

## Foreword by the General Editor „Social Security. Theory. Law. Practice”

GERTRUDA UŚCIŃSKA

Centre for Social Security Studies, University of Warsaw

ORCID: 0000-0001-7379-5156

e-mail: g.uscinska@uw.edu.pl

The topics of the seventeenth issue of the journal *Social Security. Theory, Law, Practice* are diverse. The first article deals with strategies taken by working Poles to counteract poverty in old age. Since 1999, Poland has had a pension system based on the defined contribution principle. This means that the amount of pension benefit is closely related to the amount of accumulated capital from contributions and the expected number of years of life in retirement. In order to earn a decent pension under such a system, it is necessary to work long enough and make regular contributions.

The authors of the article, on the basis of a representative sample, made a distinction between the strategies undertaken by working Poles to counteract poverty in old age (labour-intensive, capital-intensive, mixed) as opposed to passivity resulting from a “free-rider” attitude or short-sightedness. They presented the results of the study and the resulting conclusions.

The second text discusses the instruments of reconciliation of work and family life in Poland in the context of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of June 20, 2019 on the work-life balance of parents and caregivers. The text assesses the directions of development of these instruments. Attention is paid to the importance of women’s labor force participation in the context of social security.

The next article presents selected instruments of support implemented by the Social Insurance Institution in the Covid-19 pandemic: the widely used periodic exemption from the obligation to pay contributions and the payment of standstill benefits for business people. Various aspects of this support are presented, as well as the results of a study on the continued operation of entities that received such assistance. The results of this study are unique in that they attempt to answer the question of the effectiveness of the protective measures taken by the state during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The subsequent text is a critical gloss on the Supreme Court’s ruling from December 8, 2020 on how to determine the number of employees working in hazardous conditions within the meaning of Article 31(3)(3) from October 30, 2002, Law on Social Insurance for Occupational Injuries and Diseases. According to the author of this interpretation, the use of personal protective equipment that reduces the exposure of employees to a harmful agent below the permissible level does not give grounds for ineligibility of such employment as work in hazardous conditions. The use of personal protective equipment does not eliminate the hazard, and therefore has no effect on the number of people employed in hazardous conditions.

In the *Miscellanea* section, we present very interesting information from the European Commission’s report on intra-EU labor mobility in 2021. The article discusses the most important findings of this document regarding the mobility of working-age people, particularly active workers, the situation of posted workers, cross-border workers and migrant third-country nationals, and the impact on labor supply in selected occupations.

A report on a very interesting scientific seminar on freedom of movement and social protection of third-country nationals in the EU in the context of the massive influx of displaced persons from Ukraine is included in the *Chronicle of events* section.

We inform about selected new publications in the field of social policy, including social security, in *Publishing News*.

We invite students, doctoral students as well as scholars and experts of Polish and foreign universities to cooperate with our journal.

We encourage you to read the texts described above and to be interested in future issues of the journal, in which we will take up no less current and important topics.