

From the Editor

Recent months, and even years comprise a period of stormy debates on a family, its shape, role, function and also its social image. It is a striking fact that the places of the discussions are not only academic centers, but national and EU parliaments or various kinds of national and transnational commissions. The result of the discussions is or may be a real substance of the family as such. Realizing the fact led even to moving the debates to the street, where, in protest marches, thousands of people demanded the shape of the family closer to their ideas and beliefs.

The second volume of "Family Forum" fits in this current discussion, though with less emotional baggage. It is also worth mentioning that although the intensity of social protests and legislative efforts to sanction alternative models of a family understood as a union of a man and a woman is mainly observed in western and central Europe, the texts published in this volume refer – besides Poland – to south Europe and south-eastern Europe. It is great pleasure to note that the discussion on the family problem was joined by the Authors from Romania, Slovenia and Hungary, that is from the regions which are less known – at least to the native readers. Reading the papers allows for discovering that problems of contemporary families in the countries of the former socialist bloc, regardless of the regional specificity, are similar and often far from being solved. On the other hand, in the given approaches there are solutions suggested which are worth using.

In accordance with the declaration of the journal program from the first volume that "we intend to create a platform to exchange views on crucial issues concerning family, not ignoring controversial or difficult matters" we publish also other texts relating family problems, dealing with both difficult and interesting issues. It is also great pleasure to welcome the first reviews of publications, which will draw the attention of readers to valuable monographs and collective elaborations. The rich perspective on a family is completed with the reports from some inquisitive and important conferences dealing with the examined topics *in genere* or in any specific aspect.

Since the volume is the continuation of the last year's edition (*Problems of the contemporary family II*), there are only small changes in the graphic layout which is a kind of analogy to the undertaken subject. The arrangement of the strings in different colors intertwined as it is the case in the family with all the wealth of the ties of different personalities, suggested in the previous is-

sue, remains the same, but the color is changed. In this way we want to note that the strings which can also tie knots, very often difficult to disentangle, illustrate problems prevalent in various countries and regions, but in this issue their mapping concerns a different area. Diagnosis of the problems of the contemporary family was undertaken by the Authors from different countries and different scientific disciplines, having various experience and connotations connected with the concept of a family.

On behalf of the Academic Board and Editorial Board of “Family Forum” I would like to invite to join the discussion on the current and future shape of the family. The journal is programmatically open to the interdisciplinary and integral approach, for these are the characteristic markers of the family itself as well as of the problems of this range. We want to collect comments of all people for whom the family and the problems it faces are allied, and who are ready to undertake new challenges faced by the family, regardless of the country of origin and residence, their ideological options or academic centers and disciplines they represent. The following volumes of the journal are to concentrate on the issue of a place of a family in the changing world and on the issues concerning methodology of research on family.

We are grateful to all the Authors publishing in this volume, Reviewers, Translators and Proofreaders for their care for high substantive quality of the Journal and we wish the readers fruitful reading.

Piotr Morciniec
The chief editor of “Family Forum”