

## Abstract

Western countries are facing an increasing poverty among seniors related to the demographic revolution and lengthening of life span. The so-called over-indebtedness is one of the "modern" causes and also consequences of poverty. This thesis discusses the relationship between over-indebtedness and poverty with emphasis on senior population (65+). An empiric analysis is employed to explore causes and consequences of over-indebtedness.

The increasing over-indebtedness is already being targeted by public policies, however their effectiveness is low. Sufficient material and personal resources are lacking as well as not being optimally utilized. There is only limited cooperation between civil and public-law sectors. Communication with the private sector in a way of common goal setting is also deficient. In a fierce market-driven economy, elderly people become a weak link and find themselves in situations conflicting with morals, human and civil rights, and adequate quality of life in a modern society. This state of affairs threatens social integrity and demands a solution.

Three participating groups were surveyed: the elderly, the employees of advisory centers and the non-bank financial institutions. Various approaches to solving the problem are discussed. The result of the analysis consists of a wide range of solution proposals and particular policy recommendations.