

## **Abstract**

The aging of the Polish society is a progressive and inevitable phenomenon for the coming decades. An increase of older people and less able to take care of themselves, will inevitably lead to a rise in the load of the long-term care system.

In this dissertation the author concluded a scientific diagnosis of a long-term welfare system in the Wielkopolska Province social care sector. The author presented detailed data concerning social welfare homes' activity in the Wielkopolska Province as well as financial analysis of their functioning. Taking into consideration aging of the society in the region, a demand for places in the institutional welfare facilities was also explored.

The author used data collected during own research between September 2018 and April 2019 in the Wielkopolska Province. Based on the results of the conducted surveys residents of social welfare homes were described and level of service received within these facilities was diagnosed. Based on the interviews conducted with directors of these facilities, the author assessed current solutions in place concerning organization of social welfare system.

The analysis of empirical research as well as professional literature allowed to draw a recommendation regarding development of the long-term social welfare system in Wielkopolska Province and in Poland in the short- and long-term perspective.

Amongst the short-term recommendations the author included following: a demand of change in the financing of social welfare homes, increasing expenditure on support granted in the form of environmental benefits, or growing number of assisted living facilities as a form of deinstitutionalization of social services.

As far as long-terms solutions are concerned creation of a brand new, coherent long-term care system along with adequate funding mechanism seems to be of utmost necessity. It is also worth consideration to integrate both healthcare and social care concerning long-term care. Coordination of activities of these two sectors would allow rationalization of public sector expenditures spent on support for people less able to take care of themselves.