

## Abstracts

### **Mónika Bálint – János Köllő: The Labour Market Effects of Parental Leave Provisions**

While Hungary operates one of the most generous paid parental leave programs in the OECD, and has exceptionally low maternal employment rate, very little is known about how the system actually works. Using rotating panel data built of quarterly Labour Force Surveys (1993-2005) the paper provides first insight into four areas: coverage, employment during the leave, time spent out of work, and wage loss associated with the leave. Labour market tightness, access to day care and travel to work conditions have significant impact on the duration suggesting that policies reducing the costs of employment might help reconcile family and work better than does the current system, heavily biased for cash benefits.

### **Zsuzsanna Füzesi, Judit Szilágyi, Csilla Busa, László Tistyán: Representation of the Social Environment Connected with the Roma in Mass Media and in Journalists' opinion**

The objective of research on the social environment of the communication campaign entitled 'Inclusive Society' of the Phare programme carried out in 2004–2005 was twofold. On one hand, content analysis research was carried out investigating articles on the Roma published in the press during the period of the research. On the other hand, our research analysed the role of mass media in shaping prejudicial behaviour via in-depth interviews carried out among journalists. The study sums up the most important findings of the content analysis and the qualitative research. The final conclusions of the research include reference to the fact that market competition among the media may contribute to the evolution of extreme stereotypes in the public opinion, thereby increasing the prejudices of the majority society against Roma and other minorities.

### **Lajos Hüse, Tünde Konyáriné Ménesi: Battered Males in the Region of the Northern Hungarian Plain**

In Hungary, the meaning of family violence is usually restricted to the battering of females and children. While the definition and interpretation of this phenomenon is up for debate among representatives of the feminist and the child protection approach, other victims of domestic violence – older people and males – are given little attention. This study first deals with the various conflicting approaches and then presents the results of a survey made among male victims of domestic violence. Based on the survey results available, the authors would like to prove that the general assumption that female abusers primarily abuse males psychologically, and do not use physical violence, is no longer true. The authors would also like to point out that men who are battered or feel oppressed are not likely to "fight back", i.e. they do not tend to become abusers by using their physical superiority. In addition, it is stated in the study that most mothers who use physical violence on their partners will use similar methods for controlling their children, i.e. they also batter the children.

### **Georg Vobruba: Expansion Without Enlargement. Europe's Dynamism and the European Neighbourhood Policy**

The EU has developed its European Neighbourhood Policy as an alternative to enlargement. This policy amounts to an offer of a different kind of political deal. The EU no longer offers neighbouring countries the prospect of membership; what

is now on offer is a special relationship in exchange for agreement to carry out stabilization tasks on the periphery. This policy feeds on the EU's expansion dynamism, but this has now reached its limits. In its neighbourhood policy, as elsewhere, the EU understands itself as an exporter of values. How successful it will be depends very much on the periphery's preparedness to cooperate. To a greater extent than hitherto, it is important to bear in mind the calculations made by the neighbours about cooperation and the alternatives open to them.

**Walter Lorenz: Social Work and a New Social Order: Challenging Neo-liberalism's Erosion of Solidarity**

The world in which social work operates today is a very different world from that in which most of us took their social work training, and the changes we are facing are profound. This paper argues that these changes are not merely a regime change in social policy but that they are essentially about a re-ordering of social relationships and attempt to model them on neo-liberal ideas. In view of these pressures it is understandable that social workers often try to ignore those changes and withdraw into a private world of therapeutic relationships in which the methods they trained in are made to be still valid, or they simply go along with new service delivery designs without asking too many questions. Both reaction fail to question what the "social" can still mean in the light of these changes and how social workers can fulfil their mandate to be responsible for the social dimension of public life. Nothing less than a head-on challenge of the basic presuppositions of neo-liberalism and their manifold applications to social service delivery systems will thereby suffice.

**Iain Ferguson: Neoliberalism, the Third Way and Social Work: the UK Experience**

For most of the past two decades, the notion that there is no alternative to the market as a basis for organizing society has constituted a kind of global 'common sense', accepted not only by the neo-liberal Right but also by social democratic thinkers and politicians, in the form of 'the Third Way'. This paper will critically assess the central claims of neoliberalism in the light of experience in the UK and internationally, evaluate the ways in which Third Way policies are shaping social work in the UK, and in the final section, begin to explore some of the ways in which the anti-capitalist movement which has emerged in recent years might contribute to the development of a new, engaged social work, based on social justice

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