

Abstracts

Pulay, Gyula: The necessity and the possibilities of the registration of ethnic identity

We know very little about the real effects of the public welfare and antipoverty measures or even of the so called Romani programmes (programmes targeted directly to the needs of the Romani population) on the living conditions of the Romani population. There are not appropriate surveys, registers from which one can exactly determine what the portion of the Romanises is among the beneficiaries of the programmes. The article reasons – by practical, legal and political arguments – besides the necessity of the proper – both in legal and professional sense - registration of data related to ethnicity. The author underlines that for checking whether a programme is well targeted and effective it is enough to determine the proportion of the Romanises among the participants at different stages of the programme, and usually it is not necessary to register who is Romani among the participants of the programme. The article presents the possibilities for the registration of ethnicity related data during the implementation of public welfare programmes and programmes targeted to the neediest.

Virág, Tünde: Poor people in the captivity of small settlements – the everyday practice of social policy in the settlements of a disadvantaged region

In the paper the author, based on a study carried out in a disadvantaged, ghettoized region, describes and analyses the everyday supporting and public employment practice of local governments. On the basis of interviews with mayors and notaries, and observations, the study presents how the measures of welfare policies change in everyday practice in settlements lacking resources and without institutions, where those families live in majority who have been pushed out of the primary labour market and who depend on income from welfare payments, public employment and informal work opportunities. It is shown through examples how the supporting and the public employment practice delegated to the level of settlements forms the paternalistic, dependent structures inherited from the past, and how all this holds the families in the captivity of small settlements.

Albert, József and Kalocsai, Adrienn: „Towering inferno”. Slum formation in the town of Veszprém

The study investigates the living conditions and human relations in a block of flats in Veszprém, which was originally built as accommodation for workers but by now has acquired the nickname „Towering Inferno”. The authors hypothesise that the current situation has come about as the result of a process of slum formation. They attempted to grasp the symptoms of slum formation by investigating five factors: 1. unfavourable housing conditions, 2. lower levels of schooling, employment and income compared to the rest of the town Veszprém, 3. prevalence of deviances, 4. social stigmatization, 5. slim chances of being able to move from the flats. The authors believe that a slum may form within just one block of flats. The study was conducted with the help of the students of the Archiepiscopal Theological College of Veszprém. Questionnaires were administered to two thirds of the inhabitants (61 households); 30 additional interviews were made with some of the inhabitants, and representatives of municipal institutes who were in contact with the „house” (health care, police, social workers, etc.). The data gained from the questionnaires were compared to statistics of the town of Veszprém. The hypothesis was confirmed: the slum formation originally caused by

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poverty became ethnicised and conflicts between gypsies and „Hungarians“ became more frequent. The authors also propose ways to improve the situation or solve the problem: one of these is a radical eradication; the other is a more gradual method which requires coordinated assistance.

Bill Jordan: Social work and world poverty

This article analyses the position of social work in relation to world poverty by examining the implications of the integration of the world economy (globalization) for the organization and practice of the profession. The shift from national welfare states to international non- governmental projects as a strategy for the relief of poverty has recast the settings for social work in the developing world. This is graphically illustrated in the literature of the World Bank, and of many other organizations with a stake in new programmes. But there is something suspiciously glossy and self-congratulatory about much of the rhetoric that accompanies these initiatives, and this may be because they reflect an approach deriving from global capital, as part of its systematic integration of the world economy.

Verdes, Tamás: “The house is owned by the institute.” On the cutting down, humanization and modernization of total institutions

Subsection (5) of Section 29 of Act XXVI. of 1998 on the legal status and equal opportunities of people with disabilities rules: „The large residential institutions for people with disabilities gradually, but not later than January 1st 2010 have to be transformed, so that those of the disabled who, with professional help, can be self-sufficient will have to be placed in community homes. Also for people living with severe disabilities, who require constant care, a modernized and more humane institutional placement has to be provided.“ These goals have not even been approximated, yet. The study attempts to find the reasons of the failure and shows that they can be found mainly not in the lack of financial foundations of the reform, but in a complex matrix of interests and vulnerabilities of the actors in the present system. First of all the study tries to explore what social forces can be found behind the artificially maintained demand for total institutions in the present. It also will try to conduct a critical enquiry of the academic discourse on the topic, of the non governmental movements in the same field and of the relevant issues of socio-politics and codification. The author argues that despite the different intentions of the actors the inertia of the current system was what finally made maintaining the structure of total institutions favourable to all of them, and determined all the attempts for reform to fail.

Vinczéné Menyhárt, Mária: The child of 18th century recatholisation: the first institutional orphanage in Hungary.

In the study the author presents the circumstances and reasons behind the establishment of the first orphanage of Hungary in Kőszeg during the 1750s. By placing the first decades of its operation into the focus the author emphasizes the role the Jesuit Order played by contributing to the survival of the institute and to the development of its importance, as well as the significance of efforts for recatholisation and counter-reformation relating to the Order. The statements are based on archive resources as well as resources from specialised literature. The study highlights the elements of a complex two- way relationship. In most of the cases the orphans managed to escape from poverty and ignorance in return for giving up their original faith, while the Catholic Church gained additional followers by providing care for the children.