

Editorial

Welcome to the multi-theme “Problems in Social Policy Problems” volume. Part of the articles presented in this volume was previously discussed at the scientific conference entitled “Labour market, insurance and senior policy challenges in the context of demographic ageing”, organized in 2018 by the University of Warmia and Mazury. After the changes proposed by the editors and reviewers, the articles are presented to our readers.

This volume opens with a text by Łukasz Jureńczyk on the situation of women in Afghanistan. The legal and institutional changes introduced in recent years in Afghanistan clearly contribute to weakening the patriarchal system and improving the social position of women in the country. This is shown, among others, by individual indicators concerning women’s activity in the social life of the state, especially within education and health protection. Despite the positive changes, Afghanistan still remains one of the most unfriendly and dangerous countries for women to live in, and the rebuilding of the power and influence of radical groups that do not agree to the process of female emancipation is particularly alarming.

The extended *From research workshops* section contains six articles. They concern a wide range of issues, although the leading topics are the issues of the ageing society and family policy.

The first article in this section is by Tomasz Jedynek on new elements of pension protection system, in which the author explores the use of knowledge from the area of behavioural economics and psychology to encourage employees to save for retirement, and assesses to what extent the achievements of behavioural economics can be applied in newly created employee capital plans (*pracownicze plany kapitałowe—PPK*). As the results of the analysis demonstrate, the use of behavioural solutions, such as automatic enrolment, has the potential to increase the incidence of additional retirement savings.

Alena Kaščáková and Miriam Martinkovičová, in turn, present the results of empirical studies on the life of Slovak households, in particular concerning the leisure activities of seniors with regard to their own family, intergenerational relationships, interest in further education and participation in the labour market.

The article by Monika Maksim and Zenon Wiśniewski is also devoted to the issues of the labour market in the context of population ageing. The authors showed that the application of an individual approach to economic activation allows to effectively and permanently integrate the elderly unemployed into the labour market. It is important that interventions in relation to the unemployed aged 50+ are undertaken immediately after their registration in the Poviát Labour Office, because this group is extremely susceptible to a decrease in motivation and early withdrawal from the labour market.

Another presented article concerns the role of immigrants in senior care in the face of the ageing of the Polish society. Sabina Kubiciel-Lodzińska, on the basis of empirical studies carried out, proves that the scope of responsibilities of foreigners providing care for the elderly may cover several areas, such as home, medical and social care, and that the scope of responsibilities and activities performed usually depends on the health condition of the elderly and the mode of work of the foreign caregiver.

Klaudia Wolniewicz-Slomka, presents an analysis of shaping one of the sectoral public policies—family policy at the local level in Poland on the example of care services addressed to the youngest children. In the light of hybrid theory assumptions, the author investigates the processes of creation and implementation of the Act of 4th February 2011 on care for children under the age of three (the so-called “nursery act”) at the local level in two selected cities in Poland—Padłowo and Onuvice.

In the *Forum* section, we present another part of the debate, which took place on 23rd March 2018 during a nationwide seminar “Evaluation methods in pension policy”, organized by the Department of Social Policy Theory and Methodology of the Institute of Social Policy at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw.