

ABSTRACTS

ANDRÁS GÁBOS – ISTVÁN GYÖRGY TÓTH: The situation of children during and after the economic crisis

The paper analyses the effects of the Great Recession on child poverty in Hungary. The authors find that the increase in child poverty in the first phase of the crisis (2007–2010) was driven by labour market trends, while the (weakened, but still functioning) automatic stabilizers reduced the magnitude of these effects. By contrast, in the second phase (2010–2013), labour market processes started to improve, though the shift towards a regressive social policy regime contributed to increased poverty rates via the reduced poverty reduction impacts of cash benefits. In their new research since their last account [link: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/decent-incomes-for-all-9780190849696?cc=hu&lang=en&#>] the authors find that both relative poverty rate and material deprivation rate of children have markedly decreased between 2013 and 2017. Also, the poverty reduction effect of welfare transfers improved recently. The paper calls for new research to better understand trends and drivers of child poverty decline.

KAROLINA BALOGH – PÉTER GREGORITS – ANDREA RÁCZ: Examination of the operational environment of the child protection system in the light of the interpretation framework of “child protection as a service”

The regulation on the institutional framework of child protection aims to increase the provision of care and to promote the fundamental importance of the rights and interests of children, to fulfill their parental responsibilities, prevent and eliminate the neglect of the children. The focus of this study is to analyze the situation of child welfare and child protection system based on data 2017 of National Data Collection Programme of Hungarian Central Statistical Office in the concept of “child protection as a service”. The child protection system works as a complex service system on the theoretical level. The most important principle is to reflect to the families’ needs on time and give preventive and empowering methods to help to the child to remain in the birth family. Service focus means to reduce the disadvantages of children and create a real chance of becoming successful adult. The most important thing for parents is to develop their parenting competencies. In this article we examine the availability of all these approaches with the assessment of the actual operating environment of the child protection system.

ZSUZSA LÓRINCZ NÉMETH ZOLTÁNNÉ: “Becoming compulsory caused confusion”. Experiences of introducing the all-day school in Hungary

In several countries, children in primary education have been involved in 'all-day-education' for decades, whereas other countries have recently decided to establish institutions providing 'complex-services'. In Hungary, after-school activities and school meals, in addition to education in the morning, are not regarded as new phenomena in public education, but the concept of 'all-day-education' has also appeared recently. According to the literature, 'all-day schools' can be an ideal means of overcoming disadvantages and increasing equal opportunities for children. Researchers at the same time are highlighting the fact that the 'all-day school' is a tool the effectiveness of which depends on its quality and internal content. Since the academic-year of 2013/2014, the time-frame in Hungarian primary schools has expanded and 'all-day-education' has appeared as a new optional form of education, in which the lessons and after-school activities should be organized evenly in the morning and afternoon periods. At the same time, a new Public Education Act has been introduced, which provides compulsory opening of public educational institutions until four o'clock in the afternoon, which I will call a school open all day in my study.

CSILLA RUBOVSKY JENEINÉ: Digital Innovation in Care for the Elderly – or „Smarthome” instead of residential institutions

This study seeks to find out about the suitability of 21st century info-communication technologies for meeting unfulfilled needs in relation to elderly care. In order to find answers, I present the findings of my own research exploring the needs of Hungary's elderly population along with the impact analyses of Info-communication Programs that were developed simultaneously to that research. Based on these results, it is fair to declare that with the aging of society, the elderly population is becoming increasingly heterogenous and the existing social benefit and healthcare systems are only partially able to fulfil their complex needs, owing to the financing and capacity constraints of said systems and the inflexibility of the underlying institutions and their operations. Based on representative surveys and the findings of a nationwide program, elderly citizens are open to using a “Smart Home” system that would help improve their life quality by continually monitoring their health, environmental and relationship data while also making interventions more effective and enabling the establishment of an adaptive, needs-based service system.

ISTVÁN BUDAI: Vision and possibility of dynamic balances in the Hungarian social work education

The essay tries to give approaches and aspects for the general issues of social work education on the basis of the professionalization and changes of Hungarian social work, together with the practice, development, main results and problems of social work education of the last 30 years. There are new paradigms – different visions and opportunities of balances in the focus: the idea of the intellectual – technician/ technocrat type professional, the issues of balances between collaborative practitioners in the education, between theory – practice in the training process, or practice – research in the educational process. The study offers help for practitioners who deal with issues of the development of education and who work in the practice of education.

ERZSÉBET SZÁSZ: Family memories about Rezső Hilscher I.

Many have written about Rezső Hilscher's scientific work. This is enriched by an article about his figure, his interesting habits, his unconditional humanist position, which remained within the memory of his family. His wife and daughter have been writing unpublished memoirs so far and his still-living nephews and sisters were happy to talk about him.