

ABSTRACTS

Éva Orosz: A contribution to the interpretation of the current crisis of the Hungarian healthcare system from the perspective of the history of social sciences

Several of the current grave problems of the Hungarian healthcare system are rooted in the 4 or 5 decades earlier period. Therefore, the overview of the interpretations concerning the deficiencies of the then healthcare system by the social science research of the 1980s can contribute to a better understanding of today's problems. From this aspect, the paper highlights as key lessons the following. The underfinancing of the healthcare system is not only due to the current government's narrow-mindedness, but it is also a consequence of the macroeconomic subordinated position of the healthcare system – a characteristic inherited from state-socialism. The survival of the under-the-table payments is only partly attributable to the negligence of the post-socialist governments; it may also result from the fact that the reforms carried out in the period of the political transformation in the early 90s failed to address its fundamental causes. The comparison of the reform-concepts of the 1980s and the unreasonable centralization implemented since 2010 can help understand whether the rebuilding of old and once already dismantled structures is taking place and it can also help to recognize the fundamental differences between the current structures and that of the 1980s.

Ákos Huszár – Márta Záhonyi: Inequality and social mobility

In recent years the problem of social mobility has triggered extensive professional and public debates especially in the United States and Britain. The main subject of the debate was the question of how increasing income and wealth inequalities affect the mobility chances of members of society. The attention of the wider public was primarily due to the fact that some recent studies have shown a marked decline in social mobility in both countries. In Hungary, neither the professional nor the wider public are paying big attention to the problem. In our paper, we are looking for answers to two questions. On the one hand, how do people in different levels of social hierarchy feel that their social position has changed in relation to their position of origin. On the other hand, we are asking what conclusions can be drawn from these subjective beliefs about the changing the society structure itself.

Judit Keller: Inequitable conditions in equalizing chances: institutional asymmetries in early childhood service provision

This paper studies institutional asymmetries between two early childhood welfare services, nurseries and Sure Start Houses, and the way they impact disadvantaged children's access to high quality services that would equalize their life chances. The findings suggest that access to high quality early childhood services is not only hindered by unequal territorial distribution of nurseries and employment-based eligibility criteria of admission, but also by institutional imbalances manifested in the disproportionate allocation of resources and obligations and an overall weak institutional environment.

Andrea Gyarmati – Ibolya Czibere – Andrea Rácz: The specificities of the services granted by the child protection and specialized social care system to children aged 0–6 requiring special support due to a disability or other reasons

The aim of the study is to present the life conditions of children aged 0-6 who need special support and are provided child protection and special social care services, and to examine the accessibility of developmental services designed for them; the study also resumes the views of professionals working with this target group on the needs for development in this field, on the family relationships of the cared children, and on their possibilities to grow up within a family environment. The research findings highlight that concerning the upbringing of children with severe, multiple disabilities or suffering from a chronic disease within a family environment, the biological parents and the foster parents face the same situation: accessible services do not exist or are insufficient, and day care services are lacking.

