

The aim of the project is to understand how international migration of adult children affects a social network (i.e. a group of close individuals) and received private transfers of money and time of their parents, who stayed in the home country. How migration affects family relations? Are the social networks of migrants' parents larger than the social networks of parents whose children do not migrate? What is the share of persons unrelated and what is the share of the family members in the social networks of migrants' and non-migrants' parents? Do the financial and non-financial transfers received by the parents come from their children, from members of their social network, or from people outside from those networks? Are the amounts and structure of private transfers received by parents in migrant families the same as in the families without migrants? Are the migrant children residing abroad more willing to provide financial transfers to parents and limit the non-financial transfers because of the physical distance? Do children who remain in the home country provide larger financial transfers to their parents in migrant families than children in non-migrant families?

The answers to the research questions posed above are not obvious. On the one hand, a small physical distance may facilitate maintaining contact, on the other hand, close proximity can generate conflicts. Migration of children may enhance the emergence of unrelated individuals in the social network of parents. In addition, modern means of communication can modify these relationships. Therefore, the impact of child's migration on parent's social network requires examination. Furthermore, large physical distance inhibits the non-financial transfers for parents remaining in the country provided by migrant children. It can be expected that the decline in care provided to parents due to migration of one child can be compensated for by relatives remaining in the home country (either children or other persons). If the transfers are altruistic and fully compensated, then there will be no motivation to increase financial transfers to the parents of a migrant child. Thus, who and to what extent provides care depends on parents' social network and shapes financial transfers to parents from migrant children (and from children remaining in the country). Moreover, financial transfers are not a perfect substitute for non-financial transfers, which could additionally complicate the described phenomenon. Therefore, it is important to examine factors affecting non-financial and financial transfers given to parents in migrant and non-migrant families.

This research problem is closely linked to the major challenges of modern societies. Increasing age in which individuals formulate marriages or partnerships, relations' instability, and fertility allowing at most generations' replacement have been observed in European countries and in Poland for decades. The systematic increase in the number and the proportion of older people in the European populations occurs due to the increasing life expectancy and constantly low fertility. Because of the greater life expectancy, families are composed of representatives of more generations, but due to the lower fertility rate, each descending generation is less numerous. Family ties are also changing, unstable relationships entail reconstruction of the family, in which family relationships become more open and less dependent on the degree of kinship. Social networks also transform themselves, because the circle of relatives and trusted people can undergo significant differentiation. For example, social networks of older individuals in families with a small number of children can expand with friends. Thus, to ensure the elderly a decent living, care during illness or disability, as well as material benefits, becomes a challenge. In particular, families whose member or members undertake migrations can face such problems. In a family with a small number of children, one of whom migrated abroad and parents are characterized by long life expectancy, providing financial and non-financial help becomes more problematic than in the family without migration. It is especially important for Polish society, because about 2 million Poles stayed abroad for at least three months in 2011. The study is important for the development of the discipline and also for the social policy.

The abovementioned phenomena require building of a model explaining the mechanisms governing decisions children make on the frequency and the size of financial and non-financial transfers provided to parents in migrant and non-migrant families. Moreover, there is a need to examine how the social networks of older individuals look and how they differ between parents of migrant and non-migrant children. Our empirical analysis is based on the SHARE (the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) panel survey conducted over a representative sample of persons aged at least 50 years in 20 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary and Italy, and Israel) in the years 2004-2013 with the use of econometric estimation methods and statistical tests.