

ABSTRACTS

Gábor Juhász: The protection of social rights in the Fundamental Law of Hungary

Although the Constitution of 1989 declared rights to social security and to the highest possible level of physical and mental health, the Constitutional Court was reluctant to interpret these rights as subjective ones, and preferred to treat them as state objectives. In this situation, satellite rights (such as the right to property, vested rights, the rule of law and legal certainty) started to play an increasing role as far as constitutional protection of social rights was concerned. The entering of the Fundamental Law into force in 2012 made dramatic changes to the constitutional protection of social rights since it undermined the protection having been ensured by satellite rights, and it also reduced the room for the constitutional supervision of social legislation when budgetary issues were concerned. This move has been interpreted by the Constitutional Court as a measure that helps to make a paradigm change in social policy. The essay also draws the attention to a new practice in constitutional legislation which consists of building short-term policy objectives in the text of the Constitution. Such practices affect the constitutional regulation of social rights as well to the extent that endangers the implementation of the rule of law.

István Budai and Edit Puli: Co-operation in social services

The study presents the qualitative research at the Department of Social Studies at Széchenyi István University (Győr) in 2013-2014, which focused the different co-operations in social services. Starting out from the relevant international and Hungarian literature and current social work practice this research examines the aspects and system of co-operation, the reasoning for co-operation follows in context of the ideas of the modern social work. The different (structured, in depth interviews and focus-group interviews) examinations were delivered in multi-dimensional framework in Győr region, which deals with the main elements, types, methods, results, problems, disadvantages, dilemmas.

Zsuzsa Széman: Alternatives of long term care: Technology and environment

Healthy life expectancy after the age of 65 is decreasing hence expenditure on long-term care is increasing and the care systems will become unsustainable over the short or longer term. In the European Union by 2060 13.9 million persons over 65 will be receiving formal care compared to 5.5 million in 2007, while the number of those being cared for by informal carer and those entirely without care is projected to rise from 12.2 million to 22.3 million. Alternative solutions are coming increasingly to the fore, especially research, modelling and elabora-

tion of new solutions based on technology, on info-communications and on the environment. The study analyses the results of research on alternative innovative solutions in international comparison, the EU goals for handling the problem, and national policy ideas. It also presents good examples, innovative solutions developed in different countries, regions and towns and shows examples of their adaptation, with the aim of encouraging their further development.

Mária Tróbert: The importance of the elderly carers' support

Due to the high costs of treatment of the diseases of old age and the financing difficulties of the social services system it is increasingly important to preserve the independence of the elderly and pay attention to the work of informal helpers. In addition to the social solidarity manifested in social services, emphasis is again shifting to family support. Family members who undertake the care of a sick relative encounter many difficulties in their helping role. Since their work is irreplaceable, they need to be given more social support. The study presents a few of the challenges faced in the helping role.

Kinga Vajda: The current situation of social work in hospitals in Hungary

The study explores the social work in hospitals and other medical care institutions in Hungary. The first comprehensive study that provided with a then actual picture of this field was published ten years ago. That study highlighted both the positive and negative aspects and also presented suggestions for change. The present study analyses the changes that have occurred in the past ten years. The primary objective was to provide an insight into the current situation of social work conducted in the medical institutions. At the same time the author makes a comparison between the current situation and the one ten years ago, detecting the changes occurred and examining the work of the professional association established in the meantime. Furthermore, the study also intends to raise the awareness for the status of the professionals working on the boundaries of the social and medical systems.

CONTENTS

Studies

- 3 **Gábor Juhász:** The protection of social rights in the Fundamental Law of Hungary
- 32 **István Budai and Edit Puli:** Co-operation in social services

International Review

- 65 **Zsuzsa Széman:** Alternatives of long term care: Technology and environment
- 85 **A. Mária Tróbert:** The importance of the elderly carers' support

Social Work

- 102 **Kinga Vajda:** The current situation of social work in hospitals in Hungary

Review

- 129 **László Hubai:** Capitalism: when “the past devours the future”. (Thomas Piketty: *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014.)