## Popular Science Summary

The phenomenon of non-formal and informal educational activities in Poland is correlated with the systemic transformation. The democratization of the country enabled the creation of independent social organizations, since the beginning of the 1990s many of these civic entities (associations, foundations, informal groups which have made education their main subject of activity have emerged. They often supplemented content that was not present in official school curricula for various reasons (e.g. intentional omissions or political pressure). Thanks to the educational activities of the third sector and informal groups, such categories as: education for civil society and human rights; intercultural and multicultural education; education for social inclusion of groups in danger of marginalisation and exclusion; global and development education; interreligious education; sexual education and anti-discrimination education have emerged or been broadened. The initiated educational activities initiated were based on progressive educational discourses.

The academic goal of the project is to describe and explain the phenomenon of the "Human Library" in Poland by researching three groups: (I) movement leaders, (II) event's organizers and (III) people co-creating the library - "Human Books".

The "Human Library" is a relatively new educational phenomenon. It was established in Denmark in the year 2000 and is currently implemented in over 80 countries around the world. It has been present in Poland since 2007, on the initiative of two NGOs. In 2019, "Human Libraries" were held in over fifty Polish towns and cities. "Human Libraries" often take place in public places: libraries, schools, universities, museums, parks. They also accompany cultural and scientific events (e.g. the Sociological Congress in 2019) and take place in workplaces (e.g. IBM Poland, Credit Agricole Poland, Google Poland).  Due to their nature, the places selected to organize the "Human Library" create an unique opportunity for andragogical reflection on the educational threads of human biographies, experiences, relations and diversity that intersect in these public places allowing them to be reorganized and filled with knowledge, perhaps even creating temporary communities.

In light of the growing popularity of the method, a "Human Library" Poland network has been established, which brings together informal groups and associations that organize "Human Libraries" locally.

The "Human Library" as a method relies on creating an educational space for meeting and dialogue, in which a special role is held by representatives of groups vulnerable to stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. These people play the role of "Human Books" - they tell their stories and share their experiences. "Human Books" come from very different backgrounds and have varied social status, religion, profession, skin colour, sexual orientation, material status, education, fitness, health condition, age, opinions, appearance. They share a common goal: education for acceptance of otherness by passing on their experience.

The current state of knowledge allows to place the project in pedagogy, in three perspectives: andragogical, alternative education and critical pedagogy.

The planned research is embedded in qualitative strategy. The research includes interviews, study visits combined with participatory observation and analysis of documents. The key research issues include: getting to know the method of the "Human Library" and describing educational aspects of "Human Library" Poland network; identifying and understanding the biographical and social needs and mechanisms of creating educational spaces of the „Human Library"; analyzing the "Human Books" "catalogues" as means of mapping stereotypes, exclusions, discrimination experienced by the readers and the changes that have taken place in these catalogues since 2007.

So far, no research on the "Human Library" phenomenon has been conducted. There are also no publications about this method.