

## Abstracts

**Zsolt Soós: State service purchase in the social service system. Experiences in the operation of supporting services in Győr-Moson-Sopron county**

Regulation and financing of social services especially the dysfunctionality of the system have become one of the hottest issues of national social policy in the past decade. Several concepts have been worked out in the last years to alternate this regulating and financing system, the main element of the majority being the termination of the normative financing system and the change to the state service purchase. Although the latest reform plan (National Social Policy Concept, 2011) has not been introduced for the whole system, still in some types of services including disability support services targeted state service purchase was started from 2009 in order to control the exponentially increasing costs. In the study the author analyses how the change effected the operation of disability support services maintained in Győr-Moson-Sopron county and how the new kind of regulating and financing system can be evaluated in this type of service of the given county.

**Bálint Missetics: Recommendations for the main directions of an egalitarian housing policy reform: a draft on politics and public policy**

The goals of the present article are to provide a concise account of the magnitude of housing poverty and affordability issues in Hungary and to outline the normative foundations and main directions of an egalitarian housing policy reform: the institutionalization of an enforceable right to housing, the redesigning of the housing allowance and debt reduction assistance, the development of an extensive system of social housing, and the reduction of homelessness. Regarding these proposals the study is mainly a summary and comparison of current policy recommendations in the field of housing policy. The study highlights the fundamental importance of adequate housing in ensuring the preconditions of human flourishing, and the obvious discrepancy that exists between the magnitude of housing problems in Hungary and the severe inadequacies of current housing policy.

**Margit Feischmidt – Kristóf Szombati: Anti-Gypsism and right wing extremism in Hungarian society. The case of the Gyöngyöspata conflict**

After a short description of the historical process through which Roma living in Hungary and the wider Central European region became stigmatized and criminalized this study principally seeks to uncover the antecedents, causes and consequences of the interethnic conflict that was

precipitated by an unprecedented far-right mobilization campaign in the village of Gyöngyöspata in the spring of 2011. Although the conflict, which both expressed and reinforced animosity between Roma and non-Roma people undeniably had a strong ethnic element this study seeks to interpret the conflict in relation to political and social processes on both the local and national level. Relative to the political dimension it strives to elucidate the role of political entrepreneurs with divergent perspectives and interests, laying emphasis on uncovering the nexus between the politics of the far-right party (Jobbik) and its paramilitary allies on one side, and local elite groups on the other. This exercise not only serves the purpose of shedding light on the ineluctable question of responsibility, but also of placing the 'invasion of Gyöngyöspata' within Jobbik's broader political strategy. It is also instrumental in helping explain the ethnic majority's weak resistance to the far-right's politics of intimidation and repression primarily targeting the local Roma community.

**Silvia Fargon: Theory and Practice: A Matter of Words. Language, Knowledge and Professional Community in Social Work**

The relation between theory and practice in social work has always been controversial. Recently, many have underlined how language is crucial in order to capture how knowledge is used in practice. This article introduces a language perspective to the issue, rooted in the 'strong programme' in the sociology of knowledge and in Wittgenstein's late work. According to this perspective, the meaning of categories and concepts corresponds to the use that concrete actors make of them as a result of on-going negotiation processes in specific contexts. Meanings may vary dramatically across social groups moved by different interests and holding different cultures. Accordingly, we may reformulate the issue of theory and practice in terms of the connections between different language games and power relationship between segments of the professional community. In this view, the point is anyway to look at how theoretical language relates to practitioners' broader frames, and how it is transformed while providing words for making sense of experience.