Abstracts

Szelewa, Dorota and Polakowski, Michal P.: Who cares? Changing patterns of childcare in Central and Eastern Europe

This article compares childcare provisions in the new member countries of the EU. It takes into account two pillars of childcare policy: publicly provided childcare services and parental leave provisions. In the analysis, the fuzzy set ideal types approach is utilized. In contrast to the studies conducted so far, this article stops treating the region of Cental and Eastern Europe as a monolith and demonstrates the existence of cross-country *variation* of childcare policies within the region. Furthermore, the difference is systematized by identifying four clusters of childcare policy. These are: *explicit familialism, implicit familialism, female mobilizing* and *comprehensive support* types. The countries are clustered as follows: the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia in the explicit familism policy model; Estonia and Latvia in the female mobilizing type policy; Lithuania and Hungary pursuing the childcare policies typical of the comprehensive support model; and finally the childcare policy in Poland resembles characteristics of the implicit familism model.

Cerami, Alfio: Central Europe in Transition: Emerging Models of Welfare and Social Assistance

This paper discusses the emergence of a new model of welfare and social assistance in Central and Eastern Europe. It starts by briefly summarizing the most recent social policy developments occurring in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia and continues investigating the most urgent reform challenges and adaptational strategies. As argued elsewhere (see Cerami 2006a), the main argument of the paper is that CEECs are moving towards a new world of welfare capitalism, which combines old with new social policy characteristics. A special emphasis in this paper is, however, given to the systems of social assistance, since these represent the last public policy instrument to prevent citizens to fall into extreme poverty. As it will be argued, social assistance schemes did not only play a crucial role in the process of democratic transition cushioning the negative effects of the economic transformation, but they also represent important sources of democratic engineering providing legitimacy to the newly established market-oriented order. A substantial reconsideration in the social policy logic behind their establishment is, however, urgently required.

Daly, Mary: Whither EU Social Policy? An Account and Assessment of Developments in the Lisbon Social Inclusion Process

The study of EU social policy highlights a number of issues especially well, among them the unfolding institutionalisation of a social field in EU politics and policy, and the changing nature of economic and social governance in Europe. This article examines recent EU social policy, following the course of the Lisbon strategy since it got underway in 2000. Focusing on the social inclusion process, the aim is to identify development over time, to review progress critically and to offer some explanation for events. Analysis is centred on an interrogation of the social policymodel and the cognitive aspects of the process, especially as they are to be seen in the production of national policy plans and the responses to these on the part of different EU actors. A conclusion drawn is that, while social exclusion has provided an innovative focus within an EU context, the process as a whole is timid

and key elements are weak. This is a spur to further analysis and so the article goes on to identify limitations in terms of design, rationale, and the place of the social inclusion OpenMethod of Coordination (OMC) the revised Lisbon Strategy. In effect, the conditions necessary to realise the new method and social vision are not in place. A key conclusion is that with survival under threat, the need to continually reinvent itself may actually be the death knell of the social process.

Soós, Zsolt: After the Reform. Effects of the „Small region public service reform" on the social service system of Tét small region

The objective of the study was to analyse whether the regional administrative reform initiated by the government in 2004, proved to be a suitable measure to solve the problems of the public – especially of the social – services in the Tét small-region. The idea of the reform was based on Western European models; however the implementation was significantly different in Hungary due to the adverse budgetary situation and the polarized political structure. This research intended to reveal, whether the financial incentives applied to promote the cooperation of the service providers alleviated the service deficiencies, cut back the high specific costs resulted from the under-utilisation of the capacities, reduced the inequalities in the access to the services and moderated the exclusion of some groups of the population living in smaller settlements. Another aim was to explore if the experiences of the small-region analysed in detail are unique or they characterise other small-regions as well.

Kovács, Ivetta: „Survive Without Shelter!" The 15 Years of the Street Paper Without Shelter"

The study is based on the author's thesis in Social Work that was submitted to the Social Work and Social Policy Department at Eötvös Loránd University in the spring of 2008 with a similar title. The study aims at introducing the creation and operation of the first Hungarian street paper, Without Shelter, to the greater public. Apart from providing a deeper glimpse into the life of the paper, the study also shows the supportive work of social workers responsible for running it – their difficulties as well as their achievements. This is carried out by analysing the realization of a concrete EU funded project, at the same time offering lessons learnt to social services and social workers planning to undertake similar opportunities in the European context.