

## **SESSION 608: THE FUTURE OF THE ELDERLY**

### ***TITLE: PROJECTIONS OF THE DEPENDENT ELDERLY POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION IN POLAND***

**AUTHOR: Anita Abramowska**

*Institute of Statistics and Demography, Warsaw School of Economics, Al. Niepodległości 162, Warsaw, Poland, phone/fax: +48 22 6466138, e-mail: [aabram@sgh.waw.pl](mailto:aabram@sgh.waw.pl)*

#### Background and purpose of the research:

In the last years one of the most important phenomenon is population ageing. According to the recent population forecast in Poland, the number of people at least 60 years old will increase by 64% in the period 2002 – 2030, whereas the share of the elderly people will increase from about 17% to 30%. The growth in the number of older people will result in the number of disabled and dependent people. On the other side, there are remarkable changes in the household composition – the number of one-person households is on the rise and single person private households will be created by elderly people more often. The decrease in fertility, which has been observed from a few decades, and especially since 1989, affects a decrease in the number of potential care givers among household members. Therefore, care provision needs to be transferred to other institutions (e.g. collective households for elderly people).

The objective of this study is twofold: (1) to present the current living arrangement of the population aged 65 and over in Poland especially taking account of dependent people, (2) to project the number of dependent elderly people aged 65 and over for Poland by sex, age and their family situation. In Poland older persons live with their children more frequently than in other countries, however, a tendency towards living alone is on a rise.

#### Data and methods:

On the basis of data from Population Census 2002 living arrangements of the elderly will be analysed in terms of the household types and the household position of individuals. Changes

over time will be traced by referring to the previous Population Census (1988) and to the Household Survey data of 1991.

Next, micro data from the Population Census 2002 will be used to compute the prevalence rates of disability by sex, age, and household composition. They will create a basis to project the dependent population until 2030. Three types of households are considered for that purpose: one-person households, multi-person households, and institutions. It is assumed that the distribution of population by type of household (as well as by age and sex) is fixed during the whole projection period. The population forecast to 2030 will be used to project the dependent elderly population in Poland. This forecast has been made by the Polish Central Statistical Office. The future trends in fertility, mortality, and migration have been estimated. Initial population for the forecast is based on the results from the Population Census 2002.

Two scenarios will be applied to foresee the dependent elderly population. The first assumes that the rates of disability will be stable for the period of projection (so called “pessimistic” scenario), whereas in the second one the rates of disability will be changed according to the past trends observed in Poland (“optimistic” scenario). Due to a lack of relevant data on dependency, the rates of disability from the Population Census are used. There are three categories of the dependency: limited completely, limited seriously, without limitation in basic activity of daily life. The rates of disability by group of age and sex are smoothed. The rates of disability for elderly people living in single person household are the lowest. This situation can be linked with better health status of people living alone. In the case of impairment (of weakness) those people move to other places (to children or to the institutions).

#### Main results:

*It is expected* that the number of dependent elderly will increase in the future according to both first and second scenarios. This is the effect of the population aging, the number and the share of elderly people (according to the latest population forecast) will increase very fast in Poland. According to the “pessimistic” scenario the rise of the dependent elderly population will be much higher than for the “optimistic” scenario. The number of dependent women is and will be higher than dependent men, firstly because of lower mortality and secondly due to higher rates of disability. The most significant increase will occur among the oldest old (80

years and more). The dependent women will live more often in the institutions and in one-person households, whereas dependent men will live more often in multi-person households.