Beyond Social Investment: Active Ageing Profiles in Lithuania

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In recent years welfare states have adopted elements of the social investment paradigm. It is a comprehensive approach to social policy, that emphasizes investing in human capital, providing individuals with the resources and skills to promote social safety over the lifetime. Even though social investment spans a life course, in current literature there is still a void of empirical evidence to explain how social investment affects older individuals, particularly at the individual level.

On account of this, the purpose is to discuss the results of social investment in the old age. The research is grounded on the active aging model which is based on the Health, Lifelong Learning, Participation and Security pillars, and secondary data analysis of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (wave 8). Data analysis was conducted by applying Principal Component Analysis and Cluster Analysis. As a result, following the active aging model, older adults were classified into four active aging profiles (low activity; moderate activity; balanced activity; high activity). The first two profiles are characterized by high average age, low lifelong learning level, low work activity, a large share of social benefits in income, and small social network, last two profiles are characterized by better conditions.