

# Well-Being of Older People in Poland on the Basis of the CSO Surveys

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**Paper Abstract:** Population ageing forms an intrinsic part of the contemporary demographic development process and concerns all developed societies. It involves transitions taking place within the population age structure which result in the growing share of older people in the population. The principal factors contributing to such changes include the increasing life expectancy, as a result of which more people reach the demographic old-age, and low fertility – below the generation replacement level – and, in consequence, the decreasing number of births and the increasing share of older generations in the population structure.

Demographic projections reveal that this process will continue within the projectable time frame. Both the current situation and the situation presented in the projections should inspire us to reflect on and undertake measures oriented towards the needs of older people, and towards using their social potential. The needs emerging within this population group, including in the field of health, education, recreation and professional activity, differ from those which characterise younger population members. They also appear diversified within the old-age group. The activity programmes addressed to older people should therefore be preceded with thorough analyses based on survey results, and in particular on reliable and objective statistical data.

The results of the surveys conducted by the CSO provide a number of information indispensable for characterising the elderly population, their activity level, health condition, material situation, social relations and related needs. They also enable a multi-faceted assessment of the quality of life of older people. The aim of this study is to present the statistical work carried out by the CSO in the research area.