

individualism, students with temporary jobs, who, after finishing their studies seek professional success and relatively high economic status through hard work and long working hours. This is why they do not, unlike their parents and grandparents in the past, make decisions on early marriages but aspire to professional fulfilment and social security. Therefore, they consider cohabitation to be an attractive form of emotional commitment which provides favourable conditions for self-fulfilment. Such a relationship may eventually be legalized (cohabitation being preliminary to marriage) (A. Kwak 1995, pp 145–146) or may end up in breakdown.

The research reveals that the surveyed students were young members of society who will soon start their own families. Family according to W. Świątkiewicz (W. Świątkiewicz 1998, p. 9) is 'the smallest but at the same time the most important part of social life.' The surveyed students claimed that cohabitation relationships are required and as such should exist. It will be for them to decide whether to get married or live in cohabitation.

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