

Editorial

The current issue of STSS includes five articles concentrating on three countries: Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. The issue starts with a paper by Vaidas Morkevičius, Giedrius Žvaliauskas, Aelita Ambrulevičiūtė and Zenonas Norkus (2020) on changes in class structures after the Great Recession (2008-14) in Estonia and Lithuania. The analysis is based on data from the European Social Survey. The authors conclude that changes of class structure in Estonia corresponded to general trends, involving the expansion of the higher salariat, the lower white-collar class, and the contraction of manual routine workers. Consequently, by 2015 the class structure of the Estonian society became similar to the class structures in the technologically most advanced post-industrial countries. In Lithuania, the authors indicate the contraction of the lower salariat class. They estimate that class structure changes in Lithuania preserving many features characteristic of industrial societies most likely are decreasing its potential to avoid the middle income trap.

The next two papers deal with ethnic minorities in the Baltic countries. Siim Krusell (2020) compares two concepts (the ethnic and the demographic) for measuring integration and success in the Estonian labour market. The ethnic concept refers to ethnicity, regardless of having an immigrant background or not. The demographic concept instead uses the native or immigrant dimension, usually considering first and second-generation immigrants. Using data from the Labour Force Survey 2013-2014, the author compares the risks of unemployment and overeducation as well as the occupational positions of different groups (native Estonians, native Russian-speaking population, Russian-speaking immigrants and the Russian-speaking population as a whole). The analysis presented in the paper indicates that the figures for the native Russian-speaking population are more like those of the Russian-speaking immigrants. The author concludes that the ethnic concept would be preferable, but if possible, it is recommended to control for possible differences inside the Russian-speaking group by generation.

The paper by Julija Korostenskiene and Anastasija Belovodskaja (2020) explores address terms used in offline and online communication among the Russian ethnic minority of Lithuania. The empirical analysis presented in the paper is based on two data sources: a survey on address terms used in offline communication taking place in the formal/informal setting in the presence/absence of representatives of the titular nation and the qualitative study about the use of address terms in online communication, focusing on two groups on Facebook that bring together Russian-speaking residents of Lithuania. The findings suggest that the Russian ethnic minority of Lithuania presents an emerging new identity of Russian speakers and have implications for future research on the *enregisterment* practices of address terms among Russian speakers of the post-Soviet space.

The following paper by Joanna Kitsing (2020) aims to explore the relationship between the civil society organisations (CSO) and the public sector in Estonia by analysing their experiences and expectations with participatory practices in public policymaking. The qualitative content analysis method is employed by the author to interviews conducted with a total 65 public and third sector representatives. The author concludes that despite the dominant rhetoric about promises of empowerment through participatory practices, this did not emerge from the experiences of the public sector and only in a limited way were they recognised by the CSOs. Acceptance of the plurality of participatory practices has not really taken root in the Estonian public-civic relationships.

The last paper by Jerzy Runge, Tomasz Michalski and Anna Runge (2020) focuses on the meeting of two processes: depopulation and ageing, on the one hand, and utilisation of the recovered subjectivity by local authorities on the other hand in the Katowice conurbation. The analysis of statistical data for 1999 and 2018 and the development strategies of 16 cities and medium-sized towns shows that both the trends in population changes and the policies adopted towards them differ. The authors identify three groups of towns. The first group includes towns that notice the problem of depopulation and aging but marginalise it in development strategies. The second group of towns notices the depopulation and ageing problem and exposes it – both in diagnosis and strategic goals, but focuses on selected activities. Only one town has a multifaceted approach

to the problem. The authors conclude that the level of local governments' preparedness for the challenges posed by depopulation and demographic ageing should be deemed insufficient. The general conclusion shows a need to coordinate the policies of local governments of the entire conurbation for the benefit of multifaceted measures to mitigate depopulation, demographic ageing and urban shrinkage.

This issue is also enriched by the review of two books: *Dimensions of Poverty: Measurement, Epistemic Injustices, Activism*, edited by Valentin Beck, Henning Hahn, and Robert Lepenies (Springer Nature, 2020) reviewed by George Regkoukos, and *Researching Estonian Transformation: Morphogenetic Reflections*, edited by Veronika Kalmus, Marju Lauristin, Signe Opermann, and Triin Vihalemm (University of Tartu Press, 2020), reviewed by Kacper Wańczyk.

References

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