

ABSTRACTS

Bálint Missetics: Less assistance to less households: local authority level housing benefits after 2015

The paper analyses the consequences of the abolishment of normative housing allowance and the new system of local authority level housing benefits. The changes brought down to a decadal low the number of households who receive regular support for the adequate heating of their homes and for the prevention of arrears and evictions. The number of recipient households halved, and as the level of expenditure declined even more, the average benefit rate also decreased. Households living in smaller and disadvantaged localities had to face the most significant losses, though in the longer term, public expenditure on housing-related benefits was most radically cut in Budapest. The number of residents without access to any regular housing benefit can be as high as one million. The changes were particularly disadvantageous for households with the lowest incomes and for families with more children.

Zoltán Vastagh: Measure tools for impact assessment of community-based social programs aiming the development of non-cognitive skills

In the context of social policy interventions, the need for a fact-based assessment, measurement and impact analysis is becoming increasingly compelling for social professionals in Hungary. The aim of this paper is to help social professionals in responding to this pressure when children and young people are in the focus of the intervention. To this end, the paper explores the concept of non-cognitive skills as a suitable framework for the systematic assessment of potential impact areas of developmental interventions and measurements and draws attention to 37 relatively easy-to-use questionnaire-type instruments that provide a solid basis for measure the impact of community-based interventions. These measures meet without exception the expected professional requirements and thus the choice between them can be reduced to content and practical considerations.

Zsuzsa Kaló, Judit Hegedűs, Zsófia Bihari and Judit Szécsi: The experiences of substance use and related treatment among girls in childcare in Hungary – a qualitative study

The aim of this study is to show the experiences of substance use and treatment among girls and young women in childcare in Hungary. The qualitative study was conducted in Hungarian childcare institutions in 2017 including interviews and focus group discussion with young women above 18 years (n=25) and pro-

professionals (n=43). The study covers the perceived patterns of substance use, the treatment opportunities and respondents disclose the possibilities and practicalities of getting a proper therapy as girls and women with substance use problems within the childcare system.