

ABSTRACTS

László Hubai: Democratic solidarity. Analysis of the concept and political dimension of social enterprises

Academic and policy interest in social enterprises emerged during the 1980-1990's. Due to its alternative ways to satisfy social needs, distinct operation from market and public services, solutions tailored to local demands and innovative practices, in many countries laws have been adopted and supportive projects have been developed for recognition of social enterprises.

The concept and the number of practices it represents have greatly increased, hollowing out the original meaning of social enterprises. As a result of conceptual expansion, the broadest definition considers any entity that engage in business activity for social goals as social enterprises. However, emphasising only the social and economic dimensions of social enterprises is not a sufficient condition for its operation and for understanding its qualitative differences. This study concludes that the increasing number of definition attempts in relevant literature suppressed the third, political dimension of social enterprises, which deprives the organization of its collective nature. Social enterprises can only maintain their economic sustainability and keep their “competitive advantage” in recognizing and solving social needs if they leave room for democratic solidarity throughout their operations.

Ernő Bogács – Andrea Rác: Child protection and professional integrity

After interpreting ethics and social work, we will present the main results of three researches on the Hungarian child protection system made in the recent years that highlight the professional hiatuses, the prejudiced beliefs related to the primary (children) and secondary (parents) client systems of child protection, the value crisis in professional mentalities, in general, the crisis of the profession. We argue for that, that a change in mentalities and professional treatment in the operational practice really requires the reconsideration of the ethical dimensions of child protection, inasmuch as developing and introducing their own code of ethics. The helping profession is actively involved in the transformation of the welfare state in parallel with restructuring the welfare conditions, thus we should reconsider that how the scarce methodological framework available in the national practice can cope with problems and how it can emancipate the clients and serve their well-being. The results of the researches indicate that the direction of development is to create an activating and mobilizing helper system that can preserve the core values of the profession, as well as adapt to social changes and reflect to the expectations of public policy thereof.