

Abstracts

Andrea RÁCZ: Development of the Hungarian child protection system within the context of international tendencies

The article gives an overview of the value system of national and international child protection. First, it outlined the development of European child protection, then, reviewed the main approaches of international child protection, and finally, scrutinized the most significant characteristics of the Hungarian child protection system. Following the trends of Western-European child protection, significant changes took place in the child protection systems in Eastern and Central Europe, including Hungary (though somewhat belatedly). Although the changes are visible in the structure of the system and in ensuring children's rights, the principles do not seem to be put into practice with success. Basically, child protection has been trying to define itself, to find its place in the system of social policy, more specifically, in the subsystem of welfare policy.

Balázs Herpai: The state of community fee-debts from the aspect of a survey

In the past years the amount of housing expenses have been increasing significantly, while the incomes of certain strata of population have been decreasing, or depreciating. These processes were amplified by the economical crisis, therefore the number of those unable to settle their bills are getting higher. That is why it was very much on the agenda – after the recent survey in 2003 – to measure the nationwide state of community fee-debts. The survey – serving as a basis to this article – covered the debts of electricity, gas and district heating; the ministry asked directly the energy providers for the voluntary data service. On the basis of summarizing and analyzing the data – and comparing them with the 2003 results – it was found that the community overindebtedness increased significantly and even the debt managing service was unable to control this process. The paper deals also with the possible reasons for the low efficiency of subsidies targeted to these problems, and looks for the possibilities for improvement.

János Zolnay: "Illegible city". Pupils migration among elementary schools catchment areas in Pécs

Free school choice means mutual freedom of choice. All parents can choose the school they want to have their children enrolled, but their children's enrolment is granted only by the school in catchment area of their residence. Every school is bound to admit children of school-age from their catchment areas, but it is up to their liking to which they are open to the extent of their free capacity from outside their schooling area.

ABSTRACTS

The mutual choice of schools and parents led to an extremely unequal distribution of education goods and services in Hungary. In larger cities more than 50 percent of pupils attend schools outside their catchment areas. Large proportion of severely disadvantaged and Roma pupils is also prefer going to other schools but ones in their neighbourhood. The study assesses the main patterns of pupils migration among elementary schools' catchment areas of Pécs including the migration of severely disadvantaged and Roma pupils and intends to define the main types of schools in this respect. The author examines if 'migrant' pupils are necessarily enrolled to better or more favourable schools than schools in their residence's close vicinity. Finally, the paper highlights some factors behind the failures of local municipal council's efforts to conciliate the spatial aspects of their educational policy and to make the city "legible".

Zsolt Temesváry: The history and contemporary trends of Food Stamp Program in the United States

The Food Stamp Program – or currently known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – is one of the most important anti-poverty strategies in the United States, providing support for millions of people in need. First of all, I present the Program's half-century long development interwoven with social and economical changes, which also helps us understand the widespread social acceptance surrounding this welfare plan. Second, I examine the current trends characterizing the Food Stamp Program. I put special emphasis on the fundamental principles of access and support, as well as the characteristics of the Program's user groups. I analyze the Food Stamp Program's features in the context of American social policy's cash and in-kind assistance schemes, in order to understand the program's functions as part of a unified system. Third, I make an attempt to categorically collect and analyze the most common criticisms relating to the Food Stamp Program.