

From the Editors

We are hereby inviting the Readers to read the thematic issue of the “Problems of Social Policy. Studies and discussions”, dedicated to the matter of interstate employment migrations in the context of the features of labour markets. This publication is one of the effects following from deployment at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw of the research project named *In search of labour market security. Migration to and from Poland and the attractiveness of the Polish labour market*, within the framework of the OPUS programme financed by National Centre of Science¹. The guiding concept of the said project was comprised by determination of the significance of the obtained and expected feeling of security on the labour market for the making of the migration decisions. This type of research perspective, whose pioneering application was related to quantitative and qualitative research on foreigners working in Poland and Poles active on labour markets of the United Kingdom and Germany, had been proposed for the first time in Polish migration studies. Neither has it been present so far in research carried out abroad. Scientific motivation of its authors was comprised first of all by supplementation of the list of factors (indicated for example by the *push-pull theory*) having impact on the size, dynamics and directions of contemporary migration movements. In our opinion, security on the labour market, or to address the matter more precisely — subjective perceptions of the differences between the experienced state and the expected, or even searched for, state — used to be one of the “absentees” among determinants of foreign migrations undertaken for employment reasons. Meanwhile, the role of that factor seems relatively relevant, and moreover it gains in importance in the situation of increasing differences in the organisation of labour markets in the dimension of security of employment and undertaking of work they offer. Such differences are present not only between less and more attractive markets of poorer and better developed states. They also characterise the group of highly developed immigration states, where diversified solutions adopted in the labour markets are related to different ways of the delivery of social security as a consequence of the selection of various social models.

The methodological framework of the deployed project defines to a decisive extent the content of this publication.

The volume opens with a reminiscence about Professor Adam Andrzejewski — a researcher with great merits for Polish social policy science.

The *From research workshops* section starts with two articles presenting results of the research under the discussed project. In the first of those articles Kamil Matuszczyk and

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Maciej Duszczuk made an attempt at operationalization of the notion of labour market security, indicating its subjective character and dual premises related both to employment flexibility and its stability. Moreover, the same paper contains an extensive review of the theoretical concepts of employees' security on the labour market and it also demonstrates the methods of its measurement. In the next published text, Monika Stec and Maciej Duszczuk present the results of empirical research performed among migrant workers and related to perceptions of the content of the notion of labour market security and comparisons of its levels in the states of origin and receiving states. Results of those studies (which covered foreign employees in Poland, and also Poles resolved to undertake employment migration and those already working abroad) prove that the issue of labour market security (perceived in one way or another) is present when decisions are made with relation to emigration or selection of the place for performance of work abroad.

In the next two articles, the category of labour market security appears in a way “from the other side” — not as a factor influencing decisions related to potential emigration but as an experience being a share of migration-related situation. Carla Valadas, Pedro Góis i José Carlos Marques chose as the subject of their paper the changes in the structure of employment immigration to Portugal following from diversified life strategies of the representatives of the biggest ethnic groups in that country in the times of the global financial crisis and in the years immediately following it. As a result of the coincidence of the worsening of the conditions governing employment and performance of work and of the fact that immigrants remained (to a large extent) outside the state support system from social policy institutions, depending on the country of origin, power of migrations networks and individual position on the labour market, the immigrants decided to stay, return to the states of origin or re-emigrate. Differences in the security levels in emigration and in the home country proved to be one of the most important premises underlying such decisions. In the article of Beata Kowalczyk, labour market security (or rather its lack) was quoted in the context of specific categories of migrant workers — Japanese musicians employed in France and Poland. According to the author, their situation in both those states is characterized by “multiplied” lack of employment security and of protection against social risks, related both to immigrant status and to performance of a very special artistic profession.

The review article of Marcin Wrona contains an extensive presentation of the rules governing migration policy of Australia, with particular focus on Australian visa policy. The author tries to build several arguments around the thesis that migration policy of that country has positive impact on its economy, owing to the fact that the inflow of immigrants is subordinated to the needs of the labour market.

The last of the papers contained in that part of the issue, authored by Patrycja Matusz-Protasiewicz and Leszek Kwiecieński, departs from the labour market issues dominating in this issue. Its publication was determined by the weight of the widely understood issue of shaping up in Poland or urban policies governing integration of immigrants. The presented examples of Gdańsk and Wrocław show reactions of local government authorities to the rise in the share of foreigners in local communities. They also prove that we need a change

in the policy governing the policy of immigrants' integration at the state level towards creation of strictly local programmes modelled on West European cities' examples.

In the *Reviews* section we publish a review of a book by Professor Stanisława Golinowska about social policy models, prepared by Mirosław Księżopolski.

Presenting the papers published in this issues we hope we will manage to draw Readers' interest to the issue of linkages between labour market security and employment migrations. We also hope that the proposed research perspective will be favourably received by the Readers, and become a starting point for development of a theoretical reflection and empirical research on this aspect of interdependencies between migrations phenomena and generic features of the labour markets between which employee flows take place.

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