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This paper examines the links between social entrepreneurship (social economy) and the aging population in the Malopolska region (Lesser Poland Voivodship). The main objective of the study is to identify the potential of Malopolska's social entrepreneurship entities (SEE; X variable) and to determine the relationship between this potential and the possibility of buffering the problem of the aging population of the voivodeship (Y variable). The study used mixed methods, i.e. quantitative-qualitative. The dissertation is established in a theoretical-empirical character and consists of five chapters.

Chapter 1 ("The Social Entrepreneurship in the Economy and Society") presents definitional issues, particularly placing social entrepreneurship against within the area of the so-called third sector. The historical value of social entrepreneurship is explained, and the reasons for the current interest in it in the policies of the EU and some countries are shown. The role of social entrepreneurship in the economy and society is assessed.

In Chapter 2 ("The aging as a modern civilization challenge"), the first section is devoted to preliminary findings, including the determination of the onset of old age, the second describes the various dimensions of the aging phenomenon, and the third examines the health, economic and socio-cultural consequences of the aging process.

Chapter 3 ("The older persons in Lesser Poland Voivodship") serves to present and analyze the population of older persons („seniors”) living in Małopolska. The most common diseases, disability status, level of geriatric care and subjective feelings of health were examined; housing conditions, sources of income and streams of expenditure, risk of poverty and leisure activities, as well as place in the family model, social contacts and activities, and hierarchy of values were analyzed.

Chapter 4 ("Methodology of own research") presents the methodological basis of the research used in the dissertation. The subject of the empirical research is described, the most important variables are identified, the research objectives and questions are defined, and the stages, methods and techniques of the research procedure are presented.

In the broadest 5th chapter ("The potential, barriers and effects of the activity of Małopolska social entrepreneurship entities for the benefit of seniors in the light of own research"), an analysis of the situation of SEE in the context of aging is undertaken. Sources of funding for Małopolska PSs and their financial stability were analyzed, as well as the expectations of Małopolska seniors themselves in their living situation and of social enterprises towards seniors. Then the issue of cooperation of Małopolska SEE with the environment, especially with local governments, was shown. The points of contact between Małopolska PS and seniors were also examined, especially the offer directed to the voivodship's elderly residents. Attitudes and assistance of SEE towards seniors during the pandemic, SEE innovation and labor market issues towards seniors were addressed.

A synthetic answer to the main research question is that social entrepreneurial entities operating in Małopolska have the necessary potential for undertaking activities related to the aging of the province's population, but the extent of their involvement and the effects of their activities are too insignificant to consider them a suitable partner for the effective mitigation of the aging of Małopolska's population. However, skillful support of the potential of Małopolska's SEE gives hope for its effective use and can play a sizable role in the voivodship's social policy.