

The aim of the project is to determine to what degree unemployment changes life situation of the unemployed persons and their families depending on its period of duration, and to compare the everyday life of the unemployed persons in Poland and the relevance of institutional support provided for them over the last century.

The situation of the unemployed will be analysed in three contexts: (a) family-related, (b) social, © institutional, considering three areas of social life: (1) tangible and intangible resources at the disposal of the unemployed person's household, (2) participation in social life, (3) scope of entitlements and possibilities of their use. Those three areas will be analysed as regards integration, risk of social exclusion or the already progressive exclusion of the unemployed. The entire project will also take account of diversity in unemployment experience due to gender and family situation. The project assumes organising all-Poland competition for memoirs of the unemployed. It will be a continuation of previous competitions held by the Institute of Social Economy, Warsaw School of Economics (Polish: Instytut Gospodarstwa Społecznego (IGS), Szkoła Główna Handlowa; SGH) in Warsaw, that is a competition directed by Ludwik Krzywicki in 1930's¹ and Andrzej Budzyński at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st c.² An essential complementation of the knowledge from the studies of the literature and memoirs analysis will be ten case studies of the household experiencing unemployment. The households will be selected by family situation and unemployment trajectory. Our assumption is that it will be possible to distinguish between three types of trajectories: (1) of fall, (2) persistence and (3) success³. Qualitative analysis of memoirs content (also involving comparative analyses with memoirs from previous competitions) will be deepened by case studies of the representatives of particular trajectories of social exclusion (in-depth interviews with the unemployed and members of their families) complemented by an analysis of the Polish social policy on unemployment, including both social assistance, instruments of labour market, and the general economic situation in the country (content analysis of documents and interviews with representatives of labour market and social assistance representatives and with persons from local communities of the selected unemployed persons).

The entire project will allow for answering the question what is the diversity of resources at disposal, participation in social life and use of entitlements in the unemployed persons' households; how life quality and organisation and division of roles changed in their households have changed and how the unemployed cope with unemployment and overcome it. Finally, how the state's policy, on the one hand, and on the other, the society's attitude to the unemployed is changing.

Adopting the historical perspective will enable one to more precisely describe the new characteristics of unemployment in the second decade of the 21st c., and at the same time, to look at one of the oldest and most crucial social issues from a different perspective, so far unknown to the social sciences. The memoir method complemented with the case study will also allow for the assessment of relevance and effectiveness of assistance interventions as regards particular unemployment profiles in particular environmental and institutional conditioning.

¹ *Pamiętniki bezrobotnych*, IGS, Warszawa 1933.

² *Pamiętniki bezrobotnych*, IGS SGH, Warszawa 2003.

³ A. Karwacki, T. Kaźmierczak, M. Rymśa. *Reintegracja. Aktywna polityka społeczna w praktyce*, Instytut Spraw Publicznych, Warszawa 2014.