

From the Editor

Phenomena with the considerable degree of complexity, and undoubtedly such is the family institution, require an appropriate scientific approach to make the acquired results and the emerging image an accurate description of reality. If this is a new scientific discipline (Family Studies), which quite recently has got acknowledged as a humanistic study discipline, that tries to point out and define the research perspective, the significance of the task seems to be unquestionable. We are publishing with great satisfaction and pleasure a subsequent volume of Family Forum for critical reading, devoted to the problems of scientific approach method. The aim of this volume, entitled “Methodology of family research”, is to cope with the problem of developing appropriate research instruments in the scope of family issues.

Family Studies are characterized by a high level of interdisciplinary nature, so they need an adequate, also interdisciplinary methodology and at the same time methodology that analyses the phenomenon integrally. The research project that has been carried out gathers the comments in the discussion on methodological approach of the formally established field of science which were formed by researchers of various fields, mostly sociology and psychology. Various perspectives and research models were contrasted with each other. Since the research was focused on searching for the methodology appropriate for a native approach to the family research, articles in this volume are dominated by the researchers from various research centres in Poland. The participants were represented interdisciplinarily by different research centres in Poland, but there were also Opole university teachers. A part of the texts – according to the ideological declaration of the Family Forum magazine as an international periodical – was prepared by foreign authors. Notable scientists from various countries in Europe belong to the Academic Board of the magazine.

The Editor of the volume made successful efforts to compile different methodological approaches in family research, both as an autonomous unit and its separate areas and phenomena a family is connected with. Theoretical models that were applied in family research and quality methods used in such research were analysed within the project, but also methodological problems of research were related to different age groups – the youth, couples and the elderly. Illus-

trating practically the complexity of the problems, the methodological questions were directed to specific problems such as disease or childlessness. There were also other family issues to cope with – the problems concerning euro-orphanhood, communication and satisfaction in the family and the question of social egg freezing. The rich view of the family is traditionally completed with the reports from some inquisitive and important scientific conferences dealing with the examined topics *in genere* or in any other specific aspect.

A regular – as regards the pattern – graphic layout indicates the substance of the volume (in the colourful square). That is the regular motif of intertwined strings in different colours which indicate families and their multiple problems and illustrate all the wealth of the ties, attitudes and personalities within the family. The distinctive element in the present volume are the keys which are to show the essence of the problem, since the question of the research methodology is the question of finding the right key or keys “to open” the passage to understand this complex reality.

On behalf of the Academic Board and Editorial Board of “Family Forum” I would like to invite again to join the discussion on the current and future shape of the family. The journal is with its programme open to the interdisciplinary and integral approach, for these are the characteristic markers of the family itself as well as of the problems of the scope. All people who are ready to undertake new challenges faced by the family are particularly invited, regardless of the country of origin and residence, their ideological options or academic centers and disciplines they represent. The following volume of the journal will concentrate on showing the integral description of the family in its complexity and extensiveness of the research on it.

We are grateful to all the Authors publishing in this volume, its Editor, Reviewers, Translators and Proofreader for their care for high substantive quality of the journal. We also want to share a joyful piece of information that the journal is already in a few international magazine bases and it is going to have its web page in 2014. We wish all the readers fruitful reading.

Piotr Morciniec
The chief editor of “Family Forum”