

Miroslav Barták: Analysis of social services planning in the Ústí Region

Background: After the year 2000, social services in the Czech Republic are obligatory planned at the regional level through the community planning method. The method was imported to the Czech social services environment from United Kingdom. The involvement of individual municipalities is voluntary. In spite of some initial implementation difficulties, the community planning method has become generally recognized and several versions of community plans of individual regions in the Czech Republic and many municipalities are currently available. The planning social of services has become an important topic of regional public policy as community planning is related to financing of regional social services. ESF funding also become an important tool in the plating process.

Aims: The aim of the paper is to analyse the role of the various actors in the planning and implementation process. Particular attention will be paid to the competencies and activities of social workers in the process of plans development, implementation and evaluation.

Methods: Cross-sectional observational study analysing publicly available documents and data as spring 2018. Secondary analysis of pilot study of competencies and activities of social workers in the region performed by Department of Social Work FSE UJEP and direct observation of the process of community planning in the Ústí region.

Results: Evidence suggests that the process of planning social services in the Usti region has some strengths but also certain limitations. A strong point is the involvement of individual actors and the development of their mutual communication. The weakness is limited evaluation of the implemented plans and rather limited involvement of service users. The need to develop some specific competencies of social workers is also identified.

Implication for understanding East Central European Politics: The application of the community planning method in terms of Czech regions shows some specifics. The challenge is to increase the involvement of service users and the public, development of evaluation mechanisms as well as to ensure the financial sustainability of services and to contribute to the societal and financial recognition of social work.

Márton Ugródsy: Policy transfer in the Hungarian public administration context: what makes it work and what doesn't?

Policy transfer can be seen as a factor triggering public sector reform, as politicians and practitioners are increasingly looking for adaptable best practices both home and abroad. This paper examines the role of policy transfer in the spreading of performance management practices in the Hungarian public sector. By bringing together scholarship on policy transfer for a critical literature review, and then applying the major observations to two Hungarian cases, the author argues that policy transfer alone does not influence whether performance management penetrates the central and local government, therefore public sector modernization cannot rely on policy transfer only. Furthermore, based on the critical analysis of the available literature the paper aims to identify hindering and promoting factors, that enable a successful policy transfer in the Hungarian public administration setting.

Iga Kender-Jeziorska: How to trigger an epidemic: Local politicians and harm reduction services in Budapest

Context. In September 2013 Budapest's VIIIth district council decided to terminate a contract with Blue Point – NGO operating country's biggest low-threshold needle exchange program for people using drugs. At the same time, the central government adopted National Anti-Drug Strategy 2013-2020 – based on “zero-tolerance” approach an aiming to make Hungary “drug-free” by 2020. Over only few years, Hepatitis C prevalence in the community have doubled and HIV screening is not reaching the hidden populations. **Aims.** This research aims to explore local drug policies in Budapest in the context of national drug strategy and general approach to tackle

drug use problem in Hungary. The study will also present actual and potential consequences of such approach and draw some recommendations. **Method.** This inquiry is based on single case study design. Primary data are collected through semi-structured interviews with key-informants – employees of NGOs delivering needle exchange services and advocacy organisations – reached out using the snowball method. Secondary data are collected, among others, from the reports of European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Hungarian National Focal Point.