

## **Mixed marriages in culturally diversified environments – viewed from the perspective of the community of schools with Polish as the teaching language abroad**

### **Summary**

Due to its diversity, character, important social role, many interactions taking place within its structures and the external influences, family is in the unceasing research focus of scientists representing many disciplines. My study pertains to the issues of family in the multicultural environment, yet my special interest is in mixed marriages who live abroad on a permanent or temporary basis and who share the same experience of co-creating the (community of) school with Polish as the teaching language.

The structure of the work involves three parts: the theoretical, methodological and empirical one. The first concerns the description of family life, its transformations over the decades, and the specification of the unchangeable foundations of family life. Then, the essence of marital relations is characterized and the contexts in which they are described in expert literature are provided. What is also indicated is the potential of mixed marriages, understood here by me as the social and cultural capital of these families. Another undertaken issue are the identity determinants in the functioning of mixed marriages – on the basis of some selected theoretical concepts, the process of identity shaping in heterogeneous families is discussed. The theoretical part ends with a chapter devoted to school in the culturally heterogeneous environment, in which I present the framework of the activity of schools educating in Polish abroad.

In the second part, the methodological assumptions of my research are presented. In my studies, the quantitative-qualitative approach is applied, which allows for obtaining the broadest view in the analysis and interpretation of the explored issues.

The last, empirical part comprises the discussion of the research results and the conclusions. Due attention is paid here to the issues of the identity, situation, and image of mixed marriages in the investigated culturally diversified environments. The role of school with Polish as the teaching language is discussed in (and for) the culturally diverse environments in the explored school communities in Austria, France and the Czech Republic. What follows is the characterization of the activities conducted by communities of schools educating in Polish in some selected European countries for mixed families and marriages. In the end, an attempt is undertaken to specify the prospects of the school system with Polish as the teaching language abroad.

**Keywords:** culturally diversified environment, family, mixed marriage, school with Polish as the teaching language, identity behaviours