

## **MIG/AGEING**

### **UNFINISHED MIGRATION TRANSITION AND AGEING POPULATION IN POLAND. ASYNCHRONOUS POPULATION CHANGES AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CARE INSTITUTIONS**

#### **A unique country...**

Poland is in the world's top ten countries with the lowest fertility levels. For almost three decades TFR has been dramatically decreasing, for the last two decades it has been below the replacement level, and in the past decade it has been as low as 1.3-1.4. At the same time Poland has experienced an unprecedented, huge, and highly selective population outflow which is still invisible in official population statistics.

#### **...in a very unique period**

Massive outflow usually occurs when a population reaches the explosive stage. This was impossible in Poland, where emigration before the fall of communist regime was strictly controlled. The coincidence of low fertility and negative migration balance which have been recently observed results in the process of population ageing which will intensify in the near future. According to UN projections, even without taking into account migration and assuming that TFR will rise until 2050 to the level of 2.1, the share of population aged 65+ will rise from 14% in 2010 to 29% in 2050 and the increase in the share of population aged 80+ will be even higher - from 3% in 2010 to 9% in 2050 and 13% in 2100.

#### **A unique research problem...**

The main aim of the project is to analyse direct demographic factors influencing population ageing, therein selective out-migration of young people. The research objective is also to develop a population forecast including undocumented migration, to examine the transformation of family structure and care relations with respect to children and elderly people, as well as to explore the process of the politicisation of demographic issues and the decision-making process concerning population changes.

So far both the research scope of the project and its research problem (relation between population ageing and population outflow, and their consequences) have not been tackled in the European academic debate. The conclusions drawn from the project will be useful not only to other researchers, but also to political decision-makers responsible for demographic, social and migration policy.

#### **...investigated by a unique research team**

As the field of the research requires an interdisciplinary approach, our research team consists of demographers, sociologists, economists, and political scientists. The Principal Investigator of the project is prof. Marek Okólski.

**For more information visit [www.migageing.uw.edu.pl](http://www.migageing.uw.edu.pl)**