

Abstract

Cultural and socio-economic changes taking place in recent decades determine demographic changes. Among other things, the population age structure becomes reorganized. The progressive societies aging phenomenon implies the need to modify many aspects of human existence on an individual, local, national and global scale. As a society, we are obliged to ensure decent living conditions for every individual, with particular emphasis on the growing population of the elderly. At the same time, our task is to enable the fulfillment of their needs, aspirations, personal development as well as the use of potential and resources at the disposal of individual people. Seniors are a special social group. Professional work occupies an important place in human existence, it is a source of financial resources, it is a space for meeting social needs and self-realization. Most seniors have ceased professional activity and are receiving retirement allowances. Therefore, the activation of the elderly in other areas of existence becomes a necessity, their involvement in the life of the community. One of the institutions activating representatives of the oldest generation is the University of the Third Age. The offer of classes covers a wide range of scientific disciplines, types of proposed activities, e.g. physical, cultural, while creating a platform for meeting the social or mental needs of students.

This study addresses the issue of activating students of the University of the Third Age, while comparing the data obtained among respondents in Poland and the Czech Republic. The aim of the analyzes is an attempt to diagnose the situation of seniors in both environments as well as the possibility of applying the results in social practice.