

Editorial

The forty-fourth volume of our quarterly contains six reviewed original scientific articles and a record of the debate that took place during the scientific seminar at the University of Warsaw. The main themes of this volume of *Problems in Social Policy* are: spatial determinants of the quality of life and social relations, social work, labour market issues and pension policy.

The *Studies* section opens with an article by Włodzimierz Anioł, entitled *Quality of life and public space in the processes of urban renewal—selected concepts and debate topics*. The author shows the relationship between the aspiration to improve the quality of life and social relations and projects aimed at the renewal of urban spaces. He discusses selected concepts of urban modernization, analysing their social impact. As a national empirical illustration of a research problem, he discusses a case of urban and social transformations taking place in the last two decades in the Warsaw district of Powiśle. The article discusses the benefits of these, but also the undesirable gentrification processes.

The next article in the volume is entitled *Toward postmodern social work*. It is devoted to the challenges facing social work in the context of a changing *welfare state*. Andrzej Niesporek discusses the socio-economic conditions of shaping social work as a component of modernity and its hidden control functions. He analyses the changes in social work in the era of disorganized capitalism and poses a question about its future and links with postmodernity.

Next, we publish Tomasz Jedynak's study, entitled *The shape of the pension scheme in Poland in the light of the conventional multi-pillar typologies*. The author puts forward a thesis that as a result of a number of modifications to the universal pension scheme in Poland, the traditional three-pillar way of presenting it does not accurately reflect its essence. He therefore proposes an original concept of describing the structure of the universal pension scheme in Poland.

The *Studies* section closes with an article by Ryszard Necel and Marcin Wiśniewski, entitled *Prospects for implementation of social impact bonds in Poland—an example of an intervention on the labour market*. It discusses this social policy instrument in the context of the social investment paradigm. It is an economic, human resources (institutional) and legal instrument. The authors provide its general characteristics, and then analyse the opportunities for the development of social bonds in Poland, taking into account the conditions of the labour market and capital market. They also present a proposal to apply the model of social bonds in professional activation services in our country.

The section *From research workshops* contains two articles, the authors of which discuss the results of their own research on the labour market and pension policy.

Marek Bednarski's article is entitled *Social determinants of the shadow economy in the small and micro-sized enterprise sector from a local perspective. Conclusions from empirical studies*. It contains the characteristics of economic and social conditions of the grey area in the Polish economy, with particular emphasis on the social roots of this phenomenon. The author indicates that the shadow economy generates specific social problems, while also solving some of them.

In her article *Supplementary pension schemes: needs, possibilities and problems with evaluation from the perspective of an individual saver*, Joanna Rutecka-Góra tackles the informative aspects of pension policy. She analyses the scope of information (quantitative and qualitative) on pension products that is necessary to assess their performance by clients and compares it with the data currently published on the supplementary pension market and the information provided to clients by financial institutions. On this basis, the author points to possible further changes in information policy and limitations resulting from the nature of the products offered and the level of complexity of supplementary pension schemes.

In the *Forum* section we present the record of the first of the three debates, which were held on 23 March 2018 during a nationwide seminar entitled *Evaluation methods in pension policy*. It was organised by the Department of Social Policy Theory and Methodology at the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Studies of the University of Warsaw. The discussion published in this volume concerns the issue of adequacy of the pension system. It was attended by invited speakers representing three academic centers, a moderator representing hosts and conference guests gathered in the conference room. Janina Petelczyc prepared the transcript of the debate from the substantive side.