SESSION 1

**Community social work / International perspectives in social work / Social work and social development**

**16.30-18.30**  |  **Room amphitheatre 103, ground floor**  |  **Thursday, November 2nd**

**Chair:** Linda Bell

1. **‘Repropreneurs’: surrogate mothers as vulnerable group: discursive legitimation and rationalization practices across media and forums**

   **Oana Mara Stan - Department of Sociology, University of Bucharest, Romania**

   The study analyses surrogacy arrangements in Romania, in the light of media echoes and legislative change. There is a lack of statistical data on this divisive, highly controversial issue of surrogacy. Its most debatable aspect lies in the ambivalence between altruistic and commercial aims, the latter based on the commodification of the feminine body. The investigative method consists of critical discourse analysis of secondary data: 14 articles and 130 blog posts on surrogacy, with emphasis on analytical categories of conservative, liberal and radical viewpoints. Surrogates are a heterogenic, heteronormative category that is difficult to research ethically, since most studies are clandestine. Held dialogues, exposed doubt, moral dilemmas, shared attitudes, advertised services and exchanged views boil down to the need of the state to further introduce and enforce regulations to prevent abuse, illegal transactions, reproductive tourism to more permissive jurisdictions. Surrogate mothers are vulnerable to healthy risks that often go unmentioned, also their level of educational and social-economic status is precarious and financial motives count predominantly in their decision to lend their womb to would-be parents in a paradigm of disrupted motherhood that echoes critical sociological perspectives on alienated labour at its worse. Conversely, there are also liberal feminist views that condone surrogacy on grounds of free choice and agency, thus supporting transformative families and openness to alternative, non-typical family arrangements. Medical online databases for clinics that use surrogates for infertility treatments (in vitro fertilization: IVF) need to be regulated so as to allow transparency and auditory control in operations such as licensing, documenting, recording and reporting cases. Social work needs to be involved in the design and monitoring of such accountability-oriented practices.

   **Key words:** surrogacy, repropreneurship, critical discourse analysis, neo-proletariat.

2. **‘Mothers Apart’: Following up participants and staff from the ‘Hummingbirds’ Initiative in London, UK**

   **Linda Bell, Rachel Herring - Middlesex University, UK**

   Debates about supporting birth parents whose children are removed due to child protection concerns are increasingly reported internationally. Several UK initiatives have been set up to support parents (particularly mothers) who have experienced removal of their children, including successive removals; similar initiatives endeavouring to empower parents whose children experience out of home care are reported elsewhere (for example in Norway, by Slettebo, 2013). Researchers from the ‘Mothers Apart’ project are reporting here on a follow up stage of our research, as discussed at a previous Social Work International Conference (Lewis-Brooke et al, 2017). After the first pilot cycle of the ‘Hummingbirds’ support initiative for mothers in one English local authority in 2016, we interviewed staff working in the initiative in depth, and held a focus group with five women who had participated. The project data reveal what staff and participants believe the initiative is meant to achieve and explores their experiences of participating.
We identified some similar issues to those revealed by Slettebø and colleagues (2013), for example: issues of power and control in the support group; differing perspectives of participating mothers and workers; deep feelings of loss experienced by parents; and the significance of professional intervention as well as peer support. Our paper also touches on other important factors particularly relevant to the UK context; these include funding issues, working with fathers and the significance of successive removals of children and of adoption without parental consent occurring in the UK (which is less common elsewhere in Europe).

We intend this paper to encourage further discussion about these complex issues and their implications for professional practice internationally.

References

Key words: mothers, families, child removal, empowerment.

3. Development of Community Based Social Work with Multi-Cultural Communities in Albania

Ingrid Jones - Partnerë për Fëmijët, Albania

Background: The community centre was set-up three years ago in partnership between a local government authority which provided the building and the salary for three staff and an international donor. The community centre was evaluated in 2016 as not meeting the needs of the community, requiring new input, resources and capacity building to provide integrated social services. The donor tendered a local non-governmental organisation to improve the service provision.

Purpose: To review the positives and challenges of short-term support to community based social services staff and local government authorities and the impact on the proposed beneficiaries, marginalised and vulnerable ethnic minority and majority communities.

Methodology: The local non-governmental organisation proposed a gradual progression of developing and introducing new integrated social services alongside the capacity building of the centre’s team with the development and participation of members of the local communities. Following an assessment and hiring of additional new staff including a qualified social worker and community outreach worker, the assessment and initial training showed that the abilities, skills and motivation of the original centre staff was very low. Discriminatory attitudes to the community members and a lack of knowledge and financial support from the local government authority exacerbated the original challenges in turning around the services. The approaches and methods used to build and strengthen the multi-cultural community centre reduce the levels of discrimination and building the management skills of the local government will be discussed.

Results and/or practice implications: The practice implications of opening a multi-cultural community centre in a marginalized community of families with complex needs, in an environment encompassing a lack of respect for human dignity and respect for diversity and a local government authority with limited knowledge or appreciation of the purpose and opportunities a community centre can provide.

Key words: Multi-Cultural Community Centre, Ethnic Minorities, Challenges of Limited Resource, Lack of Local Government Support.
4. Social Intervention by Art and Culture

Sandra Mendes - University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal
Sara Melo – Instituto Superior de Serviço Social do Porto, Portugal

This paper aims to contribute to the questioning and critical discussion around the cultural participation and the social effects of arts. Scientific research and professional practice have shown that artistic expressions (weather music, theatre, dance, etc) have become instruments especially effective on what it concerns to social intervention, weather on prevention, rehabilitation and treatment of people who present psychosocial problems in clinical context, weather on empowering and strengthening social and personal development of individuals on a community.

We will first present two scientific researches developed in Portugal based on an ethnographic approach through the development of observation protocols of different direct rehearsal of the project in 2014, biographical interviews and document analysis on the process of artistic production. The authors sought to understand the meaning given to the experience by individuals, socially and culturally distant from the art world (homeless people and “marginalized people from a community”). Then we will discuss the determinants of the impact of art to people bearing in mind the proposition of the pluralities, disposition and singularities from Bernard Lahire (2002) and finally, consider some guidelines for the use of community theatre as a tool in social work practice, with the case study developed by Amnon Boehm and Esther Boehm (2003). By developing sociological portraits to the participants of two distinct social intervention by arts, under the Lahirena inspiration, we have come to understand the division of structural regularities. Indeed, their disaffiliation and social disqualification processes are a consequence of accumulated failures. This kind of projects enables participants (normally isolated and marginalized) to create more active steps regarding cultural and social participation. This may represent a seed in reversing the process of exclusion and self-exclusion that the homeless population develop.

This paper defends the artistic and cultural activity as fundamental to social action. Indeed, the social changes require a new perspective on contemporary society and new skills of social work, upsetting the traditional bureaucratic procedures (often rooted in the economic problems). This research shows us a new way to an innovation in social work field.

Key words: social work, art, community social work, portraits, culture.

5. Understanding urban marginal communities of Bucharest

Roxana-Andreea Marin – University of Bucharest, Romania

The last 28 years, in Romania, brought with them new socio-economic transformations that has produced effects on the labor market structure, on the distribution of resources in society and the fair access to the redistribution of those resources. These new transformations require redefining some of the social concepts on inequality, community development or social protection. Globalization and liberalization have produced various effects on the labor market profile with social implications, such as the disappearance of certain specializations, the multiplication of precarious forms of employment and the gaps between salaries.

Globalization processes have led to the formation of a new urban geography in the big modern cities, dividing them into areas of centrality and marginality (Sassen, 1991 in Fainstein and Campbell, 2000), the fact which determined some sociologists to use the phrase of dual city (Marcus, 1989), referring to the social polarization of modern, economically developed cities.

Marginal areas in the context of this study are strictly the type of comfort third blocks of flats (formerly known as single dormitories) situated on the outskirts of the modern, overcrowded city, which is characterized by a strong urban contrast from the rest of the city.
The study aims to capture:
- the profile of marginal communities in the large urban area by identifying territorial, socio-demographic, occupational characteristics and the accessibility criteria for social protection, education, training and medical resources,
- the hierarchy of their social problems in order to find adequate intervention means for the social development of these type of communities.
Investigation of the marginal communities in developed urban areas was carried out through a quantitative research structured on the neighborhoods of Bucharest.
The present study addresses both to social scientists and specialists working in the social welfare system as it discusses aspects of the legitimacy of social policies and also draws conclusions and recommendations that can be considered or refined in the practice of community development.

Key words: social change, inequality, community intervention

6. Social protection of family in member states of the European Union
Simona Maria Stănescu - Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania
The paper is a screening of family benefits in the 28 Member States of the European Union and contributes to the research of shared trends with respect to family approach in these countries.
Four types of family benefits including eight distinctive categories are analysed: child-benefit, child care allowances, child-raising allowances, and other benefits (birth and adoption grants, allowance for single parents, special allowances for children with disabilities, advance payments for maintenance and other allowances). The paper is based on primary and secondary analysis of 28 sets of national data provided through the European Union's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC).
Seven member states operate in this respect based on regulations adopted before EU accession. Belgium, Finland, and Lithuania have the “most preserved” family regulations per category of member states. The first three topics of family regulations are: child, family, and allowance / benefit. The most frequently provided family benefits: birth and adoption grants, and special allowance for children with disabilities. France, Finland, Hungary, and Slovenia provide all identified eight family benefits. Only two types of family benefits are available in Ireland, Spain, and Cyprus.

Key words: family, social benefits, European Union.

7. The Importance of Self-reflection in Social Work
Sorina Daniela Dumitrache - Social Work Department, University of Bucharest, Romania
According to Yip (2006), self-reflection involves self-dialogue, self-observation, self-analysis and self-evaluation, processes that are more than necessary in the social work field.
Because social work involves working with some of the most sensitive problematics that generate a lot of personal and professional challenges, it is important for social workers to offer their services in a conscious way, being aware of themselves and the others at the same time, being in contact with their personal issues in order to not get emotionally involved with their beneficiaries' stories and permanently self-evaluating the quality of the services they provide.
The ability to be in contact with their own thoughts and beliefs that may be challenged by the clients and to be aware of the behaviors and emotions that might be triggered by the beneficiaries' stories and their own opinions about relationships, existence or life in general, experiences that might interfere with the professional contract, is also another important aspect to be considered by a social worker.
Working in a state of awareness, therefore being in contact with their own personal story, history, resources and vulnerabilities, maintaining a critical thinking about their professional acts and decisions, prevents countertransference and vicarious traumatization and also allows social workers to offer their services in the most healthy way for their beneficiaries, the others involved and themselves. As some authors mentioned before (Autry, Walker, 2011 apud Toros, Medar, 2015), self-reflection enhances professional growth, maintains and increases the quality standards of this profession and is a significant aspect of excellence in social work.

**Keywords:** self-reflection, awareness, personal and professional development

8. Neoliberalism and Romanian social work

Anca Mihai - Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Florin Lazăr - Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Daniela Gaba - Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Alexandra Ciocănel - Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Georgiana-Cristina Rentea -Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Shari Munch - School of Social Work, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA

With a history of almost 90 years, professional social work in Romania evolved from a flourishing period before World War II to being discarded by the Communist Party (1968-1989) and reinstated after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989. Within the context of the socio-economic transition from a centralised to free-market economy in Romania, public discourse about social work has evolved from a Marxist/socialist-type ideology, arguing for more State intervention in the early years of the transition, to a Libertarian/neoliberal-type ideology supporting State withdrawal from welfare provision and more individual-level responsibility for one’s own welfare. These discourses continue to co-exist subject to divergent influences from international institutions (e.g. World Bank, UNICEF, EU) and internal Romanian social pressures. In this article, we report findings from our larger mixed methods national workforce study to explore the impact of neoliberalism on Romanian social work practice. Under neoliberal pressures, social workers’ role as agents of social change becomes marginalized in their daily practice, lacking established mechanisms for professional social work supervisory and administrative positions and with little power to influence agency policies that negatively impact clients.

Key words: Romanian social workers, social work expertise, professional identity, power, social welfare, neoliberalism

9. Socio-Political Discharge in European Society: A Sociological Approach

Fabrizio Fornari - University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

In this paper, we will address the theme of Hologram complexity, historical intersections and cultural interweaving among themes and currents of thought, beyond all rigid divisions discipline of knowledge. The path and the history of science, together with that of sociology, reveal that they have a common destiny, pushing knowledge towards a radical epistemological reorganization. In this way, the process of growth of science, natural and social, is almost no longer cumulative, almost a sort of infinite, linear progress, but a meeting at times anamorphosis, between seemingly distant worlds, ontological distinct and irreducible.

Key words: complex society, hologram complexity, knowledge, science, epistemological reorganization.
Modern prisons around the world have been using risk assessment tools for more than half a century. These tools have evolved alongside prison systems and are now considered to be an essential part of classification and decision-making processes of any modern prison. In Romania, the prison administration has gone through several reforms after the 1989 Revolution, and has been using until recently first-generation risk assessment tools for its classification committees. In October 2013, the Romanian prison administration in partnership with GRADO, the Romanian Group for Human Rights Defence, started the process of developing a prison risk assessment tool considered to be of forth generation. The paper presents the validation results of this tool, based on data collected at national level in 2015-2016, and discusses current implementation issues as well as further steps. The two presenters act as experts in this project, which was funded by the Open Society Foundation via GRADO.

Key words: risk of re-offending, assessment tool, prison, Romania.
variables and the robustness of family socialization in child development. Implications of the study and its limitations are also discussed.

Key words: family processes, youth delinquency, child psychological health, family transmission model.

4. Young people on the move - care leave transitions in Germany

Juri Kilian - University of Kassel, Germany

High numbers of humans migrated within the last two years to Germany with a peak in 2015, when about a million asylum seekers crossed the borders. Among them were many so called unaccompanied minor refugees (UMR) who have been placed by German authorities all over the country in particular residential care settings run by social work organisations. The social work sector working with this population has grown on a high scale since summer of 2015. After the young people turn eighteen years, the youth welfare services offer another support process to prepare them for their life after being in youth care. The right to claim this support is based within the German social law though municipalities and their social work landscapes have very different approaches to organize this field of social work. Very little is known about the experiences that these young people make during this care leave transition. My dissertation project seeks to explore these experiences from their subjective perspective. How do they perceive support by social workers and other educational spaces, which needs are met and what is left out? Which struggles and barriers do they face and which coping strategies do they develop? What is their understanding of a decent life in Germany? A qualitative in-depth research design will be used to understand their life worlds in a better way. The design tries to conceptualize a high level of participation to give enough space for the young people to be part of the process of knowledge construction. The presentation will give an inside view onto the project and seeks to discuss the methodological approach and challenges.

Key words: migration, refugees, care, leave, transition.

5. Precarious employment and its impact on mental health: Findings from a doctoral study with racialized immigrant women in Southwestern Ontario, Canada

Elizabeth C. Watters - Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, Kitchener, Canada

Social, political, and economic factors are contributing to an increasing prevalence of precarious employment in Canada (Cranford et al, 2003). Precarious employment, defined as work that is low paying, unstable, offers few benefits and entitlements, and carries a higher risk of ill health (Vosko, 2006), is particularly common amongst racialized immigrant women who experience significant barriers in the labour market. Immigrant women are less likely to have their foreign credentials recognized than immigrant men (Houle & Yssaad, 2010), and like most women, are more likely to experience gaps in employment due to caregiving responsibilities (Findlay & Kohen, 2012). Consequently, racialized immigrant women often find themselves in “survival jobs”, such as cleaning, food service, caregiving, and manufacturing work (Access Alliance, 2013). However, despite their overrepresentation, they remain under-researched in the precarious employment literature, including as it relates to health, both physical and mental (Benach et al., 2014; Block and Galabuzi, 2011). This doctoral study, guided by an intersectional feminist and social determinants of health lens, attempted to help fill this research gap by engaging 21 racialized immigrant women from Southwestern Ontario,
Canada in semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Although many women reported injuries and physical ailments due to their precarious employment experiences, poor mental health appeared to be a much greater problem, and contrary to some research, did not necessarily improve with length of time in Canada. At the same time however, the women demonstrated incredible resilience in the face of ongoing adversity and described many strategies and aspects of their lives that positively contributed to their health, including spirituality and religion. For social work, this research emphasizes the importance of building on the strengths of racialized immigrant women, recognizing the significant role of spirituality and religion within their lives, and providing culturally sensitive programs and services that promote mental health.

Key words: precarious employment, immigrant women, mental health.

6. Meeting the needs of individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities: an Alaskan model

Cătălin Ionete - Bucharest Probation Service, Romania

Many approaches in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities take what might be called a minimalistic stance, that is, they are contended with addressing the basic needs of individuals experiencing disabilities, but are less concerned with the more specifically human needs of the individuals in question. Having worked for almost two years as a care coordinator/case manager for the largest agency providing services for individuals experiencing developmental and intellectual disabilities in the state of Alaska, United States (Hope Community Resources), I was in a position to observe how services guided by a philosophy of social integration were being designed and implemented. The recognition of the uniqueness of each individual experiencing an intellectual or developmental disability and designing the services being provided with that uniqueness as a focal point, forms the heart of the Alaskan model, a model followed closely not only by Hope Community Resources, but by all agencies providing services in the field, since all these agencies follow strict guidelines provided both at local level by the state of Alaska, and nation-wide principles regulated by the federal government. My paper draws mainly on my own experience as a professional in the field and has two main objectives. Firstly, it seeks to provide an overall picture of a model that proves to be highly functional and beneficial for its intended targets, and then to discuss the possibility of exporting, if not the model in its functional unity, at least some of its features, to a social setting, for example that of Romania, that has very little in common with Alaska, except, of course, for the individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities and the importance of meeting their needs in the best possible way.

Key words: intellectual disabilities, social inclusion, social services.

7. Social reintegration of imprisoned persons. Comparative study: Craiova and Sulmona

Ionuţ Virgil Șerban - Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

8. Romanian Ombudsman - a mean to improve Social Work Practice
Theodora Ene – Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

There is a decade since it had been established the organization of Romanian Ombudsman (Avocatul Poporului) with the main aim of protecting the rights and freedoms of the Romanian citizens in their relations with Romanian authorities. Based on the annual reports published online by the Romanian Ombudsman, an analysis had been performed with regard with the nature of the petitions investigated related to Social Work issues. Aside, the paper highlights the means of information for the institution and the type of recommendations that are adopted. For the paper, there were used the annual reports for the period 2012-2016. Since the Romanian authorities either local or county have to take into consideration the recommendations that Ombudsman multidisciplinary teams write up, one of the findings is that such an organization supports the improvement of the Social Work practice.

Key words: Ombudsman, social services, inquiries, recommendations.

Friday, November 3rd

SESSION 2

Social work education
Social work and social development

| 9.00-11.00 | Room Amphitheatre 103, ground floor | Friday, November 3rd |

Chair: Florin Lazăr

1. Training of professional insertion counsellors for people with mental health problems, results of the SPSM project in Romania
   - Mihaela Gavrilă-Ardelean - 'Aurel Vlaicu' University of Arad, Romania
   - Gabriela Kelemen - 'Aurel Vlaicu' University of Arad, Romania
   - Cătălin Nache – AGAPSY, France
   - Michel Plus - Foundation 'Trajet', Switzerland
   - Jean Michel Stassen - 'Article 23', Belgium
   - Laurence Fond-Harmant - Luxembourg Institute of Health, Luxembourg

Mental health is a component of public health, for which the WHO has permanent concerns. The professional insertion of people with mental health problems is a problem both for E.U. countries and for Romania. The project “Santé Publique Santé Mentale – Employabilité en Europe” (SPSM-Employability) is an Erasmus+ KA2 project developed in 5 francophone countries, including Romania. The project seeks to improve the competences of specialists in professional insertion of people with mental health problems. The project is based on an analysis of national contexts, regarding needs in the field of professional insertion of people with mental illnesses. Based on the results, a modular pilot training seminar course was developed to improve the skills of specialists in professional insertion of people with mental disorders. This article presents the results of the SPSM Project in Romania and shows the practice implications of the project for our country.

Purpose: To improve the competences and skills of professionals (social workers, psychologists, occupational workers) in Romania.
Methodology: Romania involved 15 professional insertion specialists (9 social workers, 3 psychologists, 1 economist – employer of a protected enterprise and 1 social work trainer – occupational specialist) in the project. These specialists participated in pilot seminar courses. Each of the pilot seminars took place in one of the countries that participated in the project. The participants completed a feed-back questionnaire, both at the beginning and at the end of each pilot seminar. It evaluated the initial and final levels of the students’ knowledge, before and after the course.

Results and practice implications: The aim of the research was achieved. The course modules improved the competences and skills of specialists in professional insertion of people with mental illnesses.

Conclusion: Based on the results obtained in Romania, macro-policy recommendations and micro-structures (organizations, university study programs, and university curricula) can be made.

Key words: professional insertion counsellors, mental health, training, SPSM project.

2. Critical thinking in social work education. A case study of knowledge practices.
   Marcin Boryczko - University of Gdansk

The very distinctive aim of social work practice should be not only giving material and economic support but also liberation from oppressive reality that, according to Freire, has the tendency to absorb consciousness of human beings. The crucial instance that is at stake here is critical consciousness that is one of the most important factor of social change. Critical thinking is fundamental competence in social work education. But do we really know what kind of knowledge practices establish ‘critical thinking’? The text presents empirical findings based on analysis of students’ activities representing critical thinking. The research aim was to analyse the organizing principles underlying knowledge practices and answering the question if they are generic or specific in context of critical thinking. Legitimation Code Theory was used as a framework of analysis and interpretation. Findings show semantic profile of students’ activities related to critical thinking.

Key words: critical thinking, legitimation code theory.

3. Adaptability of the elderly, within the residential centre of the city of Arad
   Alina Maria Breaz, Demeter Edgar - 'Aurel Vlaicu' University of Arad, Romania

The way elderly people adapt in residential centres can play an important role in understanding their wellbeing. Therefore, the present study shows the way elderly individuals can adapt within the residential centre, from Arad, during the first six months of institutionalization. Thus, a questionnaire was applied on 30 subjects, institutionalized elderly individuals, aged between 60 and 70 years, both women and men. The purpose of this study was to examine the way elderly individuals adapt to their foreign environment and the way they relate, interact and socialize with the other beneficiaries of the centre as well as with the qualified staff of the centre (nurses, social workers, doctors, care takers). At the end of this study, it was found that the adaptability of the elderly individuals is difficult to handle, and in some cases the elderly remain in the centre obligated by circumstances, while their proper environment is in their own home.

Key words: adaptability, relationship, residential centre, elderly.

4. Social Inclusion Policies. Case study: Mapping of public and private social programs and projects in Dolj County
   Andreea-Mihaela Niță - University of Craiova, Romania
The continuous and non-linear transition from the centralized system to the social welfare (based on the principle of subsidiarity) generated the instability of social policies. Every governance program has intervened over them, but could not ensure the subsidiarity either horizontally (the viable market-family-community-state relationship) or vertically (by ensuring a direct relationship between the national, regional, local and community levels) (Preda, 2007; Coposescu, 2011; Cobzaru, 2017). The financial monopoly of the public system on social services has caused immeasurable efforts (legislative, strategic and intervention) from the side of private providers of social programs, projects and services. Excluding external funding and the corporate social responsibility mechanism, private providers did not have alternatives to ensure continued engagement in changing political and interventional paradigms. We still do not have barometers for measuring the quality of programs offered to beneficiaries by public and private organizations, providers of social services. In this situation we could only report in common ways to the quality of life indicators, but the means and tools for operationalization would be different and uneven. That is why we thought to do an inventory of the types of projects they offered at the level of Dolj county, in order to develop public policy proposals that include the concept of "social justice" for providers too, not just for beneficiaries. The research methodology included the secondary data analysis (Reports of the County Commission for Social Inclusion, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Dolj and NGOs active in the social field), the interview and focus group achieved with the providers licensed to deliver social services and programs, according to the map developed by Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, for Dolj county.

Key words: public policies, social services, project management, social responsibility, social assistance.

5. Early Diagnosis of Delays in Child Development – research findings
   Adrian-Nicolae Dan – Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
   Elena Ungureanu – Romania

6. Criteria for controlling risk factors that affect the social integration of institutionalized young people
   Gabriel Pricină - University of Craiova, Romania

The statistics on aggressive behaviours of young people prove the existence of a phenomenon with complex factors, resulting from the dynamics of modern societies. The consequences of social dynamics are found in multiplying risk factors on social marginalization, which determines the uncertainty over the future. The way in which the fear of the future is perceived by each individual is determined by the personal social circle and adopted system of values.

The main objective of the research was to identify the risk factors that put at risk the social integration of institutionalized young people. The social assistance provided to these categories of people is sufficient for the present. However, services needed for the social integration of young people and ensuring an optimal future for them require a careful analysis of both the existing opportunities and the risks that can lead to social exclusion.

In order to achieve the main objective, an opinion poll was conducted on a general group of 364 people, consisting of two lots: the first consisting of 216 young people in charge of social assistance services and 148 young people in penitentiaries. Data processing was carried out by comparing the views expressed by respondents with the aim of identifying common antisocial values, considered as predictors of possible anti-social behaviours of young people in the care of social services.

The results of the research revealed that the criminal experience, entourage, family relationships, the financial wishes and the time the young man is willing to allocate to the individual aspirations are the
main factors contributing to the elaboration of individual life strategies. The ways in which these factors are configured determines young people's individual life choices. Their control reveals the direction of action needed for the successful social integration of those in need of institutional support.

Key words: deviance, social integration, risk factors, education.

7. What should be done in working with beggars? Lessons from the past

Cristina Ilie-Goga - University of Craiova, Romania

Social support in working with beggars has always been and still is a challenge for all social protection systems. This paper aims to analyse the social work system in working with beggars, starting with the presentation of the concept and seeking to evaluate the evolution of this particular sector of the social system in Romania, presenting, on one hand, the legislative changes and, on the other hand, the situation found in reality. We will seek to extract the good practices used by the national system for the purpose of comparing and issuing proposals to regulate the current situation.

Key words: social work, beggars, Romania, good practices.

8. Preventing and Combatting Racism and Xenophobia through Social Orientation of Non-Nationals

Smaranda Witec – Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

The project financed by European Commission (call for proposals for action grants 2016: European citizenship rights, anti-discrimination, preventing and combating intolerance) addresses the priority of creating better understanding between communities and preventing and combating racism and xenophobia through interreligious and intercultural activities. Its design covers a highly dynamic and topical area of work for and with migrants and seeks to cover a number of aspects, envisaged in the call for proposals. Exploring Member States’ best practices in language tuition and social orientation courses to foster tolerance and mutual respect will promote mutual learning among practitioners and societies in general and equip them with new tools to prevent and combat bias-motivated crimes and narratives between non-nationals and host communities. This is because fundamental rights are to be enforced not only reactively by repression of violations by law enforcement and judiciary, but also pro-actively by changing attitudes and stereotypes. Including linguistic basis and theoretical and practical knowledge about the fundamentals of the rule of law in host countries throughout the integration process will promote law-abiding behaviour and active countering of hate and intolerance. On the other hand, promoting integration initiatives, including mentoring programmes, reaching out to host societies will build religious and cultural bridges to migrants and other non-nationals and will further inter-communal co-operation and understanding. Thirdly, collecting and promoting promising practices in teaching tolerance and non-discrimination, transferable to other legal and social contexts, will function as a counter-narrative to extremist or radicalised anti-migrant and anti-Muslim narratives, behaviours and views populating the public domain.

Key words: racism, xenophobia, social orientation, non-nationals, integration.

9. Human mobility: immigration in Italy and in Europe

Gianmarco Cifaldi - University Gabriele d'Annunzio Chieti-Pescara, Italy
Social work with children and youth

9.00-11.00 | Room 105, ground floor | Friday, November 3rd

Chair: Maria Roth

1. Bringing the Public Health Perspective on Violence Against Children – The need for a mixed approach on framing

Valentina Marinescu - Department of Sociology, University of Bucharest, Romania

Violence against women and children has only recently recognized as a health problem starting with the 1990s. A WHO report from 2006 indicated that violence perpetrated against children can be a significant contributing factor in adult illness and death. Preventing violence against children is, therefore, both a social and a public health priority. To better understand the ways in which media images may be informing our understanding of violence against children, this study content analysed portrayals of it in news and articles in the specific case of Romanian media. Methodological triangulation was used for this study. The quantitative content analysis was made on a sample of 58 articles published in three Romanian national newspapers between 1 June 2014 and 31 December 2014 on the topic of violence against children. The qualitative content analysis on a subsample of ten articles dealing with health issues related to violence against children published in the same period of time. In presenting the acts of violence against children in 2014 the Romanian newspapers tend to follow the same “editorial logic”: the appeal to the Police as the “primary definer” of the violent situation, the stress put on the dramatic and personalized characteristics of a violent event involving children, the mediatisation of the individual (and not the collective) actors in such acts. Almost half of the articles presented physical violence made against children and 27 articles made no reference to laws preventing violence. The qualitative analysis showed that in presenting a violent story in which a child is involved, the journalist acted more as a gatekeeper: on the basis of “newsworthiness” core-value he had re-construct the event from various sources and deliver it as news to the audience. The study showed that Romanian media present children as innocent victims of violence. Much more, the journalists’ appeal to medical arguments related to violent acts against children reinforced child’s place as key symbol in the media’s social construction of crime. By increasing our understanding of how violence against children is portrayed in news media, researchers can now turn to studies that examine the effects of this coverage and its implications for public and policy support.

Key words: framing theory, public health model, violence against children, Romanian newspapers.

2. Teaching in a Fast-Changing World: Teacher Self-Reflection in Working with Youth at Risk

H. Özden Bademci - Maltepe University, Turkye

The relationship between learning/teaching and personal experience is quite complex and teacher self-reflection capacity plays an important part in that. This workshop derives from the idea that a better understanding of the nature of the emotional factors that enter into the process of learning and teaching is crucial to work towards a more fruitful relationship as this would help teachers to disentangle which of the feelings and consequent actions are driven by their own personal make-up and which are a result of particular dynamic created by a student (Waddel, 1999; Wilson, 2003; Youell, 2006; Zembylas, 2005).
In trauma-informed education practices children feel safe and connected (Perry, 2016). Understanding the effects of adverse experiences in early years help teachers to effectively address behavioural problems. Teachers are in a key position to notice signs of distress and difficulties that children have as they could provide professional inside. Making judgments about the students are not a straight forward and easy process. Children mainly show what is on their minds through their behaviour, attitude and in the way they relate to the others and to the teachers. In many cases, difficulties are not obvious so that teachers have the need to share and think through their experiences with other staff (Wilson, 2003). Peer-supervision helps against the insecurity, anxiety and helplessness experienced by the teachers to improve service quality and the institutional culture to progress towards a cooperative professional community in control of their work environment (Bademci, Karadayı, Pur-Karabulut & Warfa, 2016). In the workshop, the attitudes and expectations that the teacher brings to the relationship and the relevance of observational methods in a school context will be explored together with the participants.

Key words: psychodynamic perspective, teacher self-reflection, youth at risk.

3. Life satisfaction in Romanian youth: the effects of perceived economic status, self-esteem and quality of family and peer relationships

Mihai-Bogdan Iovu – Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Maria Roth – Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Paul Hărăuş – Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Background: An important concept within the positive psychology literature is life satisfaction.
Purpose: This research aims to determine to what extent socio-demographic variables, subjective material well-being, aspects of social relationships and personal resources influence adolescents’ general life satisfaction.
Methodology: This study is part of a larger longitudinal investigation on transition of adolescents to young adulthood in Romania (OoA). For this analysis we used data from the second wave available from 1,509 Romanian youths aged 19-23. Using the contact information from participating in the first wave, during November 2014 and February 2015, youths were contacted via email, phone or Facebook account and asked to log-in again on the online platform and fill in the questionnaire. The participants completed scales measuring their perception of family environment, support from peer-group and global self-worth. The structured questions were used to assess youths’ global satisfaction with life, perception of their economic status and socio-demographic variables.
Results: The results showed that youths’ life satisfaction could be best explained by their higher self-esteem ($\beta = .391$), parental support ($\beta = .132$), participation in decision process ($\beta = .111$), and higher material well-being ($\beta = .214$).
Conclusions: The study confirms the significance of both environmental and intrapersonal variables in constructing positive life satisfaction, thus indicating the need for complex interactional models of positive well-being in transitioning to adult life.
Key words: life satisfaction, youth, economic status, self-esteem, social support.
4. Special Guardians for Children in Care: Planning for Permanency in Uncertain Times

Lucille Allain - Department of Mental Health and Social Work, Middlesex University, UK
Helen Hingley-Jones - Department of Mental Health and Social Work, Middlesex University, UK

England has seen an increase in the number of children who have experienced abuse, placed in kinship care placements rather than with ‘stranger’ foster carers or adoptive families; in particular under Special Guardianship arrangements (DfE 2015). Concerned about the impact of these changes and the uncertainty they have brought for children and their families; three inner city, local authorities asked the researchers to investigate how professionals and Special Guardians (SG Carers) of children placed under these arrangements were experiencing the changes. We identified a group of carers and professionals, to explore the lived experience of policy, legal and practice frameworks in a state of flux during austerity. Funding was made available by the researchers’ academic institution.

Objectives and research questions:

• What are professionals and carers’ experiences of the circumstances leading to children being placed in kinship networks under Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs)?
• How well prepared are carers thought to be when the child/ren come to live with them?
• How does the current austere policy environment and the uncertainty it brings to welfare services, impact on the lived experiences of the carers, children and the professionals working with them?
• What were carers’ and professionals’ suggestions for improving services?

Methods: We used a psychosocially-informed, qualitative research methodology. Our semi-structured interview design was informed by an essentialist or realist method, 'which reports experiences, meanings and the reality of participants' (Clarke and Braun 2006:81). It is interpretive, seeking to surface and work with emotional dimensions; (Kvale 1996); a psychosocial, 'practice-near' (Hingley-Jones 2009) methodology.

Findings: Our findings are presented using a series of vignettes, illustrating the themes:
1. Conflicted workers who felt their professional ethics were challenged; ‘squeezed’ by the local authority and courts to identify and assess carers from the network hastily.
2. Professionals wondered whose interests were being served by this evolving policy. Is it in children’s best interests or is it to save money?
3. Withering of the state, vulnerable carers and children left to manage with minimal state support. Neo-liberal policy appears to idealise and denigrate ‘the family’ by turn.

Conclusions and Implications for Policy and Practice: While children are thought by most to benefit from placement within the family network, SG carers need more careful preparation beforehand and ongoing emotional and practical support over time. Often older relatives and grandparents are caring for young children, well into their older age, without support and advice on parenting children with complex needs and on managing challenging relationships with birth parents during contact. Parity with adoptive parents and professional foster carers is proposed.

Key words: kinship care, researching children's rights and needs, policy and practice in austere times.

5. The Attitudes of University Students Towards Marriage

Orhan KOCAK - Istanbul University, Turkye
Ali AYDIN - Istanbul University, Turkye
Serkan ETI - Medipol University, Turkye
People are taking many important decisions, which have an impact on life, along their lives. Health, education, career, and marriage have much importance in an individual's life. But marriage differs from other decisions since it is a turning point in a person's life. A marriage not only doesn't affect a person's life but also affects two or more people including children. In addition, a marriage is not a short-term decision but a long-term decision which will possibly affect until the death of couples. The happiness of a marriage affects couples’, children’s and parents' moods, attitudes, health, and career paths. Because there are many challenges and difficulties in a marriage, the decision is not becoming easy, and the attitudes of people towards a marriage are pretty cautious. The decision of a marriage is usually given at an age between 18-30 and this term coincides with their university undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

This study was done with university students who are staying in state and private dorms in order to understand their approach towards marriage by using Google online form. A marriage scale used as well as demographic questions, which were prepared according to Turkish peoples' attitudes. In this study, it is aimed to understand the perceptions and attitudes of university students who live in private and state dorms, and have different demographic characteristics. The data was gathered from online form analysed by using SPSS Statistical Program. In the first part, the literature was reviewed related to marriage and its decision process. In the second part, the data collected from university students analysed with different tests such as Frequency, T-test, ANOVA, Regression and Factor on SPSS Program.

Key words: marriage, university students, marriage decision.

6. Supporting resilience in vulnerable children and youth

Mihaela Cristina Parvu - Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Craiova, Romania

In Romania of the present time, a considerable number of children are fighting difficult life conditions, like poverty, physical and mental disability, incurable diseases, family abuse and neglect. This must be one of the top priority issues to be constantly fought with and addressed and, sadly, the resources that social workers and educators rely on are limited. We are trying to make a short analysis and comparison to what other developed European countries have achieved so far on this field, which instruments have been developed, in order to be able to predict if some of these instruments could be efficiently implemented in Romania as well, in the field of education and social assistance, with the purpose of supporting these extremely vulnerable categories of children and youth.

Key words: Vulnerable children and youth, social assistance, education, instruments, development.

7. Working on Educational Values with Teachers for Prevention of Early School Leaving

E. Figen Karadayi - Maltepe University, Turkye

In school social work, without considering the staff’s educational values, it is not possible to develop an integrated and holistic approach. Undoubtedly, teachers play a key role in the lives of the students. Therefore, teachers’ collaboration is crucial to improve the school’s ethos. This presentation will discuss the importance of working on the educational values of teachers, students and the differences between them by bringing cases from a workshop on educational values held in Turkey for teachers to prevent early school leaving.
The knowledge and technological innovations have influenced all respects of human life, inevitably the whole enterprise of education is linked with the development and changes. No one who attempts to depict the spirit of age, would overlook the importance of educational values. Dealing with values at schools may open a fruitful area for the social workers to enrich their work to a more meaningful and containing one. Working on values transcends cultural differences: it involves raising awareness of fundamental values common to all cultures and educational values enables people to make up their own minds and enables extensive respectful discussion. Issues and key ideas from local, national and international examples of values may guide schools and teachers to come to a conclusion as to what is a balanced way. In a supportive environment, learners are encouraged to respect cultural and other differences, and to celebrate human variety. Schools and teachers have the opportunity for development of positive and worthwhile values for their students that will last lifelong and will help to build and strengthen personal and social skills and responsibilities both as a student and a citizen.

Key words: educational values, school social work, early school leaving.

8. Child protection and emergency out-of-home placements. A comparison between Germany and Norway of service user participation in front line child protection work

Arve Lerum - Institute of Social Work, Faculty of Social Science, University of Stavanger, Norway

Objective and aim of the study: Participation of children and parents in child protection matters is a complex area. Emergency out of home placements bring this theme to the fore. In this small-scale qualitative study, we explore and compare how frontline child protection workers in Germany and Norway discuss/negotiate with parents and children when an emergent out-of-home placement is deemed necessary. Our main question is whether there is a main difference in the Norwegian and German approach.

Method: Data was collected from semi-structured interviews with frontline child protection workers in Germany and Norway. The interviews were transcribed verbatim in each language. Content analysis was carried out with the assistance of NVivo.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate that the German child protection service, compared with the Norwegian service, explores opportunities for empowering families to a higher degree both before and after an emergency out-of-home placement. The child protection service in Norway seems to be more occupied with protecting the child and keeping it away from family, whereas the child protection service in Germany, to a larger degree, introduces measures to reunite the child and family. The study highlights the complexity of service user perspective in emergency out-of-home placements and discusses implications for social work and frontline child protection workers.

Key words: Service user participation, child protection, emergency out-of-home placement.

9. Improving the Protection and Wellbeing of Children in Europe: Enhancing the Curriculum

Sandra Engstrom, Paul Rigby, Angus Macdonald - University of Stirling, Scotland

Background: All children share fundamental rights to protection from harm and abuse. The increasing movement of children across Europe, and potential vulnerability associated with this, represents a new reality for social work and reveals the need for consistency in child protection and wellbeing training and service delivery. This Erasmus+ funded project is an important route for examining and developing innovative social work practice.
Purpose:
Across Europe there is increasing recognition of the need for consistency in responses to child protection issues. This project brings together eight European universities, together with Terre-de-Hommes, to identify core materials for child protection social work training and address some of the inconsistencies in provision, especially for children on the move. A key deliverable is the development of an “e-learning” module that social workers and other child protection professionals can access online and use individually, or in a collaborative learning environment. The e-learning adopts an interactive case study approach and considers the child protection practice and policy issues associated with a migrant family as they move through Europe. The aim is to contribute to the development of integrated child protection systems as the most effective approach for safeguarding children.

Methodology:
A collaborative methodology aims to build on the genuine partnership approach developed within the project team and harmonise elements of the core learning material already developed by the partner countries as part of the project. The final e-learning product will be made available through Terre-de-Hommes Child Protection Hub.

Practice implications:
The proposed paper will focus on the development of the e-learning module, the emerging learning from this process, and reflect on the challenges for social workers operating in a framework of globalisation and migration, and across jurisdictions with different policies, processes and cultures, even when it is clear that child abuse and exploitation are global issues.

Key words: Child Protection & Wellbeing; e-learning; Multi-national; Migration; Collaboration

SESSION 3

Social work practice and profession Social work with adults and the elderly
16.00-18.00 Room Council Room, ground floor Friday, November 3rd

Chair: Mirela Anghel

1. Social work contributions to recovery from disasters caused by flooding in Romania

   Anca Mihai - Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Background: extreme phenomena continue to produce negative effects on socio-economic life and the environment, with life-threatening effects in the 21st century. Social workers, as professionals dedicated to assist persons and communities to identify solutions to increase the quality of life and well-being, have the tools to contribute to sustainable recovery.

Purpose: For this presentation, I try to answer which is the role of the social worker in the teams who participate in different phases of the disaster management, with focus on flooding, given that there is a social worker in the team.

Methodology: The presentation is based on 11 in depth interviews with professionals who are active in non-governmental organisations and public institutions in Romania. The role of the social worker in their teams is discussed. At local level, structured interviews were conducted with three social workers in rural areas affected by more than one disaster caused by flooding in the last 27 years.
Results and/or practice implications: In a system oriented towards emergency situations, the role of the social worker is rather marginal. The reduction of the risk of disaster caused by flooding is mainly addressed through structural measures, like building dams, gabion walling, river cleaning, and other measures taken at local and/or regional level, and less focused on individuals and their capabilities. Social work in emergency situations is recognised in regulations, but services are provided more by the NGOs than by the public institutions.

Main research findings/conclusions: At the moment, despite the rather high frequency of disasters in Romania, the social worker has a marginal role in the management of disasters. However, through training and knowledge regarding the vulnerability of the community, the social worker is a valuable resource and can contribute to sustainable development.

Key words: social worker in disasters, social workers’ role in recovery, flooding and social work, social work in Romania.

2. The Usage of Social Media and Its Impact on Disabled People

Orhan Kocak, Seyma Karakaya, Ibrahim Zilif - Istanbul University, Turkiye

Technology is affecting every field in the world from human daily life to manufacturing lines. Especially information and communication technologies together with the Internet have been changing not only commerce and production sectors, but also communication and life styles of all people. Its usage is increasing day by day and making the life much easier than before. Although young generation usually uses these technologies, different segments of people use with different shares and aims. Those people, who are physically disabled usually socially excluded from the life activities, are using social media together with the Internet and its other services. Social media creates a medium in which disabled people can easily increase the awareness of the real meaning of disabilities without going out from their own houses. Additionally, social media is a platform for disabled people to spread the expectations they want to see in expanding inclusion, education, working, and advocacy opportunities.

In the first part of the study, the usage of social media and its impact on our daily life is explained. In the second part, using quantitative methods, the findings of the study which was carried out with 120 disabled people in Bağcılar Centre for the Disabled, Üsküdar Municipality Rehabilitation Centre, and the Spinal Cord Paralytics Association of Turkey will be analysed and interpreted. At the end of the study, the conclusions of the field research will be presented. The reasons why disabled people use the social media, their ideas on social media, and their social media frequencies and addictions will be explained.

Key words: social media, disabled people, inclusion of disabled people.

3. Social implication of multidrug resistant tuberculosis in Romania

Șoroagă Maria Larisa - ASPTMR, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Tuberculosis continues to be a public health concern in Romania. This article is focusing on resistant multidrug tuberculosis (TB-MDR) and the challenges of taking a long-term treatment. It begins with a brief history of tuberculosis, then the implications of the disease are discussed and it continues with presenting recent statistical data on new confirmed tuberculosis and multidrug resistant tuberculosis cases. In the second section is presented a qualitative research conducted using the face-to-face
interview methodology. The aim of the research is to show, from the patient's perspective, the implications of the disease from the moment of diagnosis with TB-MDR and until he/she returned to the community. These implications are also investigated from the perspective of the radiologist. A purposeful sample of ten patients was selected with different periods of hospitalization, both at the beginning and at the end of treatment, with different levels of education and different ages. Most of the respondents mentioned that they had support from the family, both emotionally and financially, but they also expressed the need for psychosocial support services during the hospital stay and after. The social implications of the disease mentioned by the respondents had negative consequences on the quality of their life, suggesting the need to increase the role of social services for people with TB-MDR.

Key words: disease, patient, needs, tuberculosis, social implications.

4. A “place for us” or “struggling alone”: do social workers feel the sense of community in their daily work?

Diana Răduţ-Seliste - Department of Psychology, Communicational Sciences and Social Work, University of Piteşti, Romania

Every social worker has to face complexity and uncertainty in his daily work, where there is a constant practice to pay more attention to the process rather than to the outcomes that force social worker to struggle alone instead of asking for and receiving professional help. But less alone the practitioner is, the less he is exposed to frustration from failures that occasionally occur and could lead to stress, emotional and physical exhaustion, lower tolerance toward others etc. The sense of community empowers social workers to pay a much more close attention to situations, problems and opportunities, to ask for and to offer help to their colleagues or collaborators, to create good practices and to disseminate them into the professional community and mostly, to develop new approaches that respond to the new social challenges of the communities where they work.

Starting from the statements of McMillan & Chavis (1986) who define sense of community as “a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together”, the methodological approach of the study consists in a qualitative investigation that aims at providing an overview on social workers perceptions, understandings, attitudes and feelings about the sense of community and their relationship to it and to others participation. The approach focuses on the four elements of the sense of community: membership, influence, integration and fulfilment of needs and shared emotional connection.

The findings show that social workers need to reengage with professional community and create a mechanism for a constant empowerment that allow them to participate to the professional community life and to develop complementary skills that could help them face current social problems of the vulnerable groups within the communities. A developed sense of community will lead to an efficient community of practice (in social work) that will serve as a learning, guiding and supporting tool for social workers, helping them interacting around problems, solutions and insights, building a common store of knowledge and addressing their professional needs.

Key words: sense of community, professional community, community of practice.
5. Sexuality of elderly in Croatia- perspective of elderly and experts

Martina Bošnjak, Silvia Rusac - Department of social work, Law Faculty Zagreb, Croatia

Sexuality is considered a taboo topic in Croatia. Especially, sexuality of elderly. This vulnerable group often seems non-sexual and that sexual activity stops in forties or fifties. Demography in Croatia shows that there is more and more elderly and that we are an “old” society. So, it's crucial to make research of this group and taboo topics around them. Purpose of this research is to get a deeper insight about sexuality of elderly, their perspective of sexuality in general and sexual desire, sexual activity and intimacy. Also this research includes perspective of social workers, experts, and their perspective of sexuality of elderly and their work with elderly in the area of sexuality in Croatia. Methodology includes qualitative and quantitative approach in sense that with elderly we used qualitative method, interviews, and with experts quantitative method, questionnaire. Expected results are how elderly see sexuality in old age, their perspective about taboos around sexuality in elderly, sexual activity, relationship with their partner, sexual desire and change in sexual desire that they feel in old age and perspective of sexual intimacy in old age. Also results include perspective of experts that spend their work time with elderly, how they work with elderly that are open about their sexuality and how they talk about that topic. Practical implications of this research is to make sexuality of elderly people less taboo, open public discussions, and help social workers in places like retirement homes where people often mention sexual activity and open discussion there between social workers and elderly and to motivate other researchers to research this topic. Key words: sexuality, sexual activity, elderly, social workers, retirement homes.

6. Counseling disadvantaged families with delinquent minors

Gabriela Povian, Patricia Runcan - School of Psychology and Sociology, West University of Timișoara, Romania

Family counselling is a professional activity, focused on helping family members in a crisis situation, identifying together with them the internal and external resources they can benefit from. Throughout its process, counselling provides emotional support, assists the family in identifying the best solutions for the problems they face, as well as in difficulties of social adaptation / integration and within the relationship of family members. Disadvantaged families with delinquent children go through crisis situations that favour juvenile delinquency. The purpose of the research is to identify possible family crisis situations, as well as the benefits of counselling offered to disadvantaged families with delinquent children. The patterns of thinking and the way of action of the family members in the existing crisis situations will be discovered during the counselling which aims at assisting the family in the awareness of behavioural patterns and changing their dysfunctional behaviours in order to help families adapt / integrate into the society. The counselling also aims at identifying and choosing the best solutions for solving the problems that disadvantaged families with delinquent children have to face. Key words: family counselling, disadvantaged families, delinquent minors, crisis situations.

7. Volunteering among young people

Corina Iulia Voicu - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania Sergiu Lucian Raiu - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Using the data fetched from the project that happened at the national level “Outcomes of adolescence. A longitudinal perspective on the effect of social context on successful life transitions” (project PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0543, financed by National Council of Scientific Research) we distinguished the percentage that young people from Romania are willing to involve in volunteer activities and the connection between the characteristics of young people and their level of involvement in volunteer activities, highlighting the increased level of correlation with their religion. Trying to nuance the theme studied, we realized a focus group with the youngsters involved in volunteering activities, to understand the specific reasons that led them to engage in volunteer activities and the difficulties and discontents experienced and the opportunities for improvement they see to increase the involvement of young people in volunteering. The results show that most often personal values are the motivational leverage for volunteering, but most often the lack of preparation of the system for valuing and organizing this resource (volunteers) determines its demotivation and loss.

Key words: volunteering, religiosity, youth, motivation.

8. Globalization, nationalities and education

Mariateresa Gammone - University of Aquila, Italy

9. What role for the social service in the public-private partnership interventions?

Francesca Pia Scardigno - University Gabriele d'Annunzio Chieti-Pescara, Italy

The most recent trends of the post-welfare social policies propose to face the consequences of economic crisis, including rising unemployment and poverty in a context of reduced public spending, maintaining regional planning policy and entrusting private subjects in a more and more explicit way about services design and management.

In such a context, the vision, mission and organizational structure of social services that have been consolidating in the “thirty glorious years” no longer seems appropriate to the challenges posed by new addresses of social policy, whilst its operational space is expected to progressively destined to administrative management of residual and last resort interventions. However, there are organizational and professional experiences of a highly innovative kind that, starting from a necessary and effective redefinition of professionals skills, show up the ability to bring back the social work to the centre of the planning, management and evaluation processes of the new multi-actorial and multi-level social policies.

The paper discusses the challenges that professional social work has been dealing with in high stress related environments from these transformation processes. In particular, it observes the dynamics by which the public social service has been interacting and included in the experimental context of a particular post-welferist management strategy of social services: the community foundations.

Key words: welfare, social service, public-private partnership, interventions.
International Social Work

| 16.00-18.00 | Room Amphitheatre103, ground floor | Friday, November 3rd |

Chair: Mihai Bogdan Iovu

1. Redesign the making system

Aniela Grignoli - University of Molise, Italy

2. Empowered to graduate: Building the culture of participation in Roma youth, in Romania

Maria Roth - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
Mihai Bogdan Iovu - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
Sergiu Raiu - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
Eszter Peter - Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The presentation will discuss the story of empowerment of one of the 35 projects developed with the contribution of the Directorate of Justice of the EU for the benefit of vulnerable Roma children. It has been developed through the PEER partnership (formed by 9 countries and 13 partners), coordinated by Babes-Bolyai University. It has followed a research-intervention design, where change was envisaged, planned and achieved by children, who also became evaluators of the outcomes.

The scope of the presentation is:
1. To describe the main drivers of the process that allowed for a group of 14 marginalized Roma children schooled in a segregated class in a mainstream school - who almost all failed at the end of the 1st semester - to gain themselves a ceremony of graduation organized by their teachers;
2. To reflect on those drivers of success of this project that can explain the phenomenon;
3. To compare the drivers of successful empowerment in the “Graduation project” to other successful, or less successful projects;
4. To combine the theoretical framework developed by Honneth (1995, 2012) and adapted for the participatory projects by Thomas (2012), with the experiential learning and cultural capital theory.

Concluding, for successful empowerment through participatory projects, children need time to accumulate experience and the capacity to transform needs into aspirations, and then into feasible scopes (Social Learning Theory), to learn to recognize each other’s contribution, as well as their owns, to develop and gain reciprocal respect (Honneth, 2014), to work collectively and not only together (Honneth, 2014); to learn how to use and plan for resources and ask for help (Social Learning Theory), respect and understand rules, become attached to the scope, to each other and to the facilitators, and take responsibility collectively and individually (theory of cultural capital, Bourdieu, 1973). As we know from Bourdieu that the main obstacle to the democratization of schools is their own fixed cultural capital, in order to revert this, the learning through planning and doing should be mainstreamed and become the new culture of education for all.

Key words: children's right to participation, empowerment, Roma children, cultural capital, action research, vulnerability.
3. The relationship between right and emotions

Davide Barba - University of Molise, Italy

4. The post-institutionalization failure of children in public placement centres

Adrian-Nicolae Dan – Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania
Vișinel Bălan – Romanian Parliament, Uniunea Salvați România

This report is the result of a national survey conducted in 27 countries, 190 placement centres visited and 1,000 institutionalized young people interviewed. It represents an effort to draw an alarm signal on the dramatic situation in the Romanian children's public care centres and to raise the awareness again about the harsh reality and the tragedies that those children are encountering.

Ideally, we would like to think that the needs of these children are at the heart of the child-care system, and its policies revolve around them to respond to their needs, but the situation is quite different. The statistics obtained from the public placement centres reveal that in Romania Child Protection Services exist only on paper, in practice they are almost completely absent. The research has revealed shocking consequences, incredible news from the ground, and cases of abuse at a level that exceeds any degree of humanity.

More than 50% of interviewed children do not know what independent life skills mean. Many of them want to get away from the system and that's why 25.2% say they feel very prepared to leave the system, 37.9% do not know what they will do after leaving the care centre, 7.4% have an interest in professional activity. About 22.2% of young people said they had no prospect for a positive future.

Even the research is not a representative one, it gives a new perspective on the public residential child care system and draws attention to things that do not work. The most serious limit of this research is that interviewed children have been influenced (intimidated) by the staff at the time of their completion, so some answers are much more “mild” than in reality.

Key words: public residential child-care system, social services, child abuse.


Mirela Anghel - Department of Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania

Based on studies of David Chamberlain, T.G.R. Bower, Marshall Klaus, Hanus Papousek, Berry Brazelton, Marie F. Mongan, Ditta Depner et all, the babies feel everything starting the moment the labour begins. Their active participation in the labour process is known and acknowledged by doctors worldwide. When discussing the psychological development one needs to take into account the fact that all complex behaviours must start as simple behaviours and develop gradually. Discussing babies’ behaviour we will understand their abilities to adapt and make themselves understood from very early stages. This article focuses on the “magic hour” i.e. the first bonding moments between the mother and a child where the connecting mechanism is put together to inseparably join the two for ever. If doctors allow the bonding moments between the newly mothers and their child, the infant abandonment rate will drop significantly.

Keywords: child abandonment, child care, “the magic hour”
In recent years, European countries are facing new waves of immigrants and refugees, who follow the classic immigration routes from east to west and from south to north. This social and demographic phenomenon, whose current dynamics could not be predicted, leads to multiple and various problems at the political and social level, as well as to challenges at both cultural and structural, macro-social level. The diverse contrasts between the native culture of immigrants and the culture of the host societies can generate dissensions and even social conflicts. Various discussions, both theoretically and practically, on possible solutions to such problems can be found in a wide range, among the possible ideas being those of acculturation and interculturation. Furthermore, the debates are not limited only to the field of culture and social interactions, but they also focus on the initiation of some actions at the social level of policies and concrete measures to facilitate the integration of migrants. The present paper is a sociological contribution to these discussions. The primary objectives are, on one hand, to conceptualize the terms of diversity and integration, as well as those of acculturation, interculturation and multiculturalism, and on the other hand to delimit the links between the cultural level of the practices, values, and symbolic representations and the structural level of integration policies. In this regard, the concept of “integration” is analytically and operationally approached, the different forms of social integration of migrants are discussed, and the challenges of multiculturalism and the desiderata of integration policies are debated. Moreover, there is analysed the extent to which public policies are characterized, alongside an inherent socio-economic logic, also by a cultural and identity one.

Key words: integration, diversity, acculturation, interculturation, multiculturalism.

8. Personal and community resources for victims of domestic violence

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9. Integration of children with disabilities into public schools

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Introduction: Children with disabilities are the category with the lowest level of access to education in public institutions. Access to education is restricted to children from vulnerable families, children with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. The perceptions and attitudes of the population (teachers, parents, pupils) towards the inclusion of children with disabilities in public schools vary according to the type of disability of those children: physical disabilities are accepted to a small extent, while intellectual disabilities are largely rejected.

Context: Hospice “Casa Sperantei” (HCS) initiated, developed and currently runs the project of integrating children with disabilities in public schools, through its collaboration with state institutions and other NGO’s public schools: schools, kindergartens, mayors, school inspectorates, hospitals, etc.
Method: Prospective study conducted between October 2007 and September 2015 on a sample of 100 HCS patients enrolled in the Children's Day Centre using case studies analysis as method for collecting data.

Results: Between October 2007 and September 2015, 100 patients benefited from the services provided by the multidisciplinary team of HCS, social assistance for integration in public schools, children aged from 3 to 18 years old. Out of the 100 patients analysed, 48 children have been integrated either into public schools with regular educational program, special schools or other alternative educational institutions. The other 52 patients remained in the family, illiterate or semi-literate. The problems faced by children with disabilities are: stigma, discrimination, bullying, psychological violence, and difficulties in aligning with the school program, lack of special conditions adaptabilities in public institutions.

Conclusions: The implementation of the integration project required the implication of stakeholders from diverse fields: psychology, pedagogy, sociology, social assistance, medical, organizational, legal, political, etc. The actions must be carried out starting from the individual to the social level, ultimately aiming at transforming society into a system able to ensure the integration of children with special needs into its structures.

Key words: integration, discrimination, bullying, psychological violence