

ABSTRACTS

Judit Csoba: Social service or social control?

In recent years the welfare state seems increasingly retreating also in Hungary. In our experience the state has significant backlog in reducing social inequalities and guaranteeing the satisfaction of existential needs. The transformation of the welfare model and the changes in the economic, social and political environment inevitably bring changes in the role of social workers as well. This widespread role change raises a serious professional and ethical debate. The discussion focuses on the marginalization of welfare benefits, services and activities and the strengthening expectations for social control. The aim of this study is justifying the changing role expectations of social workers from social services to social control on the basis of a research on social workers working with long-term unemployed clients.

Adrea Rácz: Appearance of prejudiced thinking in child protection

The recent changes in the structure of child protection, in the field of finance and law, made the experts face great challenges. The *Is the state a good parent?* research findings reinforce the professionals feelings concerning the crisis of the profession and the need for the renewal of child protection and change in the mentality of the professionals. The results of the research draw the attention to the emerged prejudiced attitude as a result of the profession's identity crisis. In the research we aim to reveal the factors that (can) cause prejudiced thinking in the profession regarding the primary (children and young adults) and the secondary (family) target group. The phenomenon can be traced back to many factors: 1) in the rapidly changing child protection professionals feel that they have not got professional instruments, without standardized practices we cannot talk about professional operation; 2) their middle-class value basis is very different from the clients' value system, the exclusion can be resulted from their socialization; 3) in the deteriorating economic and social environment even the professionals feel themselves oppressed or helpless, since like the clients, many of them has financial difficulties; 4) the prejudiced thinking is amplified by the current (public) policy directions.

Franz Hamburger: European strength test

After the European Parliament elections of 2014 it has become again clear: the heads of governments decide on the President of the Commission, the Parliament has nothing to say. However, the permanent democratic deficit of the European Union is only a structural problem of the EU. It is neither a social union, because the states are in competition with each other and the economically strong Germany ruins other states in competition. The financial capital has the power, the

governments have to function under its rules. The (relative) loyalty of the citizens is ensured by specific programs and many ideologies. Europe strives for an imperial position to the outside world. Europe is currently characterized by the reemergence of nationalism and racism. One of the few pro-European arguments is to work against them.