesian or Polish,” and “preserving the area of freedom and subjectivity and self-governance of the local Silesian community in regional policy with particular regard to the region’s multiculturalism” was identified as its overriding value (Ślascy Samorządowcy 13.12.2023). Based “on the basis of the Silesian Local Government Association, which has been in operation for 30 years,” KWW Silesian Local Government Officials was registered on February 5, 2024, and its main programme objectives include: activities for the preservation and promotion of the Silesian linguistic and cultural heritage of the region; building civil society; strengthening civic attitudes; cooperation between all levels of local government; promotion of and respect for the rights of national minorities; and nurturing and promoting the multiculturalism of the region (Ślascy Samorządowcy 6.02.2024).

3. Selected assumptions of the electoral program of the KWW Silesian Local Government Officials

Pursuant to the regulation of the Prime Minister (Rozporządzenie 2024/109), the date of local elections was set for April 7, 2024. Among others, the KWW Śląscy Samorządowcy (KWW Silesian Local Government Association) was put forward for election, whose candidates,¹² in addition to representatives of TSKN and ŚSS, were also recruited from outside the designated organisations, from among people “for whom the issues of preserving multiculturalism and multilingualism are timeless goods that should be preserved.” During the electoral convention held on March 5, 2024, the committee’s electoral programme (Ogiolda 2024b) was presented, whose preamble emphasised the “territorial cohesion of the province, the open identity of its inhabitants” and “a strong commitment to tradition while being open to modernity.” In doing so, the key objectives of the organisation were indicated, i.e.: “taking care of systematic development by making use of the region’s multiculturalism and innovation, respecting inalienable human rights and centuries-old Silesian traditions, ensuring a strong economic position, security and prosperity for families, building good international relations and a strong position for the Opole Voivodeship in the European Union” (Program wyborczy 2024).

The programme was based on five main issues: “Civic and multicultural Opole Voivodeship,” “Healthy and active inhabitants,” “Economical and safe Opole Voivodeship,” “Culture and education of the region” and “Tourist Opole Voivodeship.” Below are selected assumptions contained in the indicated thematic areas.

As part of the **“Civic and multicultural Opole Voivodeship”** theme, the following were announced: carrying out activities for the preservation and promotion of the Silesian linguistic and cultural heritage of the region; building a civic society in accordance with the constitutional legal order and basic civic rights, duties, and freedoms; strengthening civic attitudes based on the democratic order, equality before the law and Christian values; cooperation of all levels of local government for the sustainable development of the region and the well-being of its inhabitants; promotion of and

¹² 14 candidates for the offices of wójt and mayors, 300 candidates for commune and city councils (in 30 communes), 148 candidates for district councils (6) and 38 candidates for the Sejmik of the Opole Voivodeship joined the electoral competition.

respect for the rights of national and ethnic minorities living in the Opole Voivodeship, in particular the German minority; nurturing and promoting the multiculturalism of the Opole Voivodeship by creating appropriate conditions for the development of education, science, and culture in the region; increasing funding to support non-governmental organisations.

The area **“Healthy and active inhabitants”** included the following declarations: taking action to strengthen primary health care; supporting the creation of a network of senior citizens’ clubs; continuing to support senior citizens’ programmes in the form of, e.g., universities of the third age; subsidising “neighbourhood assistance” activities aimed at dependent people; developing and implementing special health programmes in the region; continuing to subsidise provincial and district hospital units; creating a model for youth activity clubs and extracurricular activities.

In the section **“Economical and safe Opole Voivodeship”** the following solutions were proposed: leveling and preventing the effects of adverse weather events by reconstructing and supporting the drainage system; subsidising investments in rainwater collection and management; continuing flood prevention investments; helping to develop smaller investment centres and build access roads to them; developing and implementing a system for revitalising neglected properties; strengthening vocational and technical education; developing communication infrastructure; taking measures to increase funding for investments in renewable energy sources, low emissions and thermo-modernisation; using the Oder as a transport route.

The theme **“Culture and education of the region”** included the following proposals: development of the personal potential of the inhabitants of the Opole region; improvement of the quality of education in language teaching; educational mobility and equal access to education; support for the development of Polish-German bilingualism and education in the Silesian language at all stages of education; introduction of a permanent support fund for minority culture and education; establishment of an Education Centre to promote the region’s multilingualism; support for the Documentation and Exhibition Centre for Germans in Poland¹³; promotion of the history and multicultural heritage of the Opole region in permanent and temporary exhibitions presented in museum institutions; ensuring the introduction of inscriptions

¹³ This institution was established in Opole in 2022 and is concerned, among other things, with preserving the historical and cultural identity of Germans in Poland, as well as promoting Poland’s cultural diversity.

in German and Silesian in the exhibitions presented; support for circles of lovers of the region's history, including the establishment of an International Review of Amateur Wind Orchestras and maintaining the position of Plenipotentiary of the Opole Voivodeship Executive Board for Multiculturalism.¹⁴

As part of the **"Tourist Opole Voivodeship"** problem, the following was declared: the development of cultural tourism taking into account the cultural assets of the region; increased funding for the promotion of cultural heritage and emphasising the importance of regional tourism as an element in building local identity (Program wyborczy 2024).

Conclusions

According to representatives of the KWW Silesian Local Government Officials, the election result turned out to be a great success, which "optimistically negotiates for the future." In doing so, the importance and significance of "a new political brand in place of the outgoing German Minority Electoral Committee," a brand "of which the German minority candidates were and are a part" (Świerc 2024), was emphasised. 178 seats in the councils of 29 communes, 36 seats in the councils of 6 districts and 5 seats in the Sejmik of the Opole Voivodeship were obtained¹⁵ (Obwieszczenie 2024/1109). In addition, 9 candidates won the competition for the positions of wójt, and 3 – city mayors (Obwieszczenie 2024/1108). In addition, three newly elected wójt and two mayors representing their own election committees were supported by the KWW Silesian Local Government Officials during the election campaign (Świerc 2024).

In accordance with the provisions of the coalition agreement concluded in the Sejmik by the councillors of the Civic Coalition, the Silesian Local Government Officials and the Polish People's Party, R. Bartek was appointed

¹⁴ The position was introduced into the structure of the Marshal's Office of the Opole Voivodeship in 2019. The powers of the plenipotentiary include: maintaining constant contact with all minorities and representatives of other cultures living in the Opole Voivodeship; strengthening attitudes fostering mutual respect between representatives of different nationalities and their cultures; taking action to respect the rights of minorities and other cultures and anti-discrimination measures.

¹⁵ The list of candidates for the Sejm was supported by 53,338 people. In the previous elections, the KWW German minority received the following number of votes: 1998 – 67 921; 2002 – 54 385; 2006 – 49 131; 2010 – 53 670; 2014 – 41 889; 2018 – 52 431.

chairman of the Chamber (*Pierwsza sesja sejmiku województwa* 7.05.2024). Zuzanna Donath-Kasiura assumed the post of deputy marshal, becoming at the same time a member of the Board of the Voivodship (*Zarząd Województwa Opolskiego wybrany* 9.05.2024). In turn, the position of Plenipotentiary of the Opole Voivodeship Executive Board for Multiculturalism was awarded to TSKN Board deputy chairman Norbert Rasch (Ogiolda 2024a).

An analysis of the electoral programme of KWW Silesian Local Government Officials enables the observation that the assumptions contained therein are in line with the essence of broadly understood security, which, according to R. Zięba, is connected, among other things, with a state of certainty, lack of threats, peace and protection from danger. The solutions proposed by the committee concern the following needs: identity, development, ownership, survival, and security. In addition, referring to the view of J. Stańczyk, it can be noted that the "security element" contained in the election offer of the committee is contained in the four dimensions proposed by the author: subject, object, spatial and purpose. The first of these applies to all residents of the Opole Voivodeship, both individually and collectively. And although the open nature of the electoral appeal has been emphasised, i.e. without its "ethnic focus," the selected programme elements appear to be aimed primarily at a "nationality" (German) electorate.¹⁶ The subject dimension, in turn, addresses the issue of security in the following aspects: political,¹⁷ cultural (including identity),¹⁸ social,¹⁹ environmental²⁰

¹⁶ These are as follows: maintaining the position of Plenipotentiary of the Opole Voivodeship Executive Board for Multiculturalism, supporting the development of German-Polish bilingualism, education in the regional language (i.e. Silesian) and supporting the development of a Documentation and Exhibition Centre for Germans in Poland.

¹⁷ For example, the demands for building a civil society based on the constitutional legal order, fundamental rights, duties and freedoms of citizens and the call for strengthening civil attitudes based on democratic order and equality before the law.

¹⁸ This is evidenced by the following assumptions of the election program: the inclusion of the multicultural heritage of the region and its history in the exhibition offer of museum institutions subordinate to the Marshal of the Opole Voivodeship, the provision of a permanent fund to support cultural activities and the establishment of an international review of amateur wind orchestras.

¹⁹ These include, e.g., proposals to intensify activities to support seniors, improve the functioning of the health service, support residents in developing personal potential, acquiring skills and social competences.

²⁰ Among others things highlighted were: the need to increase funding for investments in renewable energy sources, low emissions and thermo-modernisation, as well as rainwater management.

and economic.²¹ The spatial criterion, on the other hand, refers to security at the regional level (Opole Voivodeship) and local (individual towns, municipalities and districts located on its territory). The last area highlighted – that of purpose – is security with a positive value, which enables, among other things, the development, sustainability and satisfaction of the needs of residents.²²

With the above in mind, it can be concluded that the “security theme” mentioned in the title of this article has taken a key place in the election programme of KWW Silesian Local Government Officials. Analysing the outcome of the vote, it appears that this was a justified solution, which was confirmed by the relatively high electoral support obtained by the Committee and thus the possibility of delegating its representatives to the local government of the Opole Voivodeship at all levels.

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²¹ It was proposed, e.g., to recapitalize loan funds for Opole enterprises, strengthen the institutions of the business environment in order to build a competitive economy and create favorable conditions for investment.

²² This is reflected in the following demands: strengthening vocational and technical education in order to create conditions for attracting new investments and economic development of the region, inspiring the creation of new communication solutions, supporting local circles of history lovers and creating a model of youth activity clubs.

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