

Editorial

The third *Social Policy Issues* volume published in 2019 presents a wide range of topics. To our readers, we present seven original (peer-reviewed) scientific articles and a record of the third debate that took place during the scientific seminar on *Evaluation methods in pension policy*.

The *Studies* section opens with an article by Karol Muszyński devoted to the important problem of the Polish labour market, i.e. the *junk contracts*. These contracts became extremely popular in Poland after the economic crisis. The author describes and analyses the process of “normalising” civil law employment as an alternative to Labour code contracts.

The next article is devoted to the institutional and structural problems of the social policy system in Poland. Józef Orczyk presents arguments in favour of developing social policy not only at the national and local, but also at the regional level.

The next study, authored by Tommi Lehtonen, is devoted to cultural borders. The author develops the thesis that the border metaphor helps to explain why different rules prevail in different cultures and how cultural conflicts are connected with the violation of rules maintained and strengthened by different social groups. This issue is very important for public policies in times of increased migration and related meetings of people from different cultures.

The issue of cultural similarities and differences is also raised in the article by Fabio Coriolano. The author analyses healthcare systems in selected Islamic countries, juxtaposing them with healthcare systems in the European countries. He also wonders whether it is possible to define an Islamic healthcare model.

The *From research workshops* section contains two articles presenting the results of empirical research conducted in selected local communities and one article containing the analysis of data found in the national population. On the basis of research conducted among the unemployed in Ruda Śląska, Rafał Muster presents the generational differentiation of civilisation competences of these people. Maria Gagacka discusses the results of the survey conducted in Radom, concerning the attitude of respondents towards pro-family social policy programmes, with particular emphasis on the Family 500+ Programme. Family policy is also tackled by Olga Zajkowska, who, in her article, analyses data collected by

the Central Statistical Office (GUS) and the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) to show the problem of availability and use of maternity leaves by the Polish women.

In the *Forum* section we publish a discussion that took place in March 2018 and concerned the new system of additional pensions in Poland, which was designed at that time. Please get familiar with the opinions of prominent experts on pension systems.

The Editorial Board