

The aim of the project **is to explain how Polish households allocate their time so as to maximize their utility from consumption**. Proposed by G. Becker, the so-called new economy of household theory has gained a lot of interest among researchers of processes at the microeconomic level. This resulted in attempts to apply the theory in its original form, but also in critical assessments and proposals of interesting modifications.

The research project objectives formulated are interesting due to the fact that private consumption in Poland is the predominant part of its global demand. Furthermore, the household sector is the source of supply for production factors, from which the most important is labour. In the long term the quantity and quality of labour determines economic growth and its pace. However, the very size of the sector, understood as the stock of capital at the disposal of households, and also the amount of time they devote to market activities, should be a sufficient reason for in-depth analyses, both on theoretical and empirical grounds.

The impact of the project results on the development of this research field and scientific discipline relies on the verification of the predictions of the HPF model, which was developed for advanced economies, in the comparison with data that describe a society after many years of transition. The results of the second time-use survey make it possible to evaluate the changes that had occurred in the behaviour of households over the first decade of Polish membership in the European Union. It should be emphasized that during this time socio-economic changes occurred, related not only to the growing wealth of the society, but also, which is important, to the intensification of emigration. Simultaneous analysis of time allocation along with data on income and consumption by the population will be the first estimates of how Polish households combine goods purchased on the market and the time to maximize their utility. The contribution of the project relating to the development of society boils down to answering a few important questions from the point of view of economic policy.

The use of econometric tools for cross-sectional data, as well as the use of appropriately aggregated micro data will make it possible to refer to three types of issues and to verify the hypotheses formulated:

1. The usefulness of the new theory to describe household decisions concerning the allocation of time and material resources in Poland as well as the hours worked in the market. The decision to produce at home or to buy in the market depends on the opportunity cost of household production (lost work time for the employed) and the market price of the commodity. To examine the link between household production and the hours worked at market, time-use data and consumption as well as employment data by industry will be used.

2. Various effects among unemployed men and women in terms of total work time. As time will be divided between market work, household work, leisure, and personal care (sleeping and related normal activities), the author will estimate the link between market time, household time, and the other forms of non-market time. Analysing this, taking into account compensation for market work with household work, will allow conclusions to be drawn about the scale of the potential range of men and women's unemployment "cost" for the economy.

3. Different time allocation and consumption of goods patterns depending on labour market activity. How the unemployed combine time and market goods, as well as how they differ in comparison with employed people and those outside the labour market. The analysis will be carried out controlling for gender, education level, and diversity of household structure (number of children).

Currently in Poland time-use surveys and household budget surveys are not carried out simultaneously or on the same samples of respondents, which in the planned analysis would be very convenient. It should be noted that we are no exception in this regard, as we belong with the vast majority of countries. The solution in this situation is easy in that the household budget surveys are carried out by the CSO on an annual basis. Thus, it would be possible to compare the results of both research programmes on a representative sample and almost for the same periods. The juxtaposition of time-use data as well as data on income and consumption will result in the first estimate of how households combine goods and time, depending on employment status, and other household characteristics.