

## **Social and Health Care in Germany: The Role of Migration Background in Old Age**

Recent gerontological literature on older migrants mostly focuses on their health and health care needs with a focus on the cumulative disadvantages. The premigration experiences, personal characteristics, post-migration experiences in the host country, and home country's EU membership status are important elements of migrants' ageing process. Even though the effects of cumulative disadvantages through life course is an undeniable fact, the socio gerontological research needs to be uplift by developing a more comprehensive point of view. Some studies show that older adults with an immigrant background tend to have lower levels of health status compared to non-migrants and they also tend to underuse public care and prefer informal support from their children. On the other hand as a consequence of the changing nature of family and the fact that there can be more than one generations to take care simultaneously, new social and health care practices will be needed in the near future.

The older migrants are a highly heterogeneous social group with various acceptations about care and caregiver. The academical research needs to accept them as active social actors who know their needs for best. HORIZON 2020 agenda highlights the need for giving the individuals and local actors a more inclusive role in the social policy-making process. In light of this, the idea of this study is to understand the daily life practices and interactions in old age. According to the social capital literature, formal and informal networks and the support resources that embodied in them are important trajectories of older adults' life. Also, neighbourhood services and amenities have a significant role, too. A picture of daily life can capture older adults' capability and strategies to provide a more independent ageing experience. By doing so, local policy instruments can be developed from bottom-to-top to support older adults in a more efficient way.

The aim of the research is to understand if there is a statistically significant relationship between being a migrant and social and health care. I will use the data from the 5<sup>th</sup> wave of Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). SHARE is a cross-national, multidisciplinary, household-based panel survey using nationally representative samples of 15 countries of 50 years and older, non-institutionalized population. The research question is: How is migration background is associated with social and health care in old age in Germany? There are 5617 respondents in the sample. Several variables of 1) Access to local amenities and services, 2) The personal or practical care which is both given and taken, and 3) The social contacts with children and parents will be analysed.

**Keywords: Older migrants, social care, health care, social capital, social policy.**