

Abstracts

Judit Csoba: The Old and New Systems of Public Employment (On the way in the “Ways to Work” Program)

The aim of the article is to investigate under what circumstances and how efficiently the public employment programs function. These programs are widely used to socially integrate the active-aged unemployed people partaking regular social allowances. In the focus of the study the “Ways to Work” program was set, out of other simultaneously operating types of public employment programs. We studied the validity of the hypothesis that the “Ways to Work” program launched on the 1st of January in 2009 has not brought about fundamental changes: neither in terms of the number of those persons who were offered the possibility of return to labour market, nor regarding the type of employment and the various outcomes it does not significantly differ from the indices of the previously organised public employment programs.

Kerstin Udvari and István Varga: The planned lack of planning – An analysis of public employment plans

This study examines the extent to which the public employment plans of the “Ways to Work” program reflect the goals formulated by the codifiers, namely facilitating access or return to the labour market. It has become compulsory for all settlements to make a public employment plan since 2009. Our study inspected the plans of 51 settlements coming from the 7 most disadvantaged conditions. The plans have been hastily made without any profound preparations. The goal of local authorities was only to meet the requirements of law, in fact, little effort was devoted to analyze either the local specialities, needs, or even the possibilities. Indeed, the way the aims can be fulfilled had not been thought over. The plans also reveal that for those unskilled who are permanently unemployed, this program can not offer to gain appropriate work experience that could be utilized in the primary labour market. However, it will cost more for local authorities to subsidize together with the new system of employment than it did before. The smaller a settlement is, the bigger the burden will be to back and complete employment.

László Bass: Effects of the “Ways to Work” Program – Experiences of a Questionnaire Survey

There is practically no opportunity for work in the most deprived small areas, especially at small settlements. The majority of the population of these areas makes its living out of transfer income and social aid. As it is also proven by our data collection, these forms of income only allow conditions of life below poverty threshold and public employment cannot worthily improve either the financial situation of families. The majority of those, being employed in public employment have been exclusively making their living by this form of employment for years now. Public employment is clearly making an obstacle to get back to labour market, considering that this system conservates the status at the labour market of everyone being involved in it.

Anna Hamar: Renewed Continuity. Public Employment in a Micro-Region in North-East Hungary

The changes in the supply services and the system of public employment favour small settlements in this micro-region, in larger settlements the controversial aspects of this program have sharply emerged. The public employment program organised by local councils cannot offer work for all unemployed residents. The drastic increase of the number of the unemployed has not coupled with the extension of the scope of

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jobs offered, and there are no resources to finance the purchase of devices required in work either. The new system has not had any or hardly any favourable outcomes compared to the previous public employment practice of the settlements, and it has reinforced the selection of the public workers. The program reproduces the most disadvantaged group of the unemployed whose livelihood is exclusively based on aids and social benefits. For them this program is unable to provide any chance for reintegration in labour market.

Monika Mária Váradi: The Ways, Turnings and Twistings of Public Employment in a Micro-Region of Small Settlements

The „Ways to Work“ program has not mitigated the inequalities among the settlements in terms of the public employment opportunities. The result of the lack of financial resources is that the neediest persons are unable (or able only to a very limited extent) to get access to work experience offered by public employment and the surplus income opportunities exactly in those disadvantaged villages where the number of the unemployed residents is the highest. Public employment does not fulfil the function of reintegration in the labour market, not only because of the limited capacities of the primary labour market, but also because the majority of the subsidized workers gains such work experiences that are valueless outside the subsidized labour market. The importance of informal and illegal jobs has only slightly reduced owing to the implementation of the program, since the families cannot spare these types of income. The attitude of the majority of local councils towards informal/illegal jobs is permissive or even supportive, but access to informal/illegal income is restricted by the new system of public employment.

Anikó Vida and Tünde Virág: Public Employment and Day Labour. Employment and Social Welfare in South-Békés County

Employment and livelihood is characterised by a cyclical time management here, derived from large-scale agricultural (vegetable and fruit) production, the everyday tasks and necessities of day labour and its deep social integration. Since neither the agricultural entrepreneurs, nor the leaders of the local councils are interested in legalising day labour, therefore the majority of the settlements try to balance between public employment and seasonal jobs. Those local councils could make use of the opportunities of the extended public employment, which were in a better starting position, whereas in those settlements where qualified experts and institutions are missing, public employment is restricted almost exclusively to disposal of refuse and tidying public premises. Generally, the latter ones use the possible means of disciplining to a lesser extent, whereas in advantageous settlements, applying the principle of zero tolerance, the slightest consumption of alcohols may lead to the exclusion of the given person from the system of public employment.

Tünde Virág and János Zolnay: Local Councils and Poor People Trapped – Public Employment in Cserehát

In these villages there are simply not enough tasks and jobs to be fulfilled in the framework of public employment, or the tasks to be fulfilled require such means and expertise which are far beyond the possibilities of public employment. At the same time, the support of the state budget and the ideology of the program motivate local councils to ignore rational considerations and to operate the system even with very low efficiency. The compulsory public employment may clash with the opportunities offered by occasional day labour. The program in the ghetto villages that are in the worst position has not reduced but, rather, increased the helplessness of the unemployed, their permanent personal dependency from the representatives of the local authorities having dispose of resources, and has created chaos even in those settlements where formerly the local system of public employment more or less could be operated.

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2010/1

Social Policy Journal

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