

PoISCA MEETING

“Making longevity an asset for economic and social development”

„Socio-economic context of active ageing in Poland”

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WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

www.sgh.waw.pl/english

Warsaw School of Economics – basic informations

- Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) was founded in 1906 as Poland's first university of economics.
- Over 16,000 students study at SGH. This number includes about 6,500 full-time students and about 6,100 part-time students. Moreover 5,300 students participate in postgraduate courses and 1,400 in doctoral studies.
- SGH employs over 1,500 staff members, of whom 900 are teaching and research staff.
- Since the beginning of the economic transition in 1989, 11 finance ministers of Poland have been SGH graduates.



Warsaw School of Economics – research potential

- Warsaw School of Economics is involved in international cooperation in conducting international projects within the EU's Framework Programmes (8 projects within the EU's 5 FP, 11 within the EU's 6 FP, 3 within the EU's 7 FP) but also within bilateral agreements with partner universities and projects funded by institutions such as the International Visegrad Fund. Moreover, international projects are carried out by individual researchers.
- Each year, our research results in over 1,500 published books, monographs, scripts, coursebooks, articles and research papers.
- Within the International Centre (CPM), there is the Contact Point of International Research Projects.



Warsaw School of Economics – research potential (ageing)

Research at the university constitutes one of the pillars of its activities and is concentrated in five collegias:

1. **Collegium of Economic Analyses**
2. **Collegium of Socio-Economics,**
3. Collegium of World Economy
4. Collegium of Business Administration
5. Collegium of Management and Finance.

Research units with highest potential concerning ageing issues:

- Institute of Statistics and Demography (demography, family change)
- Institute of Social Economy (social policy, long term care, active ageing)
- Department of Economics I (labour market, pension system)
- Department of Social Insurance (social security system)



The most important sources of quantitative data

- **PolSenior - Medical, psychological, social and economic aspects of ageing in Poland.**

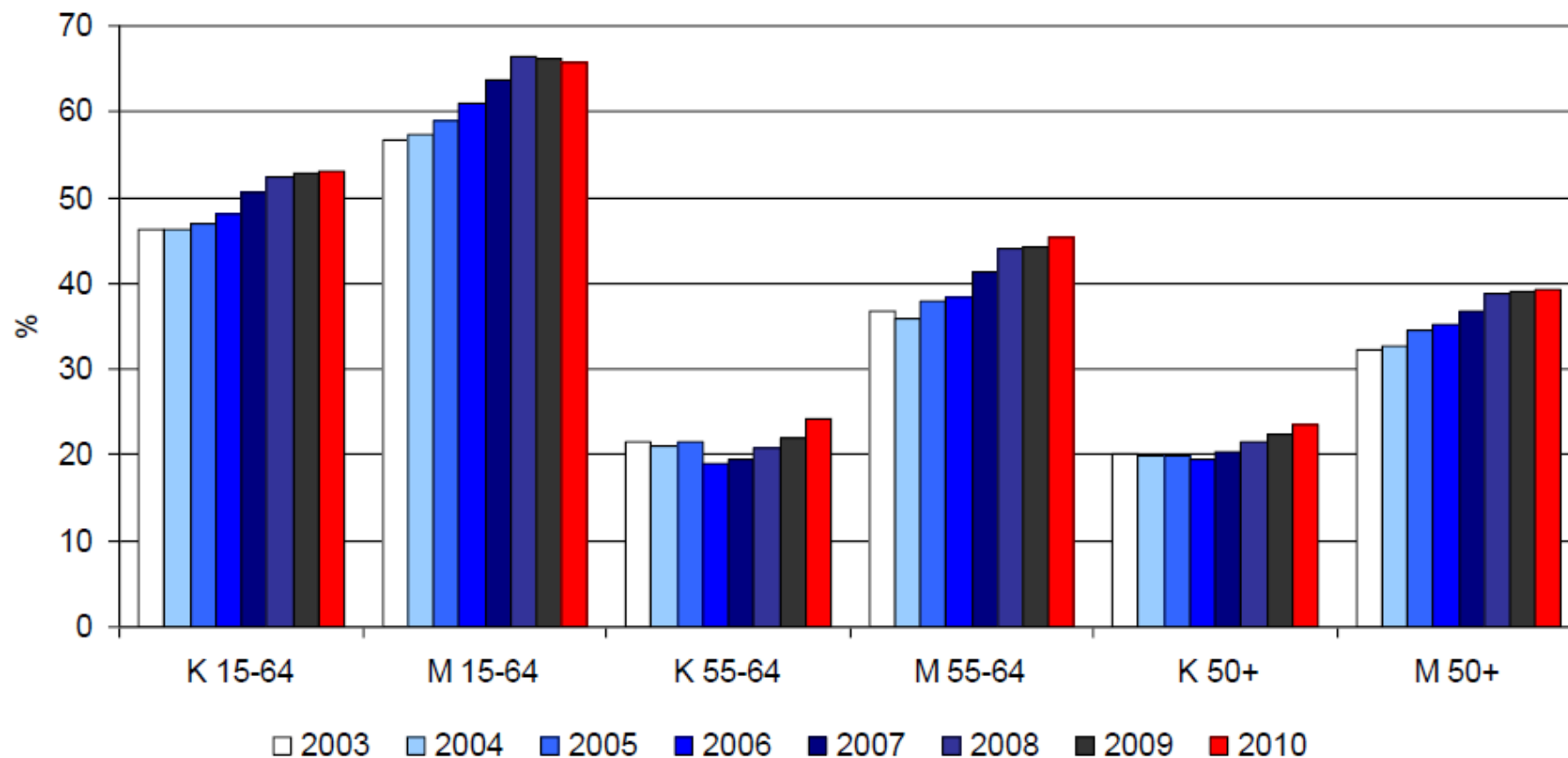
An interdisciplinary program designed for the duration of 3 years, with the aim to collect data for over 40 different research centers in Poland. Sample: 5,965 people aged 65 – 90+, split into 5-year age cohorts plus reference group of people who are just about to enter their old age (aged 55 – 59), 4,737 blood samples, 4,526 urine samples, 1,018 medical tests, <http://polsenior.iimcb.gov.pl/en/home>

- **Social Diagnosis 2000-2011. Objective and Subjective Quality of Life in Poland.** The project takes into account all the significant aspects of the life of individual households and their members, both economic (income, material wealth, savings and financing), and social education, medical care, problem-solving, stress, psychological well-being, lifestyle, pathologies, use of new communication technologies). Social Diagnosis is based on panel research, with the first sample being taken in the year 2000. <http://www.diagnoza.com/index-en.html>

- **Central Statistical Office (GUS)**



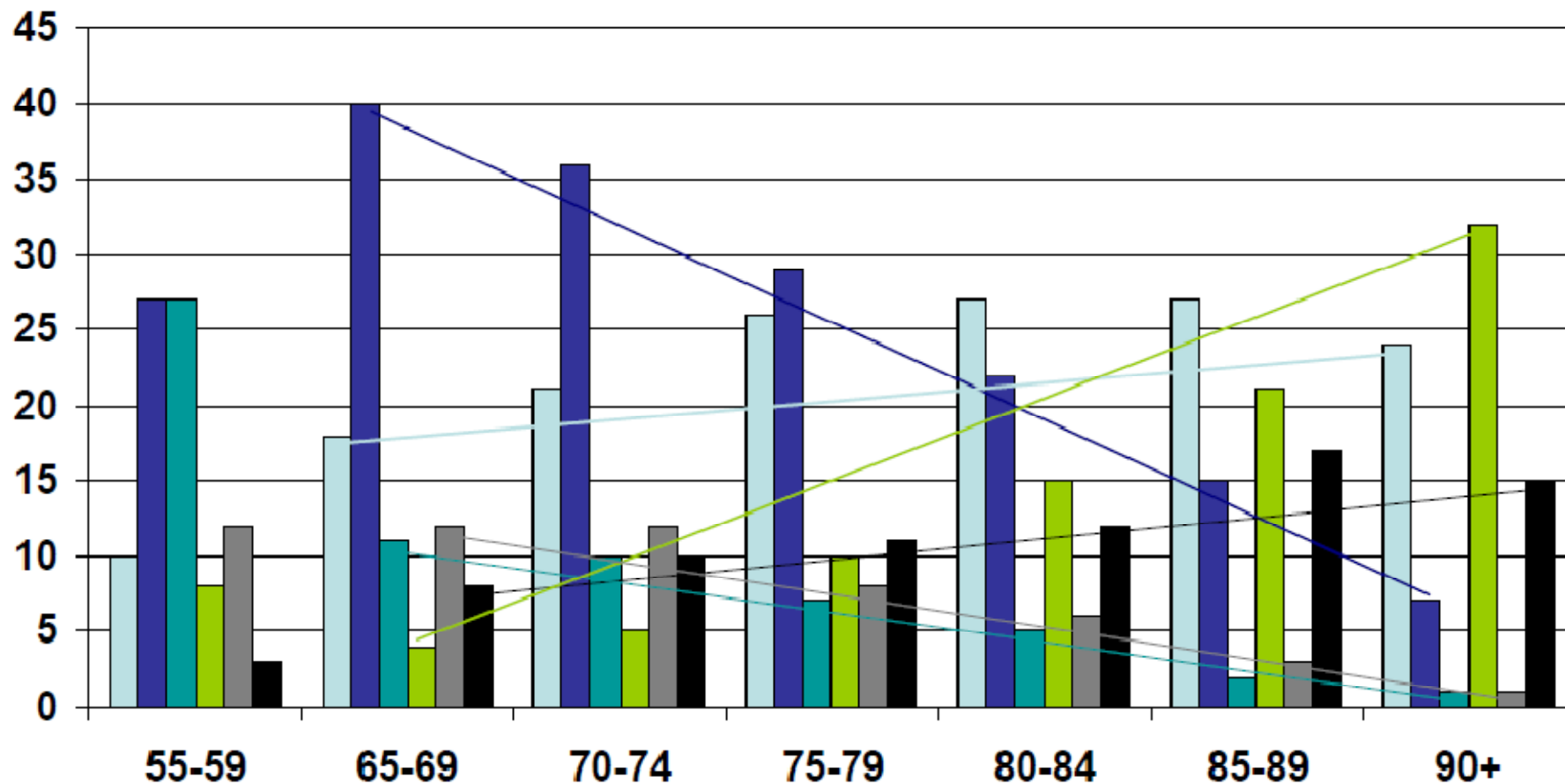
Employment rate in general and by gender in 2003-2010



Source: Ruzik-Sierdzińska, Magda (2011) (Eurostat, K=women, M=men)



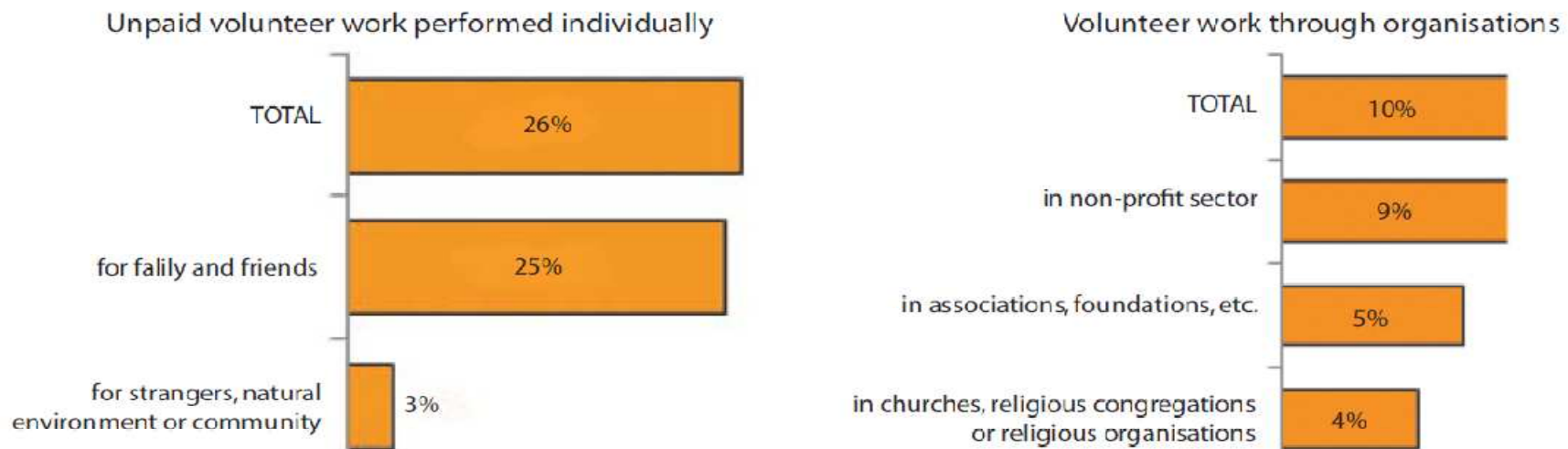
The most popular family types by age group (in %)



Source: **Polsenior** (1 column – living alone; 2 – couples; 3 – couples with children; 4 - senior with children; 5 – couples with children and grandchildren; 6 - senior with children and grandchildren)



Population 15+ engaged in unpaid work outside their own household



Source: GUS (2011) Preliminary results of the groundbreaking survey on volunteer work conducted by the Central Statistical Office of Poland.



Social activity

- 10.4% people aged 65+ and 17.6% of the population 50-64 engaged in local-life activities (district, housing estate, borough or town).
- 10.3% people aged 65+ and 20.7% of the population 50-64 was involved in voluntary work or services for non-family members or a charity organization.
- 18.4% people aged 65+ and 25.3% of the population 50-64 took part in a public meeting other than work related (source: Social Diagnosis 2011)
- 2% of the population 50+ engaged in formal volunteering (Sweden 21.5%, 10.8% all countries) (source: SHARE 2007)



(In)active ageing project – main results

- Huge diversity of the 50+ population, as well as of the 65+.
- Age, gender and education are main factors of social and economic activity
- Polish elderly people are undergoing changes and their lifestyles and attitudes are more and more like those of their Western counterparts.
- The model of old age concentrated on family life is gradually waning, but still seems to dominate in Polish society.
- The model of individualized old age is becoming more and more popular, where the elderly are focused on themselves.



(In)active ageing project – main results

- In the context of active ageing and old age, incomplete transformation seems to be the key issue. It forces thinking about old age policy as if it was family policy and only partially a policy concerning active ageing and old age outside family - primarily in local communities.
- Within the Polish context participation in social and cultural life is more passive (clients of diverse offer for the elderly), not active. This is clearly shown by Polish Universities of the Third Age, where a specific group, or even one leader, "pulls" several dozen to several hundred students.
- Local authorities, often lack the knowledge, funds or local partners that would allow implementation of various activation programs. One should also not expect a sudden rise in social activity that would include the majority of the elderly population. It is, and probably will continue to be, a controllable process, but without a partial generation exchange no breakthroughs will occur.



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- Board member, **Polish Gerontology Association**
- **Academic interests:** Social exclusion and social integration, local social policy, active ageing, long term care
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Last projects:

- (In)active ageing – statutory research
- Social conditioning of economic activity of 50+ people - statutory research (co-author and head of research: Anna Ruzik-Sierdzińska, PhD)
- EuROPEAN (The European Reference framework Online for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect) – expertise for Ja-Kobieta Foundation and Forum 50+

