

## **Family ties, residential proximity and geographical mobility among older people**

In the context of ageing societies, the uneven distribution of vulnerability factors and their effects requires closer examination. For instance, individuals with few relatives or with family members living far away may face difficulties in meeting their care needs. Retirement can further exacerbate social inequalities, particularly when combined with social isolation and poor health. A better understanding of these dynamics is essential for designing effective policies to address vulnerability and its consequences.

While much of the existing literature has focused on youth mobility due to their role as drivers of economic growth, research on later-life internal migration and residential proximity has only recently gained attention. This growing interest is largely driven by the ageing of larger cohorts entering later life with better health and higher incomes than previous generations.

Residential trajectories and living arrangements among older people are often shaped by family ties and the desire to live closer to family members, frequently motivated by the need for support and care, particularly when moderate forms of disability arise. Additional motivations may include the wish to return to one's place of origin or preferences related to the living environment. As far as residential trajectories are concerned, a counter-urban migration trend has been observed in several contexts. However, when severe chronic disabilities occur, combined with the absence of children or close kin, relocation tends to involve institutional care facilities.

Drawing on retrospective and longitudinal data, the research will focus on: 1) cohort changes in living conditions, family ties, and residential proximity to family members among older adults, and 2) later-life geographical mobility.

The research activity will specifically involve the use of data from the SHARE survey and the ISTAT "Famiglia e Soggetti Sociali" survey.

This project is part of the broader Age-It project, Challenge 1 ("The Demography of Ageing: A Data Science Approach to Decision Making"), Task 2.5 "Life Courses in Old Age: Retirement, Family, and Residential Trajectories."

The purpose of the fellowship is to support activities related to data preparation and analysis, as well as the review of relevant literature.