

Abstract

Ágnes Darvas, Zsombor Farkas, Péter Gyóri, Eszter Kósa, Péter Mózer and János Zolnay: Policy recommendations for certain areas of social policy

Six independent social scientists have drawn up concrete policy recommendations for certain areas of the social sphere. The proposals are driven by their common values like fundamental social rights, dignity, solidarity, discrimination free procedures, social cohesion and equal opportunities. The purpose of the recommendations is triple: (1) minimum social security for all, (2) reduction of social inequalities, and (3) strengthening social integration and assessment of poverty risks. The proposals are concrete – based on detailed financial calculations – and relate to the following areas: (1) financial benefits, (2) safety housing and care for all, (3) reduction of child poverty and more equal opportunities among the youngest generation, and (4) social inclusion of the most disadvantaged regions, ghettos and ghetto-settlements. The authors have made recommendations concerning financial benefits (for supporting integration minimum income based on cooperation and in absence of cooperation condition free social benefit; normative and standardized housing benefit that depends on life and income situation; reformed and simplified nursing and care benefit system; modification of the existing family tax allowances; development of the family and child allowances; transformation of the maternity leave related benefit system; special travel and housing benefits for those living in the most deprived micro-regions). The authors have also made proposals concerning services (special integration supporting services for the poor and long term unemployed; expansion of the social housing sector; reduction and prevention of mass homelessness; efficient treatment of housing crisis situations; enlargement and development of the “Sure Start” program; development of children’s day care services; improvement of special services for early development; strengthening of basic social services in the most deprived micro-regions; local interventions for life improvement of those living in deep poverty and segregated neighborhoods).