

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The population of grandparents in Poland (aged 50+) can be estimated at 9.5 million. Although they are $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Polish population, little do we know about their grandparenting experiences. According to the available studies, Polish grandparents think that grandchild care is their duty and almost half of them do it every week. However, we know less about the grandparents separated from their grandchildren by large geographical distances.

Poland is a country of high transborder and internal mobility. Intergenerational relations between grandparents and grandchildren probably depend on the place of residence of the latter. Whilst the role of the separation caused by the transborder migration has been analysed by diverse studies, the role of domestic mobility has been neglected. If the distance separating family members hinders everyday visits, separation inside a single country can lead to similar practical obstacles like transborder migration. However, it is less likely that the domestic mobility will lead to a change in the attitudes concerning beliefs on care and intentions of migrants and their family members than in the case of transborder migration.

This research project will seek to investigate the role of the distance and type of mobility (domestic, transborder) for the grandchild care provided by the grandparents who live in Poland. The experience of grandparents separated from their grandchildren who live far away in Poland (domestic mobility) or abroad will be compared with the experience of their counterparts with local grandchildren. To put differently, for example, the research team will study if there are patterns of grandparenting of Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski-based elder adults with grandchildren in Szczecin differ from the grandparenting patterns of their counterparts with grandchildren in London.

The project will research beliefs about the care and obligations towards grandchildren, care intentions and configurations of care, within the framework of ethnomorality of care, previously developed by research team at the Centre of Migration Research. It turned out to be very useful to study care over elder adults in cross-border families (transnational families). A big advantage of this framework is integration of beliefs and their material outcome – actions or configurations of care. In case of families with long-distance care the tension between beliefs about what is morally correct and the practical actions is visible and highlights the specific dynamics between the caregiver and care receiver.

The research problem is very complex and grandchild care can adopt different forms. As a result this research project will employ various research methods. It permits to collect data which will permit multi-dimensional comparison of the situation of care in families with both types of mobility and families with stayers only, in two different regional contexts in Poland. Research, formerly-conducted at the Centre of Migration Research will be enriched in Focus Group Interviews and computer-assisted quantitative survey on a nationwide sample of Poles who are grandparents. The survey will give a unique chance to verify the regional differences in the beliefs, intentions and caregiving arrangements of grandparents in Poland.

When concluding the project, the research team should be able to explain the following problems:

- the specificity of caring about grandchildren living in different distance from their grandparents
- the role of two types of mobility (domestic, transborder) on grandparents' beliefs and intentions on caring about grandchildren
- the impact of international migration experience on possible changes in relations with grandchildren living in other parts of Poland, especially in the field of using ICTs,
- the potential impact of Brexit on grandparents' possibility of caring for grandchildren living in the UK and the ability to visit them.