

ABSTRACTS

József Hegedüs – Vera Horváth – Eszter Somogyi: The private rental sector and its potential role in public housing provision – the social housing enterprise concept

Twenty-five years into the transition Hungary's housing tenure structure can be considered distorted, as it is overwhelmingly dominated by owner occupation. The low share, composition and conditions of rented dwellings – both in the public and the private sector – have been a source of serious social conflicts, indicating the Hungarian society's lack of ability (or ambition) to improve the housing situation of the poor. As a major social housing construction programme is unviable in the foreseeable future, social housing policy could only be supplemented through the rental utilization of vacant privately owned property. The aim of this study is to consider the possibility of involving vacant privately owned housing in social housing provision through the analysis of the private rented sector. A social housing enterprise model is presented, which adapts to the existing legal environment (rent setting, rental contract, rent subsidies) in undertaking social housing and property management functions, as well as rehabilitation and new housing construction in longer term.

Adrienn Gazsi: Practice and theory of supported decision making. The outcomes of the “Enhancement of access to justice of persons with intellectual disabilities” international research project and the possible lessons for the Hungarian regulation.

The study presents the key elements of supported decision-making systems and the international legal principles behind them, analyses the Hungarian legal background and practical experience of supported decision-making, highlighting the areas where the implementation of projects for development and model would be particularly necessary. It also presents promising practices of supported decision making, which are already implemented in Europe, for persons with intellectual disabilities based on the experience of the international AJuPID project (Access to Justice for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) with the aim of providing valuable experience for the development of supported decision making in Hungary.

Zsuzsa Széman: Age-friendly towns, places, communities

Urbanisation and ageing present a new challenge for most countries of the world. The WHO's 2005 initiative, the “Global Age-friendly Cities” program, launched a new attitude by linking the built environment with societal and social considerations. The study shows how the overseas Anglo-Saxon countries, different

Asian countries, the old and new member states of the European Union followed that initiative, which countries have been pioneers and which ones are lagging behind. It reveals the similarities and differences in the ways individual countries handle the problems. It looks at the cultural and religious differences, the way in which traditional attitudes influence the built environment. It analyses the contributions made to the solution of the problem by science, various research projects, macro, regional and micro politics and age-friendliness investigations placing the question in a new dimension, and the factors that have hindered the creation of an age-friendly environment. The study shows that the concept of age-friendly environment is being increasingly replaced by the “ageing friendly city” approach: the response that can be given to the challenge can only be successful within the process of change, in the overall context of intergenerational relations, the built environment and societal parameters.

Judit Szécsi – Dorka Sik: Drug use in the segregated areas of a disadvantaged district

In the paper we present the findings of a field research which was carried out with the goal to study drug use among people living in deep poverty in small villages, mostly in segregated areas in the Hungarian countryside. The field work took place in three municipalities in a multiply disadvantaged region in North-eastern Hungary, with the help of students in the Social Work BA Program of ELTE University. The methods of the field work were participatory observation and conducting interviews. According to our findings the legal and illegal use of drugs is overrepresented in these settlements, especially that of the new designer drugs. In dealing with this problem social effects and context must be considered. People in these shanty towns face daily adversities; the reason for their high usage of cheap, low quality, legal as well as illegal drugs is that their lives are hopeless and without perspective. To solve this problem and prevent future generations from following in their parents’ footsteps, immediate action, as well as further research efforts are needed in order to understand the special characteristics of these segregated communities.

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