

Changing concepts of social work due to the changes in social policy

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Although social work is often considered as a means of social policy we consider it an individual science which is underlined by its own theoretical and practical background and first and foremost by its own Code of Ethics.

This Code is to be respected by all professionals in the field of social work regardless his belief. This brings up the matter of each professional’s personal responsibility and identity, which although may not result in differentiations within the framework of service provision by any means, still plays a large effect on interpersonal interactions, which strongly determine the quality of services.

In comparison with medical science as medical guidelines, standards and protocols are developed and accepted on an international level, social work also has its own professionally recognized toolset in terms case work, group methodology and community work which form a methodological system on an international level.

Differences on the international level usually turn up based on the level of social responsibility undertaken by the financing and legislative body, usually the government. The importance of rethinking this relation has a grown importance due to paradigm shift throughout Europe within all welfare systems.

We have to find new means of social work in different environments, where welfare institutions operate as common property, where state support policy is based on the principle of subjective rights, with legal guarantees; social work is carried out within the governmental and local governmental institutional system, with tight governmental and legislative control; and aims high quality services through this institutional system.

In other environments the system relies highly on the participation of subsidiary stakeholders, such as families, local community, social responsibility of corporations and the involvement of religious institutions.

If the aim of legislators is not only to deal with poverty issues but to maintain a diverse a diverse social system with quality services the toolset of mixed welfare systems are to be called upon, and activities of social work change accordingly. The main questions to be addressed within our presentation are:

- What are the key elements of the changing socio-economic systems?
- How can personal interactions be standardized in order to provide a permanent quality for users in the new political environment?
- What opportunities lay in front of different approaches of social work, including the alternative of radical social in the changing socio-economic environment?
- What are the means of establishing a sustainable mixed system?
- What are the means of involving mixed funds in social service provision?