

English Summary

The occupational profile of polish live-in caregivers in Germany

The results of the following study present the occupational profile of polish caregivers who provide homecare services for the elderly in Germany. The caregivers are also characterized as live-in's since they usually live in the household of the care recipient. Applying quantitative empirical methods 904 questionnaires from polish live-in caregivers, 65 questionnaires from homecare service companies, and 94 questionnaires from family members of care recipients have been analyzed in this study. Additionally, qualitative methods such as interviews and journal logs have been applied to collect detailed and comprehensive qualitative data from 11 households in Germany with a polish live-in caregiver. Therefore, to the best of our knowledge, this study is the most comprehensive empirical study regarding homecare services by foreign live-in caregivers in Germany that has been conducted so far. The major results are: main activities by live-in caregivers are house-keeping, low-threshold care and basic nursing (Ger.: „Hauswirtschaft, Betreuung und Grundpflege“). Polish live-ins in Germany on average work 7 hours daily and 200 days a year. They travel to Germany 3-4 times a year and stay 8 weeks each time. In the vast majority of cases polish live-ins conceive their working conditions to be fair and characterized by a high degree of autonomy. The monthly net remuneration after deduction of social contributions and income tax is 1,175 Euro on average. In addition live-ins regularly receive free board and lodge by the host family. Therefore a legal working and fully registered caregiver is financially on equal terms with a German worker from another industry who earns a gross remuneration 2,000 Euro monthly before deduction of social contributions and income tax. Polish caregivers with better German language skills tend to earn more than their colleagues with less language skills.