

INTRODUCTION

In 2009 the Department of Demographic Research of the Central Statistical Office published the most recent Polish population projections for 2008–2035. In the same year the United Nation Population Division prepared population projections (revised in 2008) up to 2050, both for individual countries and for the whole world. These two events seem to be sufficient reasons and encouragement to undertake a debate about the various aspects of the demographic future of Poland.

It is well known that changing population structures and processes have their short- as well as long-term consequences. The increasing awareness of the impacts induced by population changes makes the latter more interesting not only to demographers, but also to researchers active in other fields of science. This issue of *Acta Universitatis. Folia Oeconomica* focuses on some aspects of population projections as well as selected consequences of the aforementioned changes.

The papers included in this edition were presented at the scientific conference “The Demographic Future of Poland”, organized in September 2009 by the Unit of Demography and Social Gerontology (University of Łódź). The papers submitted to this conference have been published in Polish in *Acta Universitatis Lodzianis. Folia Oeconomica*, 2009, vol. 231. However, in order to provide a wider platform for the exchange of knowledge in the field of the demographic projections and of opinions about the changes’ effects on population structure, the labour market, social security systems etc., some selected papers, extended and revised, have been included in this issue.

The research areas addressed in these issue concentrate around the below detailed topics.

The procreative behaviour changes and their effect on the structure of population are discussed by Milena Lange in the context of the results of demographic forecasts.

The influence of religiousness on the family planning decisions was explored by Anna Majdzińska and Witold Śmigielski. The authors conducted a questionnaire survey among the 4th and 5th year students of the University of Łódź to identify their visions of their family future.

Some aspect of stochastic mortality forecasting and their applications in life annuities are presented by Agnieszka Rossa. The author proposes to use the future life-tables based on the Lee-Carter model in order to compute pension annuities for future old-age pensioners.

Social policy focused on people, exemplified by the case of Warsaw, is presented by Barbara Szatur-Jaworska. The author emphasizes that one of the key concerns should be a correct diagnosis of the situation of the senior citizens, i.e. one providing a starting point for formulating programmes for the subpopulation of old persons.

The lifetime education in aging society is presented by Elżbieta Trafiałek and Dorota Koziół. They analyze the determinants of efficiently functioning society, i.e. characterized by unfavorable demographical changes, on the one hand, and promoting access to knowledge, on the other hand.

The situation and the role of old persons in society are studied by Karolina Thel. The author underlines that in the future the role of the seniors in a fast-changing knowledge-based society will appear more and more often in social debates.

The paper prepared by Jerzy T. Kowaleski describes some selected aspects of aging on nationwide and regional scales.

The demand for social home places is the subject of the paper by Zofia Lewandowska-Szweda who attempted to estimate the future demand for the beds among persons aged 75 years and older.

The size and destinations of permanent migration in Poland are presented by Eugeniusz Zdrojewski and Małgorzata Guzińska. Among other things, the authors discuss the problem of emigrants with high occupational qualifications.

In conclusion, the research topics as discussed in the 9 articles prepared by the aforementioned authors mainly concern events within population reproduction and the spatial mobility of Polish population, but also changes in the demographic structure and their various economic and social consequences.

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