

# CEOQA

LTC network

Quality and cost-effectiveness in long-term care and dependency prevention



## POLICY SUMMARY: POLAND

### Senior-WIGOR

Stanisława Golinowska, Institute for Public Health – Collegium Medicum  
UJ / Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)

Agnieszka Sowa-Kofta, Center for Social and Economic Research  
(CASE) / Institute of Labour and Social Studies

September 2017



Policy theme	Development of day care institutions
Design and implementation level	National design, locally implemented
Policy objective	Creation of new Senior-WIGOR day care facilities and support of existing day care facilities for older people who are not active in the labour market
Start date – End date	June 2015 – 2020

## Aims

- supporting local governments in implementation of the law on social assistance with respect to creation and assurance of care in day care homes
- provision of care, education, health education, information, rehabilitation and recreation for active seniors in a local community environment
- improvement in quality of life of seniors

## Implementation

The Senior-WIGOR programme responds to the strategic goals proposed in the government document *Preconditions for Long-Term Senior Policy in Poland for the Period of 2014–2020* and aims at creation of facilities in care and education.

It takes the form of an annual budget granted to local governments throughout the country which is to be used for development of day care facilities for older people who are not active in the labour market.

Participation in the programme is voluntary. Implementation of activities can take place in partnership with third sector (non-governmental) organizations.

Local governments might apply for a grant by presenting a proposal to create or give financial support to a day care centre for older people living in a community. The day

care centres to be created should be based on pre-existing infrastructure.

The project also aims to allocate financial resources to rebuild existing facilities or adapt them to the needs of older dependent people. Standards of facilities, types of activities provided and employment standards are laid down in the programme and have to be met.

In 2016, an evaluation of the programme took place pointing to the poor participation in the programme, problems with long-term sustainability of financing and too rigid employment and infrastructure standards.

Starting from 2017 the programme was renamed to Senior+. Since then within the programme also day care centers can be established.

## Target group

Older people (aged 60+) who are not active in the labour market, living in a community

---

## Eligibility criteria

Each year applications submitted to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy are evaluated by experts and policymakers and grants are made based on evaluation results. Applications should include a needs assessment. Preference is given to local governments which:

- foresee creation of community care for seniors in their strategic plans
- have a higher proportion of older people in the local community

- have lower incomes per capita
- have poor care infrastructure for older people.

Since 2016 preference is given to projects targeted at 30% of beneficiaries with incomes per capita in household below twice the social assistance income threshold. In the Senior+ programme (2017) employment and facilities' infrastructure requirements are lowered.

---

## Resources

The programme is funded from the central (national) budget. During the whole period of the programme's implementation a total budget of PLN 370 million is anticipated. In the first year of the project (2015) PLN 30 million was budgeted.

Resources in the programme can be used for:

- Creation of a new day care facility based on adaptation of existing infrastructure. The overall funding cannot exceed PLN 250,000 per project, out of which 180 thousand can be used for infrastructure adaptation and PLN 70,000 for equipment.
- Support of an existing day care created within the programme. Co-financing of the

day care centre cannot exceed one-third of the actual costs per one person (place) in the centre or PLN 200 monthly.

Applicants should be able to co-fund 20% the project and a grant can be given up to 80% of the total cost of the project.

Creation, adaptation and equipment of day care centres within the programme can be financed from the central budget and from local governments' budgets only, while the everyday activity of the centre can be co-funded from individual (clients') payments.

The proportions of funding for the activities of the centre should be: not more than one-third from the programme and two-thirds from the local government's budget and individual payments.

---

## Performance assessment and monitoring

Monitoring is performed quarterly and annually. It covers: financial reports, number of centres created, number of beneficiaries (total and per activity).

Information and data is collected electronically.

The programme is supervised by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy.

Review of the programme took place in first half of 2016.

---

## Evidence of success

(outcomes, quality, satisfaction, awareness)

The mid-term evaluation took place in the first half of 2016.

While low interest of local governments and poor response to the programme was reported, users of services (seniors) highly evaluated established Senior-Wigor facilities.

There is quantifiable evidence of the number of local projects (day care centres) funded:

- In 2015: 99 local projects were funded
- In 2016: 146 local projects (but only 49 new ones) were funded
- In 2017: 35 Senior+ day care centers and 96 Senior+ clubs are planned

---

## Transferability/Uniqueness

Difficult to assess at this stage.

---

## Is this an emergent practice? Degree of innovation

While not being very innovative, the programme responds well to the need for new community care, especially in less developed, poorer areas.

---

## Sustainability

Local governments are obliged to keep results (i.e. day care facilities created) for at least a year since funding was granted. During this period local government has to provide reports on its public activities to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy.

Long-term sustainability – in the years following the financing period of the project – might be questionable and depends on the financial position of local governments.

---

## Academic literature on this action

Not yet in place.

---

## Documents

Uchwała nr 34 Rady Ministrów z dnia 17 marca 2015 r.

Program wieloletni Senior-WIGOR na lata 2015–2020 (Council of Ministers Resolution establishing the programme, in Polish): [www.monitorpolski.gov.pl/MP/2015/341](http://www.monitorpolski.gov.pl/MP/2015/341)

Supreme Audit Office [NIK] (2017a), *Informacja o wynikach kontroli. Opieka nad osobami starszymi w dziennych domach pomocy*: [www.nik.gov.pl/plik/id,13998,vp,16444.pdf](http://www.nik.gov.pl/plik/id,13998,vp,16444.pdf)

---