

## From the Editor

The changing face of the family is not only confirmed by sociological research, but also the average person is often confronted with significant changes in this area. In professional language, writing about “alternative family models” no longer surprises anyone, although it is constantly worth asking whether it would be better to talk about the existence of different “alternatives to the family”. Addressing the issue of family change in the current volume tightens the decade of publication of the year’s issue, since the first text of the first volume of “Family Forum” (2011) analysed the evolution of the concept of family itself, while most of the texts oscillated around issues of family identity. The author of the first article postulated that, instead of repeating pessimistic theories about the crisis of the family, we should face the undoubted fact that the understanding of the family is evolving, and that such an evolution may have the dimension of progress or degeneration. After a decade, it seems necessary to re-examine the subject of research published in the journal, i. e. radically different and sometimes consciously antagonized concepts and models of the family. After ten years, the voice of many Authors will sound polyphonic, who, from the point of view of different fields and scientific disciplines, undertook to investigate the “place” on the path of the mentioned evolution, where the family or quasi-family relations currently find themselves. Announcing this volume of the year’s issue, I wrote a year ago that a sound scientific discussion requires a definition of the basic terms. We accept this challenge with the hope of an optimistic future for the family, understood in different ways.

The palette of issues in the twelfth volume of the year is rich. Going out to the unquestionable meaning of the house (family) as such, in the following texts it was possible to isolate several leading trends. On the one hand, the authors examined the young generation’s approach to marriage, the contexts of delayed leaving the family home, and the impact of single-parent families on the affective maturity of young people. On the other hand, there were intra-family changes in the face of addiction, disability, emigration or the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Another perspective is the perception of the family by foster parents or court guardians. The view was complemented by texts about

the role of the family in the collision with disease, suffering and the experience of leaving. In each of these areas, the family appears as an opportunity for development, as a possible support, but in order to play a positive role, it is necessary at least to be aware of the potential that the family has.

As the Editorial Staff, we also value methodological texts concerning the restored scientific discipline – family science and the created new field of science, which is the field of family science. An in-depth study of this new reality and the identification of the opportunities it offers for the study of the family is and will continue to be of fundamental importance.

In the next volume – after redefining the understanding of the family – we want to invite researchers to face the problem of supporting the family and for the family. Since we start from an optimistic view of the future, while being aware of the weaknesses, challenges and imperfections and shortcomings of the family reality, we want to focus the published texts around the question: “how can we help the family?” It is known that from the perspective of different theories the answers will be different, but it is to be hoped that from these fragments it will be possible to create a vision – hopefully holistic, not just patchwork – of the support that the family needs, which is often “at hand”, but without help it will not be applied to specific problems and difficulties. As every year, we invite you to share with the Readers the results of your research on this problem area on the pages of “Family Forum”. We also invite you to publish your personal thoughts and experiences on the subject of the journal in the Reports section, while drawing attention to the very current text on the need to re-examine the definition of the human embryo adopted in the rulings of the Court of Justice of the EU in the context of the most recent research, published in this volume. It is also a good tradition of the journal to publish research on topics that have already been featured in our pages in previous years.

The graphic design of the year’s issue’s cover is annually a harbinger of the theme of the year. The “content-related square”, which changes in each volume is once again an attempt to illustrate the research problem by means of an arrangement of coloured strings, whose multi-colour and arrangement symbolically reflect the complexity of the family’s reality and the problems it faces.

The scientific, substantive and linguistic quality of the journal is the result of the efforts of many people, to whom I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Editorial Staff of “Family Forum”. First of all, I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Council of the journal, which consists of outstanding scientists from different scientific disciplines and from different European countries for their constructive cooperation. I would like to thank all of you,

Authors of the texts, for reliable cooperation and concern for the scientific quality of the texts submitted for publication. We want to appreciate the academic competence of the Dear Reviewers, which results in the growing quality of the volume. Proofreaders and Translators are due for the language side, while the final form of each volume from the technical side is due to the Technical Editor and all the Members of the Editorial Staff of “Family Forum”.

We wish all readers who use both versions of the journal (printed and virtual) an interesting reading.

Piotr Morciniec  
„Family Forum” Editor-in-Chief

