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“The market vs. unpaid home production. Inter-generational transfers of production and consumption in Poland”

Households is probably the most unobserved sector of the whole economy. The household production is the biggest aggregate which has no reflection in the current European System of National Accounts (ESA). Only a minor part of the households' production, the market production, is registered in the GDP. The market value of that production amounts for less than 10-15% of the total household production (Eurostat 1999, 2003).

The most important and the valuable component is a non-market household production, e.g. childcare, cleaning, cooking, providing clothes, voluntary work. The major amount of that production nearly 80% is the unpaid household production which is outside the GDP (Błaszczak-Przybycińska & Marszalek 2019; Marszalek 2015; Varjonen, Hamunen & Soinnie 2014; Varjonen & Aalto 2006). The non-market household work, e.g. childcare or adult care, is underestimated because it is made and consumed by the same household for own use and commonly it is realized in parallel with other housework. In Time Use Survey respondents declare that primary activity is cooking dinner or cleaning, while the secondary activity is a childcare or adult care. The analysis of the Time Use Survey indicates that even if the monetary value of housework and home production is estimated, the entire output of production is unrecognizable in the official statistics.

Total time spend on non-market activities is estimated in the Household Production Satellite Accounts (HPSA), which is completely compliant with standards of European System of National Accounts (ESA) used in all European Union countries. The HPSA aggregate the both, market and non-market household production in the full sequence of accounts, which are calculated according to the same methodology as the other sectors in the economy. Moreover home production has not only an economic impact, but it also acts as a register of the transfers between generations and families. The National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA) combine the production and consumption across the life course allocation (Mason & Lee, 2011). It leads to a better understanding of interactions between demographic, social and economic contexts of different areas of consumption and labour market participation of subsequent generations.

The both HPSA and NTTA ensure the entire overview of total home production, including household's products delivered to the market as well as homemade goods and services offered for an own use or for needs of the other household members.

The main aim of the household production satellite account (HPSA) is to estimate the value of the unpaid work, intermediate consumption and capital (depreciation). The sum of those three main economic categories provides the information about household production. The HPSA presents the market home production which is observed in the national accounts, and the valuation of non-market (unpaid) household production. The monetary value of the non-market household production is the most interesting and desirable information not only for the government, decision-makers, national statistical office, Central Bank, international institutions, but also for the business entities and entrepreneurs.

The estimation of the monetary value of households production allows determining the real contribution of households in creating added value in the economy and conducting detailed analyses of the level and quality of life. The Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA) is a statistical sequence of accounts, which is additional tool to aggregate information about value of unpaid work generated in households. Moreover, other similar compilation, the National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA) presents the intergenerational transfers of production and consumption of women and men. The results of both analyses ensure the comprehensive overview of a real impact of household sector to the general national economy.

The estimation of household work in Poland, based on harmonized time use survey were made twice: in 2004 and in 2013 (Błaszczak-Przybycińska, 2008). The first full sequence of accounts titled as the Household Production Account for Poland was developed for 2011 (Marszałek, 2015). It was proven that the value of the households work constitutes approx. 80% of the total value of the households production, while the total value of the households production in relation to GDP amounted approx. 52.8%.

The first estimation of NTTA for Poland in 2013 indicates that the group which is the highest receivers are children aged in 0-6, and next 6-10. Economically, the most valuable producers of non-market production are women, primarily aged in 25-35, and 50+. The men are more home productive aged 28-40 when they are married or cohabitated. The oldest single household men produce more than other male cohorts, but usually for own use and not for their families.

The NTTA empower the information about directions of transfers and also recognizes the persons who are the givers or receivers of home production. The overview of the total time transfers could be used for advanced analyses of population changes, quality of life, work and home life balance, and for many different areas, e.g. social policy, pension system.

Providing the regular calculation of the HPSA and the NTTA, will allow recognition and better understanding of the transfers and interactions between the market and households. The value and size of goods and services produced by households can be compared with similar products produced on the market by enterprises.

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