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Well-being of older people in Poland on the basis of the CSO surveys

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Importance of the topic

Population is ageing in Western societies, due to increases life expectancy and low fertility

Poland is also rapidly undergoing the same kind of changes

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Studies based on sound survey data are needed in order to better understand the needs of this growing population

CSO's Quality of life concept

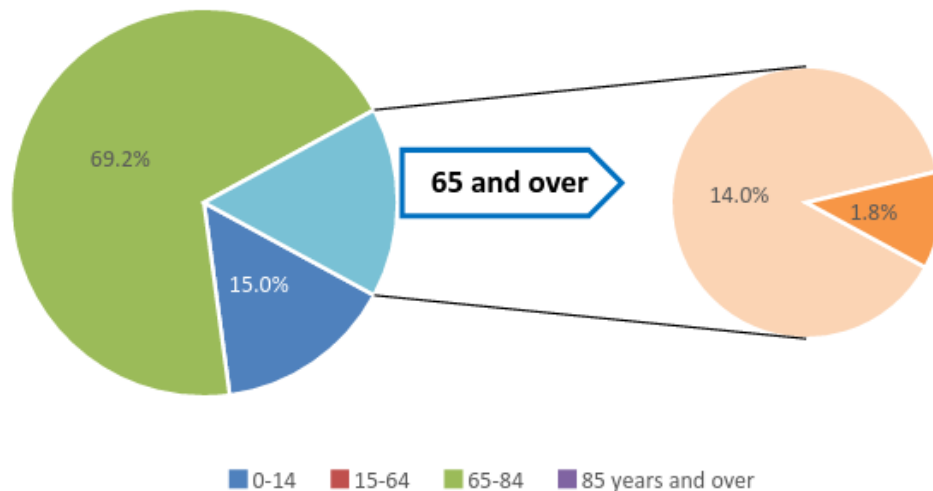
- Multi-faceted character/ covering several domains
- Increasing significance of subjective measures
- Following international recommendations and taking into account also Polish specificities
- Objective domains: material living conditions; health; education; economic activity; leisure activities and social relations; individual safety; the quality of the State and fundamental rights; the quality of natural environment in the place of residence
- Subjective measures: satisfaction with life in general, and with its various aspects, along with elements concerning emotional experiences, the system of values, and the sense of meaning in life

CSO's Social Cohesion Survey (BSS)

- Conducted for the first time in 2011
- Covers most significant aspects of quality of life
- Publication available online based on the first wave "*Quality of life, social capital, poverty and social exclusion in Poland*"
- Second wave collected in 2015
- Scope was extended by including questions on subjective well-being, values and attitudes
- Different population were analysed, including the elderly (65+)

Characteristics of the 65+ population

POLAND'S POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS IN 2015



Since the beginning of the 1990s, the median age of an average Poland's inhabitants has increased by 7.5 years, reaching nearly 40 in 2015

The share of those 65+ grew from 10.2% to 15.8%

157 women for every 100 men (much more for those 85+)

Usually widowed (mostly for women) or married (usually for men)

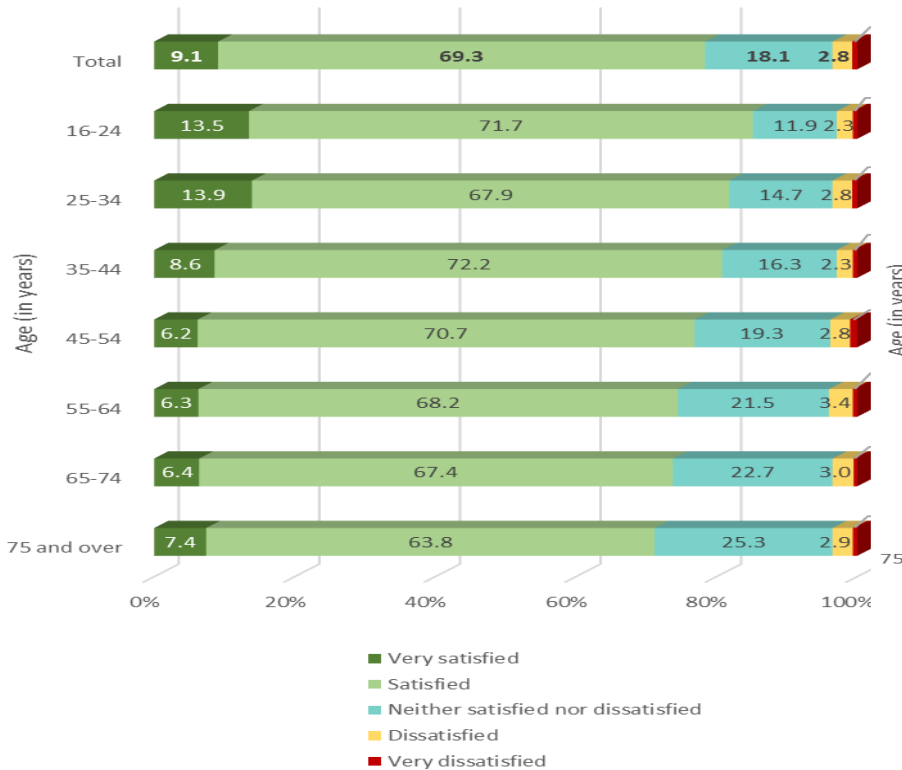
Most have primary education (but this will change over time, cohort effect)

Only 5% have occupational income, and only 2% live mainly from occupational income

Self-perceived health improved over time

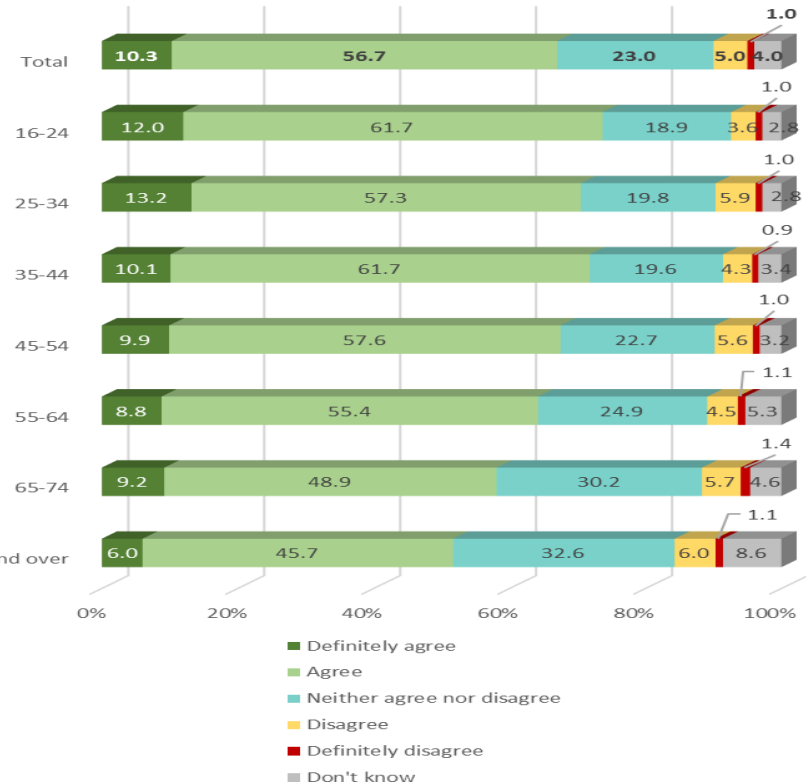
Subjective wellbeing of older people in Poland

OVERALL LIFE SATISFACTION
AMONG POLAND'S INHABITANTS IN 2015 BY AGE
 PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN A GIVEN AGE GROUP



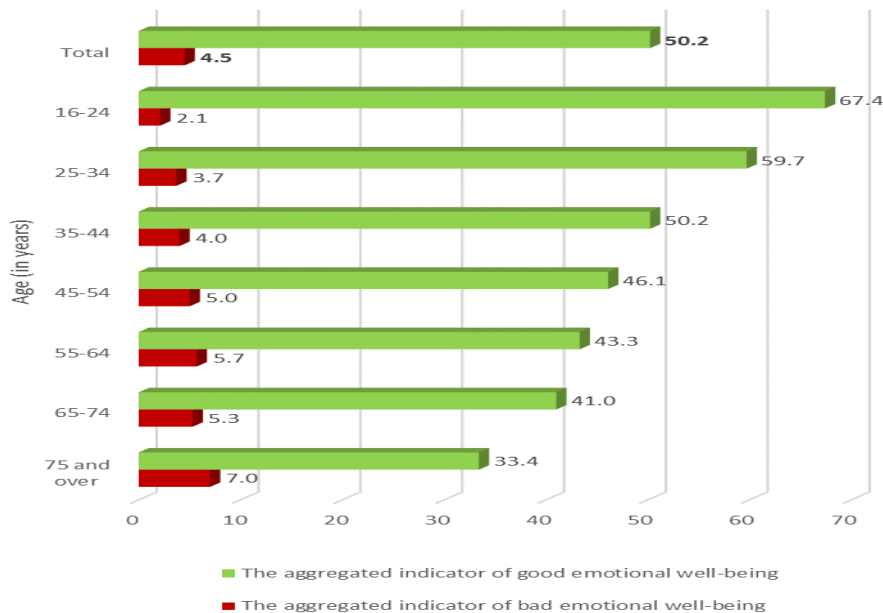
THE SENSE OF MEANING IN LIFE
AMONG POLAND'S INHABITANTS IN 2015 BY AGE
 PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN GIVEN AGE GROUP

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
 "I GENERALLY FEEL THAT WHAT I DO IN LIFE IS MEANINGFUL"?

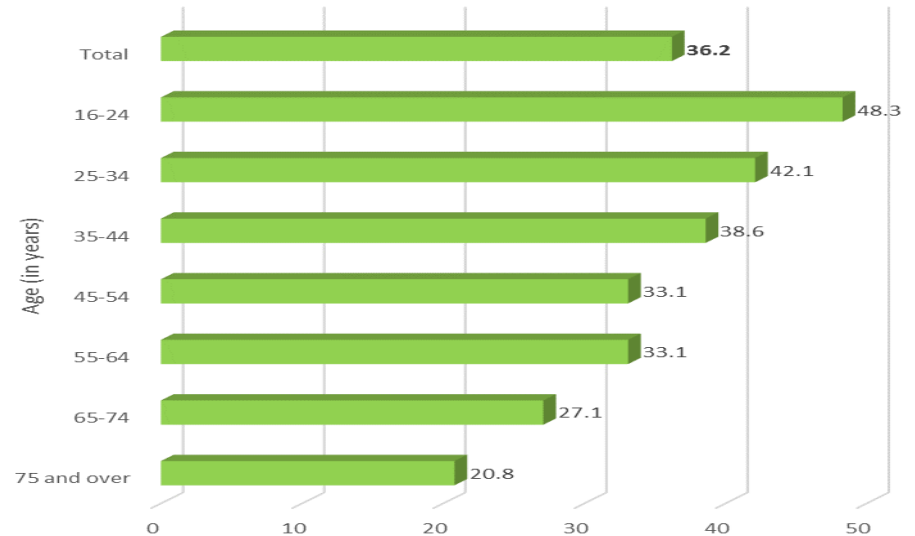


Subjective wellbeing of older people in Poland

**EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING
AMONG POLAND'S INHABITANTS IN 2015 BY AGE**
PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN A GIVEN AGE GROUP



**THE AGGREGATED INDICATOR
OF THE GOOD SUBJECTIVE QUALITY OF LIFE
AMONG POLAND'S INHABITANTS IN 2015 BY AGE**
PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS IN A GIVEN AGE GROUP



**Wellbeing of older people
in Poland**

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Research question: is age a determinant of life satisfaction?

Table 2. Detailed effects of age – model for the whole population

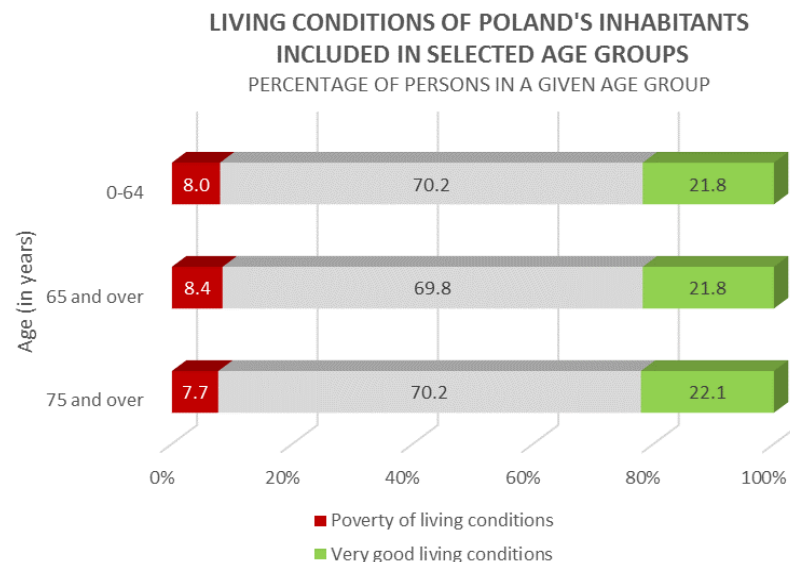
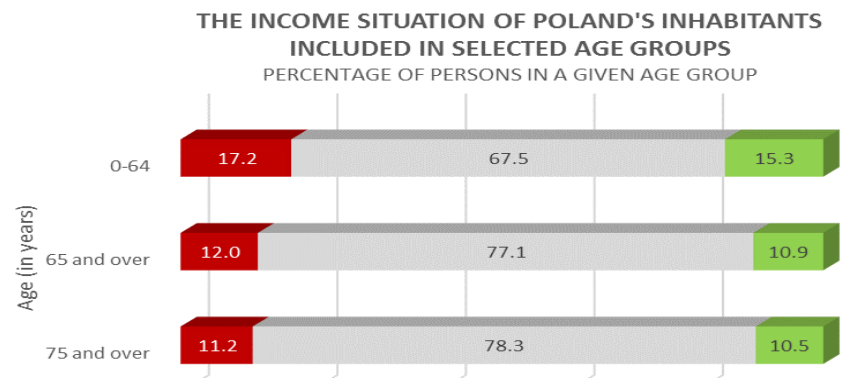
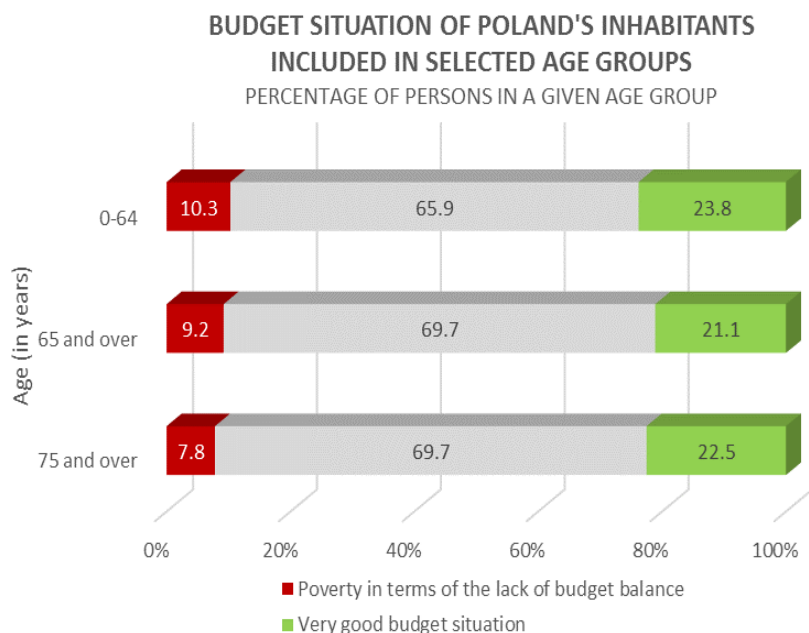
*Significant effects at the level 0.05 marked **bold**.*

Age group	Parameter estimate	Wald statistics	p-value
16 – 24	0.092	0.37	0.5436
25 – 35	-0.019	0.04	0.8478
35 - 44	<i>Ref.</i>		
45 – 54	-0.001	0.00	0.9916
55 – 64	0.272	8.85	0.0029
65 – 75	0.531	20.07	<.0001
75 +	0.589	20.07	<.0001
<i>Complete factor effect (DF=6)</i>		31.11	<.0001

Determinants of life satisfaction

- Regression model using life satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) as dependent variable, and a series of determinants
- Innovative contribution of the paper: comparing the 65+ with the rest of the population
- Main differences: income is important for the 65+, while labour market status is not
- The most significant determinants in both population groups include the way of life, health status, being in a relationship and social capital
- Being in a relationship is less important for the older population, while family capital is more important

The material situation of the 65+ in Poland



Wellbeing of older people in Poland

Conclusions

- Important topic, as this population and its share are expected to grow rapidly
- Older people have lower levels of wellbeing, but age is not a determinant per se, probably the health state has the most significant impact
- Similar determinants of high levels of wellbeing as for the general population, but a higher importance given to current income and family capital
- Interestingly, material living conditions seem to be similar to the ones of the rest of the population, but less polarized

Discussion

- An annex with the description of items included in the synthetic variables (family capital, budget balance..) is needed
- Possible issues of multicollinearity for using the 3 living conditions items
- Age used as continuous rather than discrete variable (and adding age square)
- More analysis on the different impact of the different income/living conditions items can be very informative to policy



Thank you for your attention!
Questions? Comments? Suggestions?