

Abstracts

Tamás Verdes – Ágota Scharle – Balázs Váradi: Replacing institutions. Options for reforming welfare provisions for mentally disabled people in Hungary

The paper reviews the current system of provisions for mentally disabled or autistic people in Hungary, assesses its impact on social integration and human rights and outlines some recommendations for improving the system. The review covers employment subsidies, services to support community living, cash transfers, legal capacity, guardianship and housing. The reform of housing arrangements is given special attention. We describe the current practice of large institutions, review the arguments for deinstitutionalisation and map the financial and political factors that have hindered long overdue reforms in this area, despite the grave implications for human rights and the wellbeing of the inmates of such institutions in Hungary. We hope this review to provide a basis for discussions and consultations culminating in the formulation of a government reform strategy.

Veronika Andrászi-Tóth – Éva Bódy – Ágnes Csicsely – Imre Nyitrai: At the gate of the deinstitutionalisation. Pixels turn into a picture

The article describes the results of the Hungarian deinstitutionalisation process in the last decades, in context of the development of social system and service, also the changes of the professional and legal frames. It covers the connections of the infrastructural development and the accession of Hungary to the EU, and presents the history of the adoption of EU documents. In 1988 Hungary already declared by law its commitment for transformation of large residential institutions. However, after the legal regulation, it has been taken almost thirteen years for the paradigm shift in the governmental will and for the long-term strategy of the deinstitutionalisation of residential institutions for people with disabilities to be ready. The article demonstrates the changes of the content and quality of the social services for people with disabilities since the Social Act has been taken effect in the year 1993, and also shows the way leading to that the ethos of de-institutionalisation could exceed of theoretical framework and breaks out of the relatively closed word of academic and public discourse.

Katalin Tausz – Dávid Simon: A country torn into three parts

The article discusses the situation of the Hungarian population in Budapest, in the so called 33 most disadvantaged micro-regions (LHH), which should be helped by complex programmes and the rest of Hungary on the basis of two surveys at the end of 2010. The objective was to

demonstrate the differences among the three regions. The research proved that there are significant territorial social inequalities and the social and economical processes led to harsh disadvantages in some micro-regions. Not just the economic power is weak and the service provision is deficient in the LHH micro-regions but the inhabitants of these micro-regions fall into poverty the deepness of which can not be seen anywhere else in the country. Attitudes toward social benefits as well as the psychological climate of these regions were analysed.

Anna Kende – Anikó Illés: Disadvantaged children's ideas of the present and the future. "Strong wall, fence, big dog, job at the police"

Our study aimed to discover disadvantaged children's ideas of the present and the future, using children's drawings and interviews within the framework of a university field research. Evidence of social mobility or the lack of it were explored, so basically our question was how the experience of marginalization is internalized. Children made three drawings following the original idea of the 1978 research by Zsuzsa Gerő et al. about their present and future homes, and the home of their dreams. Our results indicate that children do count on some level of upward mobility, however this is far from a considerable improvement, and the difference between today's home and that of the future's is hardly significant. Visual expression proved to be a functional tool for grasping children's wishes and identity, therefore our study indirectly pointed to the potentials of visual education. We found controversies within parental interviews in their loyalty toward the school, the wish of a middle class lifestyle, and the experiences of violence and discrimination. Both the modest wishes and the wishful depiction of the present in the drawings, and the controversies within the interviews point out that the experiences of marginalisation can be expressed indirectly rather than in a straightforward way.