

National Scientific Conference Quality of Life: Unmet Social Needs – Diagnosis and Actions

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On September 4, 2024, the National Scientific Conference Quality of Life was held at the Wrocław University of Economics and Business. The event, organized periodically by the Department of Statistics at the Wrocław University of Economics and Business, the Statistical Office in Wrocław and the Wrocław branch of the Polish Statistical Association, attracted a wide range of experts. This year's edition, entitled Unmet Social Needs – Diagnosis and Action, was held under the honorary patronage of His Magnificence, the Rector of the Wrocław University of Economics, the President of the Central Statistical Office, the President of the Polish Statistical Association, the Governor of Lower Silesia, the Marshal of Lower Silesia and the Wrocław Academic Centre.

The conference was attended by more than 40 specialists from Polish universities, statistical offices and non-governmental institutions, who jointly analysed the key challenges of improving the quality of life in Poland. Marek Kośny, Vice-Rector for Science at Wrocław University of Economics and Business, conducted the opening ceremony. Words of welcome were also addressed to the participants by Halina Woźniak, Director of the Statistical Office in Wrocław.

The conference was inaugurated with a plenary lecture by Walenty Ostasiewicz (Wrocław University of Economics and Business) entitled *Sustainability and Quality of Life on Earth*. The speaker emphasised the fundamental importance of caring for life on Earth, noting that a healthy life requires a healthy environment, both natural and artificial, created by man. Recalling the words of John Ruskin: "here is no wealth above life", Walenty Ostasiewicz warned of the

consequences of environmental degradation by economics, politics and ideology. He called for urgent action on sustainable development, pointing to the danger that the 2030 Agenda could become “an epitaph for the world that could exist.” He also stressed the role of education in developing responsible attitudes.

In the second plenary presentation, titled *Tangible and Intangible Aspects of Quality of Life*, Piotr Łysoń, Director of the Department of Social and Labor Market Research from Statistics Poland, discussed a comprehensive approach to quality of life, taking into account both tangible and intangible aspects, as well as objective and subjective measures. The presentation emphasised that such an approach allows for a multifaceted analysis of social and territorial disparities, offering a more complete picture of reality. It was noted that quality of life can be an effective alternative to traditional analyses, which often focus only on material aspects, enabling a more holistic approach to assessing the well-being and life of citizens.

The plenary session was closed by Albert Miściorak of the Wrocław Centre for Social Development, who discussed the topic *Migration Strategies and Data as a Tool for Reducing Social Inequality*. In his presentation, he emphasised that migrants currently comprise about ¼ of Wrocław's population, and the city has been implementing measures to support intercultural dialogue and social integration for years. He noted the role of city strategies, such as the Wrocław Intercultural Dialogue Strategy (2018-2022), and the need to collect numerical and qualitative data to equalize social and educational opportunities.

Other conference sessions were held in four sections. The session *Holistic Assessment of Well-being and Wealth*, moderated by Teresa Słaby of the Warsaw School of Economics, covered various topics related to society's quality of life and wealth. Stanisław Maciej Kot presented the concept of welfare entanglement, showing its theoretical basis and practical applications. Anna Sączewska-Piotrowska of the University of Economics in Katowice analysed multidimensional wealth in Poland, identifying association rules. Justyna Bortnowska and Aleksandra Kusy, from the Statistical Office in Łódź, discussed factors influencing subjective feelings of satisfaction with life based on the results of the EU-SILC 2022 survey. Agnieszka and Grzegorz Wałęga from the Cracow University of Economics presented an assessment of the Family 500+ programme in the context of its impact on household debt repayment, and Marian Ferenc presented Silvers' innovative Passport to Competence project, which supports senior citizens' activity. The Microeconomic View of Poverty and Welfare session, moderated by Stanisław Maciej Kot from Gdańsk Tech, brought together experts analysing various microeconomic aspects of poverty and quality of life. Hanna Dudek from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences discussed the phenomenon of household overcrowding and income poverty using microeconomic methods. Teresa Słaby and Honorata Dudek-Frysiak from the Warsaw School of Economics conducted a diagnosis of consumption shortfalls among elderly rural residents, pointing out their consequences for the dignity of life in 2017-2022. Edyta Ropuszyńska-Surma from Wrocław University of Science and Technology presented strategies for counteracting energy poverty, emphasising the differences between active and passive tools. Marta Dziechciarz and Maciej Szczeciński from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business applied group DEA analysis to assess subjective well-being in Europe. Bożena Mielczarek from Wrocław University of Science and Technology discussed the impact of demography on gender differences in pension benefits using simulation studies. The session Satisfying Social Needs and Quality of Life, moderated by Hanna Dudek from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, and Anna Sączewska-Piotrowska from the University of Economics in Katowice, focused on analysing activities and policies aimed at improving the quality of life by satisfying basic social needs. Edyta Szafranek-Stefaniuk from the Statistical Office in Opole and the University of Economics in Katowice and Danuta Michoń and Wiktoria Pordzik from the Statistical Office in Opole presented the level of satisfaction of social needs in municipalities at risk of marginalisation, discussing the status, trends and the creation of

typologies of these areas. Anna Wiśniewska-Sałek from the Central Statistical Office highlighted the importance of special education in meeting social needs, and Aneta Stachańczyk discussed the role of education in the context of sustainable development, particularly in relation to Goal 4 of Agenda 2030. Małgorzata Niklewicz-Pijaczyńska, Małgorzata Wachowska from the University of Wrocław, and Joanna Dębicka, and Edyta Mazurek from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business presented the use of patent citations as a measure of quality of life, while the final paper by Artur Czech of the Managerial Academy of Applied Sciences dealt with transportation sustainability as a key element in improving quality of life. The session Interdisciplinary Approaches to Health, Finance and Economic Security, moderated by Edyta Ropuszyńska-Surma from Wrocław University of Science and Technology and Katarzyna Szalonka from the University of Wrocław, focused on analysing various aspects of public health and economic risks associated with financial security. Jolanta Blicharz, Wioletta Nowak, Elżbieta Stanczyk, Katarzyna Szalonka from the University of Wrocław and Adrianna Szalonka representing the 4th Military Clinical Hospital with Polyclinic in Wrocław presented the results of a study on unmet medical needs in Poland. Maria Hajłasz from Wrocław University of Science and Technology discussed the impact of social relationships on dental health, modelling caries management. Beata Zmyślona and Agnieszka Marciniuk from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business discussed cash flow modelling in the context of a reverse mortgage annuity combined with critical illness insurance, and Marek Biernacki and Maciej Szczeciński also from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business compared the efficiency of provincial health care systems. The lecture by Katarzyna Witczyńska from the University of Wrocław and Piotr Stańczyk from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business dealt with global economic challenges in the pharmaceutical market. The last presentation by Paulina Ucieklak-Jeż, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Agnieszka Bem, and Paweł Prędkiewicz, Wrocław University of Economics and Business, concerned the analysis of factors contributing to food waste in households.

The Editor-In-Chief of *Silesian Statistical Review* kindly invited participants to submit papers on relevant topics to the journal.

A full programme of QOL 2024, including abstracts of the papers presented, can be found at: <https://wroclaw.stat.gov.pl/seminaria-i-konferencje/konferencje-naukowa-quality-of-life-niezaspokojone-potrzeby-spoleczne--diagnoza-i-dzialanie>

In closing, the hosts, inviting everyone to the next conference in the series, expressed the hope that the event, despite the passage of years and changing circumstances, will continue to be an important place to meet, exchange ideas and build scientific friendships.