

The main academic purpose of the project is to deepen knowledge about the relation between the increasing number of immigrants providing services in the sector of domestic care for the elderly in Poland and the quality of that care. Particular attention will be paid to changes that occur in both migration policy and senior citizen policy (with particular consideration of long-term care) as a result of an increase of immigration to the caregiving sector. Migrations to the caregiving services sector is an effect of removal of care for senior citizens from the family, and of atomisation of families together with lack of systemic solutions in the sector of domestic caregiving and leads to differentiation of standards of quality for those services. At the same time the role of informal subjects is growing; those who are subject to the control of government institutions only to a limited extent. As a consequence the “grey zone” in domestic care is developing and the seniors get low-quality care services

The subject under analysis will be the institutional solutions concerning the functioning of live-in and live-out care services for the elderly, with particular regard to verification of the caregiver qualifications for work with the elderly as well as their social predispositions. Triangulation of different research methods will be applied in the project; those used in political science and in the sciences of public policy and sociology. Over 50 individual in-depth interviews will be carried out with all so-called performers of domestic services, which means all involved: members of families hiring the immigrants, district nurses, doctors, workers of social welfare as well as those active in the labour market (employment agencies, schools for foreigners).

The process of the so-called double ageing of the population (increase in the number of people over 80) brings about a growing demand for care services which, more and more often are provided by foreigners from third countries (from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus first of all). Poland has become a new important country on the map of international care migration. That is the type of labour migration where foreigners pursue employment providing care services in employer households. Within the years 2010-2016 there has been a fourfold growth of work permits for foreigners working in households. As a result a dynamic development in the sector of caring services and in employment of foreigners is taking place. Available demographic prognoses indicate that the demand for more workers in caring services will be growing at a quick pace. At the same time there is a lack of systemic solutions placed at the intersection of migration and of senior citizen policies and which are being developed as a result of dynamic demographic processes. Therefore, analyzing these two processes at the same time will allow us to better understand the activities undertaken by public and market institutions, which are a response to the ongoing demographic processes in Polish society.