

# ABSTRACTS

## **Thomas Faist: On the transnational social question: How social inequalities are reproduced in Europe**

What are the consequences of cross-border employment and social protection practices for social inequalities in Europe? The transnational social question is a multifaceted one: it is linked not only to inequalities generated by heterogeneities such as class, gender, ethnicity, legal status and religion, but also to the perception that cross-border interdependence has grown and that transnational interactions themselves have become a criterion for differentiation. International migration is of strategic significance for an understanding of the transnational social question, because it reveals the cross-connections of the fragmented world of social protection. In particular, it provides a window into the social mechanisms that support social protection across borders and how these mitigate old and generate new social inequalities.

## **Adrienn Gyóry and Anna Orosz: Social inclusion through the empowerment of local stakeholders: an exemplary case of the Czech Republic**

One of the several initiatives that have been taken to halt the severe segregation processes in the Czech Republic, brings valuable experience to the Visegrad countries. In this article we discuss the birth of the Czech Agency for Social Inclusion, its working model and impact. The Agency helps municipalities of socially excluded localities to promote social inclusion. The complex, tailor-made and long-term approach to problem-solving is central to the success of the initiative. The main goal of the Agency is to empower municipalities to sustain and manage projects aiming at social inclusion by the time the direct support of the Agency ends. The case of the Agency can serve as a valuable experience in the Hungarian context because it demonstrates how an extensive and diverse system of state institutions with capacity problems and weak patterns of institutional cooperation patterns can be made more successful in a cost-effective way.

## **Péter Mózer, Katalin Tausz and Attila Varga: Changes in the social assistance system**

Since the adoption of the Social Act in 1993 many proposals have been published about the comprehensive restructuring of the social assistance system. Nevertheless, they mostly remained on the drawing board. Although the idea of the 'work-based society' logically leads to the modification of the social assistance scheme, yet it was somewhat unexpected when in 2014 the Hungarian government effected it, so from 1st of March 2015 the social assistance system has been changed significantly. One of the greatest changes in the new system is the decentraliza-

tion of administration. The widespread local government responsibilities have been further weakened, some benefits have been centralized, and the financing has been tailored to the transformation. The study evaluates the new situation from two aspects: how the effected changes can serve the alleviation of poverty, and whether the new system abolishes the former dysfunctions.

### **Philip RJ Harington and Liz Beddoe: Civic practice: A new professional paradigm for social work**

*Summary:* Economic rationalism has had an impact upon the position of many professions in Western society. Drawing on New Zealand material this article argues that neoliberal targeting of professions' capacity to capture domains of service and their funding has fuelled deprofessionalization, but also created space for alternative domains of practice. A case for a civic model of social work practice is argued.

*Findings:* Debates about the nature of professions flourish in current literature. An exploration of the features of the social work profession suggests three types: heroic, altruistic and civic. The development of civic practice in social work is suggested, presupposing a reframing of the role and focus of the profession toward social inquiry applied to the rights and needs of citizens.

*Application:* The contribution of this article is to explore a move forward in the de-professionalization debates and to propose a civic social work grounded in advocacy and critical social inquiry.

### **Anna Légmán: „They did not allow me to work”. A life story of a person diagnosed with schizophrenia**

The paper is an analysis of a narrative life story interview made with a Hungarian man who was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and also a presentation of a qualitative method which can be used effectively to find out about the people's own experiences. With the help of the interview's text we can take a look at the institutional life opportunities of a person diagnosed with a psychiatric illness in Hungary nowadays, how he can tell his story and how the schizophrenia diagnosis and the psychiatric care system appear in his story. The life story was born using the narrative interview technique which I recorded with the help of a dictaphone.